

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Investigation of

SMOOTH MOVES LLC

For Compliance with WAC 480-15-560 and
WAC 480-15-570

DOCKET TV-210861

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CANCEL
PERMIT AS A HOUSEHOLD GOODS
CARRIER

NOTICE OF BRIEF ADJUDICATIVE
PROCEEDING; SETTING TIME FOR
ORAL STATEMENTS
**(Set for December 29, 2021,
at 9:30 a.m.)**

- 1 Pursuant to RCW 81.80.130, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has authority to regulate common carriers, including household goods carriers, with respect to safety of operations. WAC 480-15-450 provides that the Commission may cancel a household goods carrier's permit and operating authority for good cause, including when the carrier fails to comply with safety requirements. Commission staff (Staff) recommends that the Commission cancel the permit of Smooth Moves LLC (Smooth Moves or Company) for good cause due to the Company's ongoing failure to comply with applicable laws and Commission rules pertaining to the operation of household goods carriers, including safety requirements set in law or rule.
- 2 WAC 480-15-999 adopts by reference Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) pertaining to safety requirements for household goods carriers. WAC 480-15-560 specifically requires carriers to comply with 49 C.F.R. Part 385, and 49 C.F.R. § 385.13 prohibits motor carriers from operating beginning on the 61st day after the date of a notice of proposed unsatisfactory rating. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 385.17, a carrier that receives a proposed unsatisfactory or conditional safety rating may request a change in its safety rating based on evidence that the company has taken corrective actions to address the identified violations and that the company's operations currently meet the safety fitness standards.
- 3 On October 24, 2011, the Commission granted the Company a permanent household goods carrier permit.
- 4 On November 8, 2021, Staff completed an investigation of Smooth Moves' compliance with the safety requirements in WAC 480-15. As a result of the compliance investigation, Staff documented 333 safety requirement violations and proposed an unsatisfactory safety rating for the Company. Staff notified the Company of this proposed rating on November 8, 2021. Smooth Moves' must come into compliance with applicable laws by obtaining Commission approval of a safety management plan no later

than January 7, 2022. If the Company fails to come into compliance by that date, the Commission will cancel its household goods carrier permit effective January 8, 2022. Thereafter, as an unregistered company, Smooth Moves would be prohibited from providing household goods carrier services in the state of Washington.

5 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE: That it intends to cancel the permit and authority of Smooth Moves to provide services as a household goods carrier effective January 8, 2022, for cause, following a hearing on the factual allegations set out above, unless the Company obtains Commission approval of a safety management plan prior to that date.**

6 Pursuant to WAC 480-15-450(2) the Commission will hold a hearing prior to cancelling a household goods permit for a company's failure to comply with applicable laws and commission rules pertaining to operations of household goods carriers, including safety requirements set in law or rule. Accordingly, the Commission determines that a brief adjudicative proceeding is appropriate to determine whether the Commission should cancel Smooth Moves' household goods carrier permit.

7 **THE COMMISSION GIVES FURTHER NOTICE: That it will hold a virtual brief adjudicative proceeding in this matter at 9:30 a.m. on December 29, 2021. To attend the hearing by telephone, please call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Meeting ID: 942 8894 8394# and the Passcode 573440#. To attend via Zoom, please use the following link: [Click here to join meeting.](#)**

8 The record in this case will consist of any documents regarding the matter that are considered by or prepared for the presiding officer for the brief adjudicative proceeding and a transcript of any oral statements given at the hearing, which statements will be given under oath.

9 Written notice of any other stage in the proceeding or other formal proceedings that the Commission may deem appropriate will be given during the course of this case. The Commission will provide on its website, www.utc.wa.gov, copies of documents in the current record for use by the parties or others who may want to review them.

10 **Smooth Moves must submit its proposed safety management plan no later than 5 p.m. on December 15, 2021.** Parties wishing to submit any other documents for consideration at the brief adjudicative proceeding must electronically file any such documents with the Commission a list enumerating and describing any such documents **no later than 5 p.m. on December 22, 2021.** Filing shall be in accordance with WAC 480-07-140.

11 THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE: That any party who fails to attend or participate in the brief adjudicative proceeding set by this Notice, or any other stage

of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.

- 12 The names and mailing addresses of all parties and their known representatives are shown as follows:

Commission: Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Representative: Joe Dallas
Assistant Attorney General
P.O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1192
joe.dallas@utc.wa.gov

Respondent: Smooth Moves, LLC
516 E 1st Ave. Ste. 1C
Kennewick, WA 99376
(509) 460-8158
Smoothmoves03@gmail.com

Representative: Unknown

- 13 Administrative Law Judge Rayne Pearson, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.¹

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective November 24, 2021.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary

¹ Judge Pearson can be reached at rayne.pearson@utc.wa.gov or (360) 664-1136.

Inquiries may be addressed to: Executive Director and Secretary

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

P.O. Box 47250

Olympia, WA 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160

NOTICE

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please fill out this form and return it to Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Amanda Maxwell, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250, or via email to amanda.maxwell@utc.wa.gov. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket: _____

Case Name: _____

Hearing Date: _____ Hearing Location: _____

Primary Language: _____

Hearing Impaired (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual _____ Tactile _____

Other type of assistance needed: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____