Conrail Pavonia Yard Camden, New Jersey Evolution of Physical Change

October 1, 2013

Office of Vice President/Chief Engineer





Pavonia Yard - 1967



Speed Frate-low cost yard system



One operator handles all controls, automatic witching and speed selection.

The hump retarder is radar controlled



All retarders are weight-responsive, with automatically controlled hydraulic release.

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September 29 - October 2, 2013 Indianapolis, IN





Located at a traffic key point in Camden, N.J., near Philadelphia, Pavonia Yard serves the entire south Jersey area.

Skillfully engineered to fit its 32 classification tracks between two highway overpasses, Pavonia has proved "Speed Frate" ability by handling peaks of 1000+ cars per day even 45 cars in 8 minutes.

Results, since March '67 in-service date: shippers are pleased with the service they get, cars and lading get careful handling, and operating expenses have been drastically reduced.

The Evolution of Change

- 1967 Over 1,000 cars per day were processed during Pennsylvania Railroad Seashore Line operation at Pavonia
- 1976 Pavonia Yard becomes part of Conrail
- 1987 Pavonia Yard on average handles 800 cars per day
- During the late 1980's and early 1990's, Conrail rationalizes the South Jersey cluster by retiring many outlying support yards
 - Hump and Classification Yard become customer-based yard for South Jersey, warranting humping of only eastbound traffic flows
 - Westbound traffic flows are flat-switched in the Support Yard





The Evolution of Change

- Post-split, Pavonia Yard handled between 600 and 750 cars per day, excluding unit train operations
- By 2009, freight traffic requiring processing over the Pavonia Hump was in the 300-350 range
- These volumes further supported the cessation of humping activity to reduce operating and maintenance expenses and the avoidance of near-term capital investment
- The introduction of recently developed technology allowed for automated flat switching and single person remote crews to operate without any utility personnel







Support Yard Under Construction







Switching Kiosk and Camera Monitor







Switching Kiosk and Camera Monitor



Switching Cut List Screen



Switching Kiosk – Automatic Mode



Switch Indications











Cameras views from kiosk







West End Support Yard View







Removal of retarders and hump lead







Retarder removal

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Hump Lead looking east







Reprofiled Class Yard Switching Lead







Reprofiled Class Yard Switching Lead







Kiosk Screen – Class Yard

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Receiving Yard







Receiving Yard





