BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET TC-131520
)	
PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE)	ORDER 01
)	
)	ORDER GRANTING
Requesting Forbearance from Rate and)	FORBEARANCE FROM RATE
Service Regulation as an Auto)	AND SERVICE REGULATION AS
Transportation Company Under)	AN AUTO TRANSPORTATION
RCW 81.68.015 and Requests a Charter)	COMPANY AND ISSUES A
Permit under RCW 81.70.)	CHARTER PERMIT
)	

BACKGROUND

- I On August 19, 2013, People For People (People or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) an application that included a petition filed in Docket TC-131520, requesting that the Commission forbear from rate and service regulation under RCW 81.68.015 and further requesting the Commission issue a charter permit.
- 2 RCW 81.68.015 states that Commission authority over auto transportation companies "... does not apply to a service carrying passengers for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route if the commission finds, with or without a hearing, that the service is provided pursuant to a contract with a state agency, or funded by a grant issued by the department of transportation, and that exemption from this chapter is otherwise in the public interest."
- *3* If the Commission grants forbearance from rate and service regulation, the Company would provide service under a charter permit pursuant to RCW 81.70.
- 4 The Commission published a notice of this request in the Docket on August 22, 2013, seeking public comment. The Commission received no comment.
- 5 People For People propose to provide auto transportation service between Grant County with stops at the Moses Lake Clinic, Columbia Basin Hospital in Ephrata, Quincy Valley Hospital, and Wenatchee Valley Medical Center in Chelan County. The purpose of this transportation is to connect special needs population with vital healthcare services not available in rural areas.

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 Commission Staff's analysis concludes the proposed service provided by People For People will be provided by contract with the Washington State Department of Transportation (Department) and funded by grant monies from the Department.
Considering all the facts and information presented in People For People's application and petition, Staff concludes the Company's request is in the public interest and recommends the Commission grant the Company's petition for relief from rate and service regulation as an auto transportation company and issue a charter permit.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including auto transportation companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.28, RCW 81.68 and RCW 81.70.
- 8 (2) The services People For People proposes to provide fall within the scope of an auto transportation company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 26, 2013.
- (4) After review and analysis of the petition and application for an exemption filed in Docket TC-131520 by People For People and giving due consideration of all facts presented by the Company's filing and the criteria established by RCW 81.68.015, the Commission finds that the services proposed by People For People will be provided by contract with a state agency, and funded by a grant issued by the Washington State Department of Transportation and finds that the forbearance from rate and service regulation is in the public interest and should be granted and a charter permit should be granted.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The Commission grants forbearance from rate and service regulation of People For People under RCW 81.68.015.
- 12 (2) The Commission grants People For People a charter permit under RCW 81.70.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 26, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary