BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

DOCKET TV-230838

Complainant,

v.

ALLIED VAN LINES, INC.; PACIFIC MOVERS, INC.; 3Z MOVERS LLC; CAN'T STOP MOVING, LLC; NORTH COAST MOVING AND STORAGE COMPANY, LLC; PRO MOVERS LLC; ERIC'S SMALL MOVES & DELIVERY LLC; SEATTLE MOVES & MORE LLC; PNW MOVING AND DELIVERY LLC: MENDEZ MOVERS LLC; MIRACLE MAN MOVERS LLC; GM MOVE TRANSPORT LLC; MR. MUSCLES MOVING COMPANY LLC; ONE NATION GROUP LLC; HYLAN, NICHOLAS d/b/a HYLAN MOVING; C&N ENTERPRISES, INC.; LION MOVERS LLC; **EXTRAORDINARY MOVING &** STORAGE LLC; NEST MOVING AND STORAGE LLC, Respondents.

ORDER 01

INITIAL ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO FIND NORTH COAST MOVING AND STORAGE COMPANY, LLC IN DEFAULT AND CANCELING HOUSEHOLD GOODS PERMIT FOR FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT AND PAY REGULATORY FEES; GRANTING MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINT OF REMAINING COMPANIES.

BACKGROUND

 On November 30, 2023, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) issued a complaint against Allied Van Lines, Inc. (Allied); Pacific Movers, Inc. (Pacific); 3Z Movers, LLC (3Z); Can't Stop Moving, LLC (Can't Stop); North Coast Moving and Storage Company, LLC (North Coast Moving)¹; Pro Movers, LLC (Pro Movers); Eric's Small Moves & Delivery, LLC (Eric's Small); Seattle Moves & More, LLC (Seattle Moves); PNW Moving and Delivery, LLC (PNW Moving); Mendez Movers, LLC (Mendez); Miracle Man Movers, LLC (Miracle Man); GM Move

¹ We take notice that on September 22, 2023, North Coast Moving and Storage, LLC filed with the Office of the Secretary of State to change its corporate name to NCM&S, LLC – this Order will refer to this entity as North Coast Moving. <u>Corporations and Charities System (wa.gov)</u>.

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Transport, LLC (GM Move); Mr. Muscles Moving Company, LLC (Mr. Muscles); One Nation Group, LLC (One Nation); Hylan, Nicholas d/b/a Hylan Moving (Hylan Moving); C&N Enterprises, Inc. (C&N); Lion Movers LLC (Lion); Extraordinary Moving & Storage LLC (Extraordinary Moving); Nest Moving and Storage LLC (Nest Moving).² The complaint alleges that each company failed to file required annual reports for 2023 and failed to pay required regulatory fees. The Commission set this matter for hearing and notified all respondents that any party that failed to attend or participate in the hearing may be held in default.

² The complaint was heard on January 11, 2024, before Administrative Law Judge Bijan Hughes. Josephine Strauss, Assistant Attorney General, Olympia, Washington represented Commission staff (Staff).³ During the hearing, Staff presented the testimony of Esther Neal, Regulatory Analyst. Pacific was the only household goods carrier named in the complaint who appeared at the hearing; Pacific did not present testimony.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

3 Applicable law. Every public service company operating in Washington is required to file an annual report that sets forth the company's operations during the preceding year.⁴ Every common carrier must also pay a regulatory fee of no more than one quarter of one percent of its gross income from intrastate operations for the previous calendar year on or before the date specified by the Commission.⁵ Commission rules require all permitted household goods carriers to file annual reports and pay regulatory fees by May 1.⁶ The Commission may cancel a household goods carrier permit for good cause, which includes, but is not limited to, the failure to file an annual report or pay regulatory fees.⁷ Any party who fails to attend or participate in a hearing scheduled by the Commission

² One additional company appears to have been served in this matter, Yakima Transfer & Storage Co. (Yakima). However, Yakima was not listed in the complaint or mentioned in the hearing. As a result, this Order makes no findings related to Yakima's compliance with regulations.

³ In formal proceedings, such as this, the Commission's regulatory staff participates like any other party, while the Commissioners make the decision. To assure fairness, the Commissioners, the presiding administrative law judge, and the Commissioners' policy and accounting advisors do not discuss the merits of this proceeding with the regulatory staff, or any other party, without giving notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. *See* RCW 34.05.455.

⁴ RCW 81.04.080.

⁵ RCW 81.80.321.

⁶ WAC 480-15-480.

⁷ WAC 480-15-450.

may be held in default.8

- 4 **Motion to Dismiss.** At the hearing, Staff moved to dismiss the complaint against every Company besides North Coast Moving, because those companies either (1) came into compliance or (2) had already had their permits canceled.
- The following companies came into compliance by filing their annual reports and paying their regulatory fees: Eric's Small; Pacific; Can't Stop; PNW; Mendez; Mr. Muscles; Seattle Moves; 3Z; Pro Movers; Hylan Moving; GM Move; Allied; and Lion.
- 6 The following companies had their permits canceled prior to the hearing: Miracle Man; One Nation; C&N; Extraordinary Moving; and Nest.
- 7 The motion to dismiss the complaint against these eighteen companies was granted.
- 8 **Default.** Staff moved that North Coast Moving be held in default for failing to appear at the hearing. The record reflects that the company was sent notice of the hearing by email, at its email address of record, and that the company failed to appear or otherwise respond to the complaint. Therefore, the motion for default against North Coast Moving was granted. Even so, Staff requested that the Commission hear and dispose of the substantive issues brought in the complaint against North Coast Moving.
- 9 Complaint. Staff witness Esther Neal testified that she reviews Commission records to obtain a list of all companies that are delinquent in filing their annual reports or paying their regulatory fees. Esther Neal reviewed data for each company named in the complaint.
- 10 North Coast Moving holds authority to transport household goods in the state of Washington for compensation. As such, North Coast Moving is required to submit an annual report to the Commission and pay regulatory fees. A review of the Commission's files and records shows that North Coast Moving failed to file its annual report for 2023 and failed to pay regulatory fees. Moreover, North Coast Moving failed to appear at the time and place scheduled for the hearing in this matter and is in default. Accordingly, North Coast Moving's household goods carrier permit should be canceled.

⁸ RCW 34.05.440; WAC 480-07-450.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington, vested by statute with authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, and accounts of public service companies, including common carriers such as household goods carriers.
- 12 (2) North Coast Moving is a "public service company," "common carrier," and "household goods carrier" as those terms are defined and used in RCW Title 81.
- (3) On November 30, 2023, the Commission entered a complaint and notice of hearing. The complaint against each of the above-named household goods carriers sought cancellation of the company's permit for failure to submit an annual report and pay regulatory fees. The notice of hearing scheduled a hearing to convene virtually on January 11, 2023. Each of the above-named household goods carriers was properly served and notified of the hearing.
- (4) Subsequent to the entry of the complaint, Allied Van Lines, Inc.; Pacific Movers, Inc.; 3Z Movers, LLC; Can't Stop Moving, LLC; Pro Movers LLC; Eric's Small Moves & Delivery LLC; Seattle Moves & More LLC; PNW Moving and Delivery LLC; Mendez Movers LLC; Hylan, Nicholas d/b/a Hylan Moving; GM Move Transport LLC; Mr. Muscles Moving Company LLC; and Lion Movers LLC, filed their annual reports and paid their regulatory fees. Accordingly, the complaint against these thirteen companies should be dismissed.
- (5) Subsequent to the entry of the complaint, Miracle Man Movers LLC; One Nation Group LLC; C&N Enterprises, Inc; Extraordinary Moving & Storage LLC; Nest Moving and Storage, had their household goods carrier permits canceled.
 Accordingly, the complaint against these five companies should be dismissed.
- (6) The failure of North Coast Moving to file their annual reports for 2023 and pay regulatory fees constitutes good cause to cancel their household goods carrier permit to operate in Washington.
- 17 (7) North Coast Moving is in default for failure to appear at the January 11, 2023, hearing in this matter.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

 (1) The complaint against Allied Van Lines, Inc.; Pacific Movers, Inc.; 3Z Movers, LLC; Can't Stop Moving, LLC; Pro Movers LLC; Eric's Small Moves & Delivery LLC Seattle Moves & More LLC; PNW Moving and Delivery LLC; Mendez Movers LLC; Miracle Man Movers LLC; GM Move Transport LLC; Mr. Muscles Moving Company LLC; One Nation Group LLC; Hylan, Nicholas d/b/a Hylan Moving; C&N Enterprises, Inc.; Lion Movers LLC; Extraordinary Moving & Storage LLC; Nest Moving and Storage LLC is dismissed.

- 18 (2) NCM&S, LLC (formerly North Coast Moving and Storage Company, LLC) is in default.
- (3) The household goods carrier permit held by NCM&S, LLC (formerly North Coast Moving and Storage Company, LLC) is canceled for failure to file annual reports for 2023 and pay regulatory fees.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective February 2, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ *Bijan Hughes* BIJAN HUGHES Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES

This is an initial order. The action proposed in this initial order is not yet effective. If you disagree with this initial order and want the Commission to consider your comments, you must take specific action within the time limits outlined below. If you agree with this initial order, and you would like the order to become final before the time limits expire, you may send a letter to the Commission waiving your right to petition for administrative review.

WAC 480-07-450(2) states that a party held in default has 10 days after service of a default order to file a written motion requesting the order be vacated and the proceeding reopened for further process. The party held in default must state the grounds relied upon, including its reasons for failing to appear.

WAC 480-07-610(7)(a) provides that any party to this proceeding has 21 days after the entry of this initial order to file a petition for administrative review (Petition). Section

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(7)(b) of the rule identifies what you must include in any Petition as well as other requirements for a Petition. WAC 480-07-610(7)(c) states that any party may file a response to a Petition within seven days after service of the petition.

A party held in default must file a written motion requesting the order be vacated pursuant to WAC 480-07-450(2) within 10 days after service in order to have the Commission consider a Petition for Administrative Review from that party.

WAC 480-07-830 provides that before the Commission enters a final order any party may file a petition to reopen a contested proceeding to permit receipt of evidence essential to a decision, but unavailable and not reasonably discoverable at the time of hearing, or for other good and sufficient cause. The Commission will not accept answers to a petition to reopen unless the Commission requests answers by written notice.

RCW 80.01.060(3) provides that an initial order will become final without further Commission action if no party seeks administrative review of the initial order and if the Commission fails to exercise administrative review on its own motion.

Any Petition or Response must be electronically filed through the Commission's web portal as required by WAC 480-07-140(5).