



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 8, 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. Big Sky Bus Lines, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-160687

Dear Mr. King:

On June 20, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-160687 against Big Sky Bus Lines, Inc. 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 June 27, 2016, Big Sky Bus Lines, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Big Sky Bus Lines, Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...we were sub contracted by a Maryland Tour company to assist with a major golf tournament in the State of Washington. This became quite confusing for out of state operators as the company that hired us did not make us aware that we were not operating under their authority and we had to apply to the commission for authority. We did that, received a license, did the event and paid our fees to the State of Washington. Once the event was over we returned to Montana and do not intend to have WA intrastate operations. We were not aware the license was ongoing and have subsequently provided a release of authority for cancellation."

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.

UTC Annual Reports

July 8, 2016

Page 2

Big Sky Bus Lines, Inc. has been active since 2015. On June 23, 2016, Big Sky Bus Lines, Inc. voluntarily cancelled their certificate in docket TE-160828 and has had zero WA intrastate operations in 2016. Staff recommends the penalty be waived as the company will no longer be regulated by the commission.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Kufin for SW".

Sondra Walsh, Director  
Administrative Services