



**a Genesee & Wyoming Company**

November 19, 2021

Mr. Gene Cotten  
NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc  
11767 Katy Freeway, Suite 705  
Houston, TX 77079

Gene,

I understand the Columbia County planning staff has raised questions regarding the classification of the tracks that will be built to support NEXT's Renewable Diesel facility at Port Westward. For PNWR contractual purposes, NEXT's rail tracks will be considered industry track, which is another term for branch line or spur. NEXT's track will connect to the existing branch line that services Port Westward. As a general matter, "branch line" is a broad term that encompasses any track that branches off from mainline track.

Portland & Western Railroad, Inc. also does not consider the tracks at NEXT's facility a "switch or rail yard." All cars entering and exiting NEXT's facility will be for NEXT's sole use at the site itself. A switch/rail yard's goal is to block cars for furtherance to other destination points. Let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Artz*

Matt Artz  
Director, Sales and Marketing  
Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.  
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Centralia, WA 98531