



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • www.utc.wa.gov

July 7, 2014

Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary
Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Puget Services, L.L.C.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TV-140984

Dear Mr. King:

On June 6, 2014, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TV-140984 against Puget Services, L.L.C. (dba Eco-Movers) for 10 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-15-480, which requires household goods carrier companies to furnish annual reports to the commission no later than May 1 each year.¹

On June 20, 2014, Puget Services L.L.C. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties (Mitigation Request).² In its Mitigation Request, Puget Services L.L.C. does not dispute that the violation occurred. The company states, "We admit that we did not complete our annual report in full but ask the commission to consider mitigating factors in this case. Eco-Movers did mail out the annual report on May 1st but was contacted by Amy Andrews of the UTC on May 6, 2014 letting us know the we had not entered our intrastate mileage. We send the intrastate mileage to Amy on 5/14/14."

It is the company's responsibility to ensure that the regulatory fee is paid and the annual report is filed by the May 1 deadline. On February 28, 2014, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated household goods companies. The instructions for annual report completion page of the annual report informed the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form, pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 1, 2014, to avoid enforcement action.

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service's Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

UTC Annual Reports
July 7, 2014
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On May 6, 2014, Puget Services, L.L.C. filed an incomplete 2013 annual report and paid the regulatory fees and late payment penalty on May 6 and May 13 respectively. On May 14, 2014, Puget Services, L.L.C. submitted the completed 2013 annual report data. The company has been

active since March 8, 2010. The company was delinquent in filing the 2012 annual report and received an automatic mitigation to \$25 per day. Staff does not support the company's request for mitigation due to prior violation of WAC 480-15-480. However, as the completed annual report was received as of May 14, 2014, commission staff does recommend the penalty be reduced to \$900 to reflect the correct number of business day of the delinquent report.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Amy Andrews, Regulatory Analyst, at (360) 664-1157, or aandrews@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service's Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

ATTACHMENT A

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PENALTIES INCURRED AND DUE FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAWS AND RULES

PENALTY ASSESSMENT: TV-140984
PENALTY AMOUNT: \$1,000

Puget Services, LLC
1600 West Armory Way #16
Seattle, WA 98119

According to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) records, you have violated Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-15-480, which requires household goods carrier companies to file their annual reports and pay regulatory fees each year by May 1. You did not file an annual report or pay regulatory fees by May 1, 2014.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.04.080 authorizes the Commission to assess penalties of \$100 for violations of Commission rules. Each violation is a separate and distinct offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, every day's continuance is a separate and distinct violation. The Commission interprets noncompliance with WAC 480-15-480 beyond May 1 as a continuing violation, and assesses penalties of \$100 for each day a company fails to file its report or pay its regulatory fees after that date.

As a result, the Commission has assessed penalties against you in the amount of \$1,000 on the following basis:

On February 28, 2014, the Commission mailed the 2013 annual report forms and the 2014 regulatory fee packets to all household goods carrier companies registered in Washington. The instructions page for the annual report form instructed these companies to file annual reports and pay regulatory fees by May 1, 2014. The instructions page also stated that failure to file the annual report by May 1 would result in penalties. The deadline for requesting an extension to file your annual report was April 17. You did not request an extension.

As of May 15, 2014, Puget Services, LLC has not filed its complete 2013 annual report. May 15 is 10 business days from May 1, resulting in a total penalty of \$1,000.

Your penalty is due and payable now. If you believe the violation did not occur, you may request a hearing to contest the penalty assessment. The Commission will grant that request only if material issues of law or fact require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. A request for a hearing must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request.

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service's Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. If there is a reason for the violation that you think should excuse or reduce the penalty, you may ask for mitigation (reduction) of this penalty through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. A request for mitigation must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. See RCW81.04.405.

If you properly present your request for a hearing and the Commission grants that request, the Commission will review the evidence supporting your dispute of the violation or application for mitigation in a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding, before an administrative law judge. The administrative law judge will consider the evidence and will notify you of his or her decision.

You must act within 15 days after receiving this notice to do one of the following:

- Pay the amount due.
- Request a hearing to contest the occurrence of the violations.
- Request mitigation to contest the amount of the penalty.

Please indicate your selection on the enclosed form and send it to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Post Office Box 47250, Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, **within FIFTEEN (15) days** after you receive this notice.

If you do not act within 15 days, the Commission may refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for collection, which may file suit in state court to collect the penalty. The Commission may also initiate proceedings under WAC 480-15-450 to cancel your permit to operate as a household goods carrier in Washington.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 6, 2014.

MARGUERITE E. FRIEDLANDER
Administrative Law Judge

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service's Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PENALTY ASSESSMENT TV-140984

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violations occurred. I have:

Enclosed \$ _____ in payment of the penalty

Submitted my payment of \$ _____ online at www.utc.wa.gov.
My confirmation number is _____.

2. **Request for a hearing.** I believe that one or more of the alleged violations did not occur, for the reasons I describe below, and I request a hearing based on those reasons for a decision by an administrative law judge:

3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violations, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below:

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: _____ [month/day/year], at _____ [city, state]

Name of Respondent (company) – please print

Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020:

“Perjury in the first degree. (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he makes a materially false statement which he knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor’s mistaken belief that his statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section. (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.”

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service’s Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

ATTACHMENT B

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PENALTY ASSESSMENT TV-140984

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

2014 JUN 20 AM 8:17

[] 1. Payment of penalty. I admit that the violations occurred. I have:

[] Enclosed \$ _____ in payment of the penalty

[] Submitted my payment of \$ _____ online at www.utc.wa.gov. My confirmation number is _____.

[] 2. Request for a hearing. I believe that one or more of the alleged violations did not occur, for the reasons I describe below, and I request a hearing based on those reasons for a decision by an administrative law judge:

[X] 3. Application for mitigation. I admit the violations, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below:

* PLEASE SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT *

[] a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR [X] b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: 6/15/14 [month/day/year], at Seattle WA [city, state]

GRANT KERZETZ
Name of Respondent (company) – please print


Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020:

“Perjury in the first degree. (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he makes a materially false statement which he knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor’s mistaken belief that his statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section. (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.”

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service’s Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

6/15/14

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: Penalty Assessment Tv-140984

We admit that we did not complete our annual report in full but ask the commission to consider mitigating factors in this case. Eco-Movers did mail out the annual report on May 1st but was contacted by Amy Andrews of the UTC on May 6, 2014 letting us know the we had not entered our intrastate mileage. We sent the intrastate mileage to Amy on 5/14/14.

This was the only part of the annual report that was not submitted and we please ask the commission to reduce the penalty as this was unfortunately an over site and we fully intended on including all information in our annual report. Attached is the email correspondence between our company and Amy Andrews. Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Grant Korzetz, Owner

Puget Services Inc, (206) 992-5523

Incomplete Annual Report Notification for Puget Services Inc

Actions

Andrews, Amy (UTC) (aandrews@utc.wa.gov)
5/14/14

Thank you!

Amy Andrews

Fiscal Analyst
Utilities & Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
☎360.664.1157
☎360.664.1289
🌐www.utc.wa.gov

2014 JUN 20 AM 8:18
State
UTC, Amy Andrews
140984

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service's Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014

Eco Movers
5/14/14
To: Andrews, Amy

Hi Amy,

We apologize for overlooking the total intrastate mileage on our annual report. The total miles we operated in 2013 is 42,530 Miles. Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thank you,

Grant Korzetz
Eco-Movers
(206) 992-5523
www.ecomoversmoving.com

Actions

Andrews, Amy (UTC) (aandrews@utc.wa.gov)
5/06/14
To: ecomovers@hotmail.com
Cc: aandrews@utc.wa.gov

Dear Regulated Company,

On February 28, 2014 the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) mailed you an Annual Report. The report and fees are due by May 1, 2014.

A review of your annual report submitted May 6, 2014 indicates it is incomplete.

- **Schedule 1 – Intrastate mileage not provided**

Commission staff may recommend enforcement action, which includes penalties of up to \$100 per day, against any company that does not file a completed annual report. In order to avoid enforcement action, the commission must receive your completed report no later than May 1, 2014.

If you have any questions about your annual report please call me at (360) 664-1157 or e-mail at aandrews@utc.wa.gov.

¹See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on June 6, 2014

²See attachment B for a copy of Puget Service's Mitigation Request received on June 20, 2014