

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

In re Penalty Assessment No.)	
UT-031848)	DOCKET NO. UT-031848
)	
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS,)	ORDER NO. 01
INC.)	
)	
.....)	ORDER MITIGATING PENALTY

1 On November 24, 2003, the Commission issued a penalty assessment against World Communications, Inc. (World Communications) in the amount of \$100 for violations 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. As of September 30, 2003, World Communications had neither filed its 2002 annual report nor paid a regulatory fee for 2003.

2 On January 21, 2004, Michel Alkaslassy, Chief Financial Officer, World Communications, filed a timely petition for mitigation of the penalty assessment. The petition does not seek a hearing and does not request a hearing to contest the factual basis of the penalty.

3 On January 20, 2004, the Commission Staff responded to the petition, supporting the plea for mitigation. The Commission in this order grants mitigation.

BACKGROUND

4 World Communications, the petitioner for mitigation, is a telecommunications company that is authorized to provide local exchange, operator services, ancillary services, and directory assistance as a telecommunications company

pursuant to RCW 80.36.350 and is classified as a competitive telecommunications company pursuant to RCW 80.36.320(1).

5 The Commission assessed a \$100 penalty against World Communications on November 24, 2003, for violations of WAC 480-120-303, for failure to file its 2002 annual report and regulatory fee for 2003.

6 World Communications entered a plea for mitigation by letter from Michel Alkaslassy, the company's Chief Financial Officer. The company asked for mitigation of the penalty to zero, stating that extenuating circumstances that prevented its reports from being filed in a timely manner.

7 Commission Staff responded to the petition for mitigation, recommending that the penalty be fully mitigated.

8 Staff stated it reviewed World Communications annual report records for the past five years, and the company filed timely each year. Staff also found sufficient the Company-provided information regarding the extenuating circumstances that caused the 2002 annual report to be filed late.

9 The Commission should grant the plea for mitigation.

ORDER

10 The Commission grants the petition of World Communications, Inc. In doing so, the Commission mitigates the penalty to zero.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 6th day of February, 2004

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is a final order of the Commission. In addition to judicial review, administrative relief may be available through a petition for reconsideration, filed within 10 days of the service of this order pursuant to RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 480-07-850, or a petition for rehearing pursuant to RCW 80.04.200 or RCW 81.04.200 and WAC 480-07-870.