

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In re Application of	DOCKET TV-250738
Fitzgerald Transport Inc. d/b/a Coast Movers,	NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT AUTHORITY
for a permit to operate as a motor carrier of household goods.	NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 1, 2025, Fitzgerald Transport Inc. d/b/a Coast Movers (Fitzgerald Transport) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) an application for authority to operate as a household goods carrier in the state of Washington (Application). The Application lists Jonathon Sheridan as Fitzgerald Transport’s owner.
- 2 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.80.075(3) requires the Commission to consider whether an applicant for a household goods carrier permit is fit to perform the services proposed and willing and able to conform to the requirements, rules, and regulations of the Commission. RCW 81.80.075(3) also requires the Commission to consider whether the applicant’s proposed operations are consistent with the public interest.
- 3 The Commission will grant or deny an application for permanent authority after it conducts a complete review of the application, including supporting statements, reports, or other information necessary to determine fitness. The Commission’s rules provide that the Commission may reject or deny an application for permanent authority if the Commission believes the applicant is unfit, or if issuing the permit is not in the public interest.¹
- 4 The Commission will not grant provisional or permanent authority if an application contains any indication of fraud, misrepresentation, or erroneous information,² or if other

¹ See generally WAC 480-15-302, -305.

² WAC 480-15-302(2).

circumstances indicate that the applicant is unfit.³

- 5 If it is necessary to resolve outstanding issues or concerns related to fitness or the public interest, or any other issue resulting from a complaint or public comment, the Commission may hold a hearing or brief adjudicative proceeding on any application for permanent authority.⁴
- 6 Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed the Application and recommends that the Commission deny the Application for reasons set out below.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 7 On October 1, 2025, Fitzgerald Transport filed the Application. The Application lists Jonathon Sheridan as the company's sole owner and states that the company had previously possessed Commission-issued household goods carrier permit 64232. In response to question 12(3) of the Application Questionnaire, which concerns whether any person named in the application had been found to have violated Commission rules, Mr. Sheridan checked "No."
- 8 In 2010, Jonathon Sheridan applied for and received from the Commission, in Docket TV-101646, a household goods carrier permit. The household goods carrier permit, number HG064232, authorized Jonathon Sheridan to operate under the trade name JFS Transport.
- 9 Later, in Docket TV-121441, the Commission approved an application to transfer household goods carrier permit HG064232 to a limited liability corporation (LLC) called JFS Transport, Inc. (JFS Transport). The LLC's articles of incorporation, provided to the Commission in the transfer docket, list Jonathon Sheridan as the LLC's owner.
- 10 The address provided for Jonathon Sheridan in the Application is the same as the one listed on the Secretary of State's website for the Jonathon Sheridan who was the governor and registered agent of JFS Transport.⁵ Given the common ownership and management,

³ WAC 480-15-302(13).

⁴ WAC 480-15-350.

⁵ The Secretary of State administratively dissolved JFS Transport, effective January 1, 2024, for failing to file its annual report.

Fitzgerald Transport is a reincarnation of JFS Transport.⁶

- 11 JFS Transport was not a stranger to the Commission's enforcement docket. The Commission: (1) on two occasions canceled the company's operating permit, once for failure to file or maintain proof of insurance and once based on a default in a proceeding arising from a proposed unsatisfactory safety rating resulting from a Staff compliance review;⁷ (2) on four occasions suspended the company's operating permit for some period of time for failure to file or maintain proof of insurance;⁸ (3) imposed penalties for failure to timely submit an annual report;⁹ and (4) twice imposed penalties for violations of the public service laws, the Commission's rules, and Tariff 15-C.¹⁰
- 12 After Staff informed Fitzgerald Transport that it believed the Application contained material omissions, the company supplemented it with an addendum that stated "regarding question #12 [I] apologies on my answer. I have had violations years ago. I do not remember the details."
- 13 Under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-15-302(2), the Commission may deny an application containing any indication of fraud, misrepresentation, or erroneous information. Staff believes that the Application, as originally filed, contained fraud, misrepresentation, or erroneous information because it omitted mention of the numerous instances in which the Commission cancelled or suspended JFS Transport's permit or imposed penalties on JFS Transport for violations of the Commission's rules. Staff does not believe that the addendum cures these omissions.
- 14 Under WAC 480-15-302(13), the Commission will deny operating authority when other circumstances justify doing so. JFS Transport, which Jonathon Sheridan owned and managed, had a significant and negative compliance history. Both the Commission and the Secretary of State took action against the company for failing to file annual reports.

⁶ See generally 49 C.F.R. § 385.1001-.1019; WAC 480-15-560(1).

⁷ The Commission canceled JFS Transport's operating permit in Dockets TV-132247 and TV-220509.

⁸ The Commission JFS Transport's operating permit in Dockets TV-121246, TV-131657, TV-132247 (this suspension later became a cancellation, as noted supra, note 6), and TV-140730.

⁹ The Commission imposed these penalties in Dockets TV-120943 and TV-150911.

¹⁰ The Commission imposed the first set of these penalties in Docket TV-180315. Some of the penalties were initially suspended but later made due and payable due to violations of the suspension conditions. The Commission imposed the second set of penalties in Docket TV-200861.

The Commission repeatedly suspended or cancelled the company's permit for failing to file or maintain insurance. The Commission imposed penalties for JFS Transport's hundreds of violations of the public services laws, the Commission's rules, and Tariff 15-C. Ultimately, the Commission cancelled JFS Transport's permit after a compliance review produced a proposed unsatisfactory safety rating, a rating that became permanent when JFS Transport failed to appear at hearing. JFS Transport's compliance history shows that Fitzgerald Transport, JFS Transport's reincarnation, does not possess the regulatory fitness to operate as a household goods carrier in the state of Washington.

- 15 Staff recommends the Commission deny the Application for failure to meet the requirements of WAC 480-15-302(2) and WAC 480-15-302(13) based on the reasons provided above.

DISCUSSION

- 16 Based upon the information Staff presented, the Commission agrees with Staff's recommendation and intends to deny the Application. The Commission finds the material omissions on the Application and the poor compliance history of JFS Transport, Jonathon Sheridan's previous household goods carrier, show the company is unfit to hold a permit under WAC 480-15-302(2) and (13).
- 17 Staff's findings support the conclusion that the Applicant has failed to meet the requirements of WAC 480-15-302(2) and (13), and that the Commission should deny the Application.

NOTICE

- 18 The Commission hereby provides notice of its intention to deny Fitzgerald Transport's Application for provisional and permanent authority for failure to meet the application requirements.
- 19 **NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING.** Fitzgerald Transport may request a hearing to contest the factual allegations set out in this notice. Fitzgerald Transport may request such a hearing by filing a written request for a hearing with the Commission by **November 5, 2025**. The request must be directed to the attention of Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250, and must reference Docket TV-250738.
- 20 If Fitzgerald Transport requests a hearing by **November 5, 2025**, the Commission will schedule a brief adjudicative proceeding under RCW 34.05.482 and WAC 480-07-610. If

Fitzgerald Transport does not request a hearing by that date, the Commission will enter an order rejecting the Application.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 22, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Jeff Killip
Executive Director and Secretary
By: /s/ Kathy Hunter
Director, Transportation Safety
Executive Director's Designee