



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. Palouse Touring Company, LLC*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-160722

Dear Mr. King:

On June 22, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-160722 against Palouse Touring Company, LLC for ten violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-30-071 and 480-30-076), which requires charter and excursion 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, Palouse Touring Company, LLC wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Palouse Touring Company, LLC does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...Our business was less than profitable since inception, and as of April 30th we ceased operation. Our business is for all intents/purposes bankrupt, and now closed."

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 instructions page informs the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form and pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 2, 2016, to avoid enforcement action.

Palouse Touring Company, LLC paid the regulatory fee and filed a complete annual report on July 8, 2016. Palouse Touring Company, LLC has been active since 2013. On July 27, 2016, Palouse Touring Company, LLC provided the commission a "Release of Authority for Cancellation" form that has not yet been docketed. As the company has ceased operations and will soon become an unregulated company, staff recommends the penalty be waived and the docket closed as the company is no longer regulated by the commission.

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

Sincerely,



Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services