

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In re Penalty Assessment No.	)	DOCKET NO. UT-031848
UT-031848	)	
	)	
	)	
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	)	STAFF RESPONSE TO
.....	)	PLEA FOR MITIGATION

- 1     On November 21, 2003, the Commission issued a penalty assessment against World Communications, Inc. (World Communications) in the amount of \$100 for one violation of WAC 480-120-303, which requires competitively classified companies to file annual reports and pay regulatory fees to the Commission no later than May 1 of each year. World Communications had 15 days to respond to the penalty assessment, either by paying the penalty, requesting a hearing, or requesting mitigation of the penalty.
  
- 2     As of January 1, 2004, World Communications had not responded to the Commission. On January 16, 2004, Carole Washburn, Executive Secretary, signed a letter to World Communications, directing the company to respond no later than January 26, 2004.
  
- 3     On January 21, 2004, Michel Alkaslassy, Chief Financial Officer of World Communications, sent a fax to the Commission requesting mitigation of the penalty.
  
- 4     The Company's mitigation request and Staff's response are discussed below.
  
- 5     The Commission issued \$100.00 in penalties for a violation of WAC 480-120-303, because World Communications filed its 2002 annual report, due May 1, 2003, on October 3, 2003.
  
- 6     The Company requests full mitigation of this penalty. World Communications' mitigation request states that the Company's controller was seriously ill and was allowed to work from home throughout 2003. According to the Company, some reports were not filed in a timely manner.
  
- 7     Staff recommends the Commission mitigate this portion of the penalty in full.

Staff reviewed annual report records for the past five years, and the Company filed timely each year. The Company provided information regarding the extenuating circumstances that caused the 2002 annual report to be filed late.

8 **Summary**

Staff recommends the Commission grant full mitigation of the penalty assessment against World Communications, Inc. in Docket No. UT-031848.

Dated January 30, 2004