

MEMORANDUM

August 17, 2004

TO: Gene Eckhardt, Regulatory Services Assistant Director,
Transportation and Water Section

FROM: Bonnie L. Allen, Regulatory Analyst

SUBJECT: Household Goods Carrier Permit
Application No. P-79190 Docket No. TV-030951

Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage Co.
1414 North Montana Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Washington Address:
2201 C Street, Warehouse 5
Auburn, WA 98001

Discussion

On June 16, 2003, Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage Co. filed Application No. P-79190 requesting permanent household goods authority.

The Commission granted the company temporary authority subject to conditions pending a decision on its application for permanent authority. The company has operated under Household Goods Carrier Permit No. HG-61019 since July 25, 2003.

Application No. P-79190 appeared on the Commission's August 4, 2003, application docket subject to comment for no less than 180 days while the company conducted operations under its temporary authority. No comments were received.

Under the provisions of WAC 480-15-330 the Commission will grant or deny an application for permanent authority after conducting a complete review of the application filing, supporting statements, reports, or other information necessary

Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage Co.

August 17, 2004

Page 2

to determine fitness, public interest, and current or future public convenience and necessity.

Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage Co. in its application indicates that the company has been in business since 1934 providing many types of transportation services including household goods moving. Mergenthaler indicates that they have been in various business disputes and proceedings with regulatory agencies since 1934 all of which have been resolved.

Compliance staff worked with the company providing technical assistance during its temporary operations. Investigator Bruce Grimm provided technical assistance on tariffs, bills of lading, estimates, loss and damage claims, and completed a Safety Compliance Review. Investigator Grimm found the company in general compliance and June 8, 2004, he recommended Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage, Co. be considered for permanent authority.

Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage Co. is registered with the Department of Licensing, Master License Services. The company holds a valid UBI number with active tax, unemployment, and industrial insurance accounts.

The Commission received one survey questionnaire from a customer that received service from Mergenthaler, was satisfied with the service received, would use the service again, and would recommend the service to others. The Commission received no customer complaints regarding this company's service.

The company filed an annual report for 2003 reporting \$10,427 in gross revenue from intrastate operations under its temporary permit.

Recommendation

P-79190 is an uncontested application and therefore no hearing is required. There are no outstanding issues that suggest staff should ask the Commission to set the application for hearing.

I recommend that Licensing Services Staff prepare an order to grant Application No. P-79190 without hearing and reissue Permit No. HG-61019 to Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage Co. as unrestricted permanent authority to operate as a household goods carrier in the state of Washington.