



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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July 28, 2017

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. Premier Coaches Northwest, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Request for Hearing TE-170636

Dear Mr. King:

On June 21, 2017, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-170636 against Premier Coaches Northwest, Inc. for 10 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.

On July 7, 2017, Premier Coaches Northwest, Inc. wrote the commission requesting a hearing disputing the violation occurred. In its hearing request, the company states, "...Report was never received by us. This year you changed from mailing report to sending by email. We did not receive it to complete. Form could not be located on UTC website for us to complete when we were notified of violation."

A courtesy reminder was sent to this company's email address that is on file with the Commission. However, 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 28, 2017, Annual Report packets were sent 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 1, 2017, to avoid enforcement action.

There are no material issues of law or fact. Staff does not support the company's request for hearing as commission staff did not receive an annual report prior to the May 1 deadline and it is the company's responsibility to file a complete and accurate annual report. The annual report continues to be located on the same area of the UTC website that it has been at for the last several years. Companies are encouraged to contact Commission Staff if they have any questions

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about the annual report process. The Commission will only grant mitigation if the violations occurred due to circumstances beyond the company's control. Premier Coaches Northwest, Inc. did not illustrate that they were unable to file their annual report and pay their regulatory fee due to circumstances beyond their control. Staff does not recommend mitigation nor a reduction of the penalty.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Sean Bennett

Sean Bennett, Regulatory Analyst
Administrative Services