

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Determining the Proper
Carrier Classification of, and Complaint
for Penalties Against

DOCKET TV-220493

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

PAUL JAMES AKERMAN D/B/A
MOVING MOVER; PAULTHEMOVER

I. INTRODUCTION

1 The regulatory staff (Staff) of the Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission (Commission) and Paul James Akerman d/b/a Moving Mover; PaulTheMover
(PaulTheMover or Company), through their authorized representatives, enter into the
following settlement agreement (Settlement) to resolve the issues raised in Docket TV-
220493.

2 This Settlement is a “full multiparty settlement” as that term is defined in WAC 480-
07-730(3)(a) because it resolves all issues raised in this docket among Staff and Paul James
Akerman d/b/a Moving Mover; PaulTheMover (the Parties). It is subject to review and
disposition by the Commission to determine whether it complies with the applicable legal
requirements and whether approval of the Settlement is consistent with the public interest.¹

II. BACKGROUND

3 On May 10, 2023, the Commission entered Order 01, Order Instituting Special
Proceeding; Complaint Seeking to Impose Penalties; and Notice of Mandatory Appearance

¹ WAC 480-07-740, -750.

at Hearing (Complaint), pursuant to RCW 81.04.510, initiating this docket on its own motion. The Complaint alleges that PaulTheMover violated RCW 81.80.075(1) on at least two occasions by (1) offering on at least one occasion to transport household goods within the state of Washington and (2) advertising household goods moving services within the state of Washington on at least one occasion without the necessary permit required for such operations. Specifically, on April 29, 2022, Staff discovered advertisements on Yelp for PaulTheMover and on Craigslist for Moving Mover that offered to provide household goods moves within the state of Washington. Staff, found advertisements on March 9, 2023, that offered to provide household goods moves within the state of Washington on Craigslist for PaulTheMover. On June 28, 2022, and again on March 9, 2023, Staff contacted the Company using an assumed name and obtained a quote for a move from Seattle to Tacoma, Washington.

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

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The Parties have reached an agreement on the issues raised in Docket TV-220493 and present this Settlement for the Commission's consideration and approval. The Parties therefore adopt the following Settlement, which they enter into voluntarily, to resolve the matters in dispute between them and to expedite the orderly disposition of this proceeding:

- Admission – Paul James Akerman d/b/a Moving Mover; PaulTheMover admits that it violated RCW 81.80.075(1) on at least two occasions by (1) offering to transport household goods within the state of Washington and (2) advertising household goods moving services within the state of Washington without the necessary permit required for such operations.
- Classification – Paul James Akerman d/b/a Moving Mover; PaulTheMover admits that it operated as a household goods carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

- Penalty – Paul James Akerman d/b/a Moving Mover; PaulTheMover will pay a penalty of \$500. This amount will be due and payable within 14 days of the Commission’s approval of the Settlement.
- Suspended Penalty – Paul James Akerman d/b/a Moving Mover; PaulTheMover will accept the imposition of a \$4,500 suspended penalty. The Commission shall waive the suspended penalty after a period of two years from the effective date of this agreement, provided that the Company does not operate as a households goods carrier without authority from the Commission.
- The Parties agree that if the Company does not pay the \$500 penalty within 14 days of the Commission’s approval of the Settlement, the entire amount of the penalty, including the suspended portion of \$4,500, will become due and payable the day after the payment is due.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

5 Public interest: The Parties submit that this Settlement promotes the public interest, and that it is appropriate for the Commission’s acceptance without conditions under WAC 480-07-750(2)(a).

6 Effective date: This Settlement is effective on the service date of a final Commission order approving this Settlement, or on the date that an initial order approving this Settlement becomes a final order pursuant to WAC 480-07-825(7), whichever occurs first.

7 Advocacy: The Parties agree to cooperate in submitting this Settlement promptly to the Commission for acceptance. The Parties agree to support adoption of this Settlement in proceedings before the Commission. No party to this Settlement or its agents, employees, consultants, or attorneys will engage in advocacy contrary to the Commission’s adoption of this Settlement.

8 Construction: This Settlement shall not be construed against any party solely because that party was a drafter of the Settlement.

9 Other proceedings: This Settlement shall have no precedential or preclusive effect in other proceedings except in a proceeding to enforce its terms. In the event this Settlement does not become effective, this Settlement shall be null and void, with no binding effect on the Parties and with no precedential or preclusive effect on the Parties regarding the continued litigation in Docket TV-220493. In the event that the Commission rejects all or any portion of this Settlement or accepts the Settlement with conditions not proposed in this Settlement, each party reserves the right to withdraw from this Settlement by written notice to the other party and the Commission. Written notice must be served within 10 business days of service of the order rejecting part or all of this Settlement or imposing conditions not proposed in this Settlement. In such event, no party will be bound or prejudiced by the terms of this Settlement, and the Parties agree to cooperate in developing a procedural schedule.

10 Settlement discussions: The Parties have entered into this Settlement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, uncertainty, and delay. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed during negotiations of this Settlement shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding, except in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement or any Commission order fully adopting those terms.

11 Final agreement: The Parties have negotiated this Settlement as an integrated document to be effective upon execution. This Settlement supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on issues addressed herein.

12 Counterparts: The Parties may execute this Settlement in counterparts and as executed shall constitute one agreement. A signed signature page sent by facsimile or email is as effective as an original document.

Authorized representatives: Each person signing this Settlement warrants that he or she has authority to bind the party that he or she represents.

DATED this 20th day of June 2023.

Company Name: Moving Mover;
PaulTheMover

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Owner Signature

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Commission Staff Signature

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