



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 18, 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. Compass Holidays, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-160692

Dear Mr. King:

On June 20, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$900 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-160692 against Compass Holidays, Inc. for nine violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-30-071 and 480-30-076), which requires charter and excursion companies to furnish annual reports, supporting documentation 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 1, 2016, Compass Holidays, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Compass Holidays, Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...your office received the annual report on time. The payment was cashed from my bank on May 2nd (see the attached transaction on May 3rd). I assume I was compliant with the renewal procedure. I received a call from your office on May 10th, regarding the form of schedule 1. I left the area of interstate mileage blank, instead of putting in a zero. I sent the form back on May 13th."

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 29, 2016, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated charter and excursion 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.

On May 3, 2016, Compass Holidays, Inc. filed a 2015 annual report and paid the regulatory fee. Commission staff contacted Compass Holidays, Inc. on May 10 and advised the company that

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the annual report was incomplete as the company's interstate mileage was not provided. On May 13, Compass Holidays, Inc. emailed an updated and complete annual report.

Compass Holidays, Inc. has been active since 2012 and this is their first violation of WAC 480-30-071 and 480-30-076. In consideration of their previous compliance and prompt response to staff's request, staff supports the company's request for mitigation and recommends the penalty be waived.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sondra Walsh" followed by a flourish and the initials "S.W." in a smaller, less legible script.

Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services