

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 • TTY (360) 586-8203

July 27, 2016

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. Johnson's Hauling, LLC

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TV-160624

Dear Mr. King:

On June 28, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TV-160624 against Johnson's Hauling, LLC for 10 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-15-480), which requires household good moving companies to furnish annual reports and the regulatory fee to the commission no later than May 1 each year, or in this case, May 2 as May 1 was a Sunday.

On July 18, 2016, Johnson's Hauling, LLC wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Johnson's Hauling, LLC does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...I understand that my annual report was not filed. Granted I found it and thought it was faxed over to you but apparently that is not the case. It is something I overlooked. So no I have a fine of \$1,000. I do not have the funds to pay for this. I thought I could make it in the household goods moving industry but with money going out and no moving jobs coming in, it hurts the pocket book. Way too many regulations for a single dad to deal with. I was planning on shutting it down when my insurance ran out in October. This sped up the process."

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, or in this case, May 2 as May 1 was a Sunday. On February 29, 2016, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated household good moving companies. The instruction page informs the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form, provide the supporting financial reporting documents and pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 2, 2016, to avoid enforcement action.

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On July 25, 2016, Johnson's Hauling, LLC filed a complete annual report. On July 13, Johnson's Hauling, LLC provided a Voluntary Cancellation Request form in docket TV-160904. Johnson's Hauling, LLC is now inactive. As such, it is staff's recommendation that the penalty be waived and the docket closed.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Sean Bennett, Regulatory Analyst, at (360) 664-1157, or <u>sbennett@utc.wa.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Sondra Walsh, Director

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Administrative Services