

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In re Penalty Assessment No.            )   DOCKET NO. TV-041668  
TV-041668                                    )  
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  )  
TACOMA MOVING & STORAGE,            )   STAFF RESPONSE TO  
INC.   )   PLEA FOR MITIGATION  
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- 1    On September 17, 2004, the Commission issued a penalty assessment against Tacoma Moving & Storage, Inc. (Tacoma Moving), in the amount of \$100.00 for one violation of WAC 480-15-480 which requires household goods carriers to furnish annual reports to the Commission no later than May 1 each year. Tacoma Moving had 15 days to respond to the penalty assessment, either by paying the penalty, requesting a hearing, or requesting mitigation of the penalty.
- 2    On October 1, 2004, Martin R. Johnson, President of Tacoma Moving, sent a letter to the Commission requesting mitigation of the penalty.
- 3    The Company's mitigation request and Staff's response are discussed below.
- 4    The Commission issued \$100.00 in penalties for a violation of WAC 480-15-480, because Tacoma Moving filed its 2003 annual report, due May 1, 2004, on July 7, 2004.
- 5    The Company requests full mitigation of the penalty. Tacoma Moving's mitigation request states that the Company, "has been in business since 1908 and operating under WUTC laws since they were first started." According to the Company, during the time period in question, it moved operations to a new address and did not receive all of its mail. The Company also stated that Tacoma Moving's bookkeeper was on vacation, that someone was filling in for the bookkeeper, and that some of the Company's mail was misplaced.
- 6    Staff recommends the Commission mitigate the penalty in full. Staff reviewed annual report records for the past five years and found that Tacoma Storage filed timely each year. Staff understands that extenuating circumstances may have existed this year that would prompt mitigation of penalties. Tacoma Storage must file the annual report by May 1 each year to avoid penalties in the future.

7

**Summary**

Staff recommends the Commission grant full mitigation of the penalty assessment against Tacoma Moving & Storage, Inc., in Docket No. TV-041668.

Dated October 8, 2004