



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 • [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)

July 8, 2014

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. Team Forks, LLC*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-141082

Dear Mr. King:

On May 28, 2014, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-141082 against Team Forks, LLC for 10 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-30-071, which requires charter and excursion carriers to furnish annual reports to the commission no later than May 1 each year.<sup>1</sup>

On June 23, 2014, Team Forks, LLC wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties (Mitigation Request).<sup>2</sup> In its Mitigation Request, Team Forks, LLC does not dispute that the violation occurred. The company states, "Team Forks LLC did not file the annual report for 2013 because it was mailed out on February 28, 2014 and the address of record was P.O. Box 995, Forks, WA 98331 so it did not reach us. The transfer of ownership was finally completed by the commission on March 6, 2014 at which time our address was stated as P.O. Box 1488, Forks, Wa 98331."

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, 2014, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated charter and excursion companies. The instructions for annual report completion page of the annual report informed the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form, pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 1, 2014, to avoid enforcement action.

<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks' Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014

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On June 23, 2014, Team Forks, LLC filed the 2013 annual report and timely paid the required regulatory fees on December 26, 2013. The company permit was issued on March 1, 2010 with the transfer of ownership effective March 6, 2014 per Docket TE-140288. The company was delinquent in filing the 2012 annual report under prior ownership. Commission staff supports the company's request for mitigation due to the ownership change. Staff recommends the penalty be reduced to \$25 per day for a total penalty assessment of \$250.

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

Sincerely,

Sondra Walsh, Director  
Administrative Services

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<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks' Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014

## ATTACHMENT A

### WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

#### NOTICE OF PENALTIES INCURRED AND DUE FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAWS AND RULES

PENALTY ASSESSMENT: TE-141082  
PENALTY AMOUNT: \$1,000

Team Forks LLC  
PO Box 1488  
Forks, WA 98331

According to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) records, you have violated Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-30-071, which requires charter and excursion carriers to file their annual reports. You did not file an annual report by May 1, 2014.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.04.080 authorizes the Commission to assess penalties of \$100 for violations of Commission rules. Each violation is a separate and distinct offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, every day's continuance is a separate and distinct violation. The Commission interprets noncompliance with WAC 480-30-071 beyond May 1 as a continuing violation, and assesses penalties of \$100 for each day a company fails to file its report after that date.

As a result, the Commission has assessed penalties against you in the amount of \$1,000 on the following basis:

On February 28, 2014, the Commission mailed the 2013 annual report forms and the 2014 regulatory fee packets to all charter and excursion carriers registered in Washington. The instructions page for the annual report form instructed these companies to file annual reports by May 1, 2014. The instructions page also stated that failure to file the annual report by May 1 would result in penalties. The deadline for requesting an extension to file your annual report was April 17. You did not request an extension.

As of May 15, 2014, Team Forks LLC has not filed its 2013 annual report. May 15 is 10 business days from May 1, resulting in a total penalty of \$1,000.

Your penalty is due and payable now. If you believe the violation did not occur, you may request a hearing to contest the penalty assessment. The Commission will grant that request only if material issues of law or fact require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. A request for a hearing must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. If there is a reason for the violation that you think should excuse or reduce the penalty, you may ask for mitigation

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<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks' Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014

(reduction) of this penalty through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. A request for mitigation must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. See RCW 81.04.405.

If you properly present your request for a hearing and the Commission grants that request, the Commission will review the evidence supporting your dispute of the violation or application for mitigation in a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding, before an administrative law judge. The administrative law judge will consider the evidence and will notify you of his or her decision.

**You must act within 15 days after receiving this notice** to do one of the following:

- Pay the amount due.
- Request a hearing to contest the occurrence of the violations.
- Request mitigation to contest the amount of the penalty.

Please indicate your selection on the enclosed form and send it to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Post Office Box 47250, Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, **within FIFTEEN (15) days** after you receive this notice.

**If you do not act within 15 days**, the Commission may refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for collection, which may file suit in state court to collect the penalty. The Commission may also initiate proceedings under WAC 480-30-171 to cancel your certificate to operate as a charter and excursion carrier in Washington.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2014.

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GREGORY J. KOPTA  
Administrative Law Judge

<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks' Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**PENALTY ASSESSMENT TE-141082**

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

- 1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violations occurred. I have:
  - Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the penalty
  - Submitted my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ online at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov). My confirmation number is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. **Request for a hearing.** I believe that one or more of the alleged violations did not occur, for the reasons I describe below, and I request a hearing based on those reasons, for a decision by an administrative law judge:
- 3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violations, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below:
  - a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision
  - OR  b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ [month/day/year], at \_\_\_\_\_ [city, state]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Respondent (company) – please print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020:

“Perjury in the first degree. (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he makes a materially false statement which he knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor’s mistaken belief that his statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section. (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.”

<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks’ Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014

ATTACHMENT B

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PENALTY ASSESSMENT TE-141082

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

2014 JUN 23 AM 8:16

- 1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violations occurred. I have:
  - Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the penalty
  - Submitted my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ online at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov). My confirmation number is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. **Request for a hearing.** I believe that one or more of the alleged violations did not occur, for the reasons I describe below, and I request a hearing based on those reasons, for a decision by an administrative law judge:
- 3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violations, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below:

- a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision
- OR  b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: 6/10/14 [month/day/year], at Forks, WA [city, state]

Team Forks LLC - Charlene Cross  
Name of Respondent (company) – please print

Charlene Cross  
Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020:

“Perjury in the first degree. (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he makes a materially false statement which he knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor’s mistaken belief that his statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section. (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.”

<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks’ Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014

June 13, 2014

Team Forks LLC did not file the annual report for 2013 because it was mailed out on February 28, 2014 and the address of record was P.O. Box 995, Forks, WA 98331 so it did not reach us. The transfer of ownership was finally completed by the commission on March 6, 2014 at which time our address was stated as P.O. Box 1488, Forks, Wa 98331.

Therefore, I ask the commission to excuse the penalty and I am submitting the 2013 Annual Report at this time for Team Forks LLC.

Thank you,



Charlene Cross, owner  
Team Forks, LLC  
P.O. Box 1488  
Forks, WA 98331  
360-374-6931

2014 JUN 23 AM 8:17

<sup>1</sup>See attachment A for a copy of the penalty assessment sent on May 28, 2014

<sup>2</sup>See attachment B for a copy of Team Forks' Mitigation Request received on June 23, 2014