

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

JUSTIN LARREAU
NORTHWEST JUNK HAULERS LLC

DOCKET TG-240599

ORDER 01

ORDER INSTITUTING SPECIAL
PROCEEDING; COMPLAINT SEEKING
TO IMPOSE PENALTIES; NOTICE OF
HEARING

(Set for November 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.)

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.77.040, institutes this special proceeding on its own motion to determine whether Northwest Junk Haulers LLC (Northwest Junk or Company) has engaged and is engaging in unlawful operations without a solid waste carrier certificate in violation of RCW 81.77.040.
- 2 The Commission has information from which it believes and therefore alleges that Northwest Junk has advertised, solicited, offered, or entered into one or more agreements to provide solid waste collection service within the state of Washington without first having obtained from the Commission a solid waste carrier certificate.
- 3 Pursuant to RCW 81.04.380, upon proof of these allegations, the Commission is authorized to issue an order requiring Northwest Junk to cease and desist activities subject to regulation under Title 81 RCW. In addition, RCW 81.04.110 authorizes the Commission to file a complaint on its own motion setting forth any act or omission by Northwest Junk that violates any law or any order or rule of the Commission. The Commission may impose financial penalties of up to \$1,000 for each violation.
- 4 At the hearing in this special proceeding that will be conducted pursuant to Part IV of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), RCW 34.05, of which notice is given here, the Commission will also consider its Complaint against Northwest Junk alleging violations of law as specified below and will decide whether the Company should be penalized.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING

- 5 The Commission has jurisdiction to institute a special proceeding to determine whether Northwest Junk is conducting business requiring operating authority or has performed or is performing any act requiring Commission approval without securing such approval pursuant to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.01.010, and RCW 81.04.510. In addition to the

foregoing statutes, this matter involves Titles 80 and 81 RCW, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.010; RCW 81.04.020; and RCW 81.77.040. This matter also involves the administrative rules set forth in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-70 and WAC 480-07.

6 THE COMMISSION ORDERS that Northwest Junk appear virtually before the Commission in this special proceeding conducted under the authority of RCW 81.04.510 at 9:30 a.m., on November 25, 2024, to give testimony and evidence under oath as to its operations **To participate call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Meeting ID: 897 9454 5156# and Passcode: 802362#.**

7 The burden of proving that the alleged operations are not subject to the provisions of Title 81 RCW shall be upon Northwest Junk, as provided by RCW 81.04.510.

8 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE THAT ANY PARTY WHO FAILS TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING SET BY THIS NOTICE, OR ANY OTHER STAGE OF THIS PROCEEDING, MAY BE HELD IN DEFAULT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 34.05.440 AND WAC 480-07-450.**

9 If a limited English-speaking or hearing-impaired party needs an interpreter, a form is attached to this notice to be filled out and returned as indicated, so that a qualified interpreter may be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

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

Carrier:	Justin Larreau Northwest Junk Haulers LLC 9023 Merchant Way Everett, WA 98208
Representative:	Unknown
Commission:	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop SE Lacey, WA 98504 P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 (360) 664-1160

Representative: Stevin Peters
Compliance Investigator
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 522-6121
stevin.peters@utc.wa.gov

COMPLAINT SEEKING PENALTIES

PARTIES

- 11 Complainant, the Commission, is an agency of the state of Washington authorized by state law to regulate the rates, services, facilities, and practices of public service companies, including solid waste carriers, under the provisions of Title 81 RCW.
- 12 Respondent, Northwest Junk, is a solid waste carrier operating without a certificate in the state of Washington.

JURISDICTION

- 13 The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.04.110, RCW 80.01.010, RCW 81.04.160, RCW 81.04.460, and RCW 81.77.

BACKGROUND

- 14 According to the Declaration of the Commission Compliance Investigator presented to the undersigned administrative law judge¹ under penalty of perjury, the following facts establish probable cause for the Commission to complain against the activities of Northwest Junk and to seek penalties in accordance with applicable law.
- 15 According to Company website advertisements viewed on or about January 18, 2023, Northwest Junk has been operating as a solid waste carrier within the state of Washington without a certificate.
- 16 According to Facebook advertisements viewed on or about January 18, 2023, Northwest Junk has been operating as a solid waste carrier within the state of Washington without a certificate.
- 17 On or about January 9, 2024, Northwest Junk offered to provide solid waste transportation services without first having obtained a certificate from the Commission.

¹ Administrative law judges appointed by the Commission are empowered, among other things, to “make findings of probable cause and issue complaints in the name of the commission.” RCW 80.01.060(1).

- 18 According to Company website advertisements viewed on January 9, 2024, Northwest Junk has been operating as a solid waste carrier within the state of Washington without a certificate.
- 19 According to Yelp advertisements viewed on August 13, 2024, Northwest Junk has been operating as a solid waste carrier within the state of Washington without a certificate.
- 20 On or about August 13, 2024, Northwest Junk offered to provide solid waste transportation services without first having obtained a certificate from the Commission.

APPLICABLE LAW AND REGULATION

- 21 Under state law, the definition of “solid waste common carrier” includes “any person who collects and transports solid waste for disposal by motor vehicle for compensation, whether over regular or irregular routes, or by regular or irregular schedules.” RCW 81.77.010(3).
- 22 Under state law, the definition of “operating for the hauling of solid waste for compensation includes advertising, soliciting, offering, or entering into an agreement to provide that service.” RCW 81.77.040.
- 23 A person must have a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Commission before operating as a solid waste collection company in the state of Washington. WAC 480-70-081(1). The Commission is authorized to administer and enforce laws and rules regulated to solid waste collection companies, including but not limited to actions where necessary to ensure compliance with statutes, rules, and Commission orders. The Commission will pursue administrative actions that the Commission believes will best ensure future compliance by the violating company. WAC 480-70-216.
- 24 Any person who engages in business as a solid waste carrier in the state of Washington without a certificate is subject to a penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation. RCW 81.04.380. If the basis for the violation is advertising, each advertisement reproduced, broadcast, or displayed via a particular medium constitutes a separate violation. RCW 81.70.260(1).
- 25 The Commission is authorized to file a complaint on its own motion setting forth any act or omission by any public service company that violates any law or any order or rule of the Commission. RCW 81.04.110.

COMPLAINT

- 26 The Commission, through its Staff, re-alleges the statements contained in paragraphs 15 through 20 above.
- 27 Northwest Junk has violated RCW 81.77.040 at least twice by offering solid waste services for compensation without a certificate issued by the Commission.

- 28 Northwest Junk has violated RCW 81.77.040 at least four times by advertising to transport solid waste without a certificate issued by the Commission.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- 29 Staff requests that the Commission, pursuant to its authority under RCW 81.04.380, assess penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation against Northwest Junk. Staff will present testimonial evidence at hearing to address the factors for determining an appropriate penalty amount. Further, Staff may request that some portion of any penalty actually imposed be suspended for a period of time sufficient to demonstrate the Company's intent to comply with all applicable laws and rules governing the solid waste industry.

PROBABLE CAUSE

- 30 Based on a review of the Declaration of the Commission Compliance Investigator assigned to this matter, and consistent with RCW 80.01.060 and WAC 480-07-307, the Commission finds probable cause exists to issue this Complaint.

NOTICE OF HEARING

- 31 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE THAT it will conduct a virtual hearing concerning this Complaint concurrently with the special proceeding noticed above, which will commence at 9:30 a.m. on November 25, 2024.**

- 32 Administrative Law Amy Bonfrisco, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, is designated to preside at the hearing of these matters.²

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 8, 2024.

/s/ Connor Thompson
CONNOR THOMPSON
Interim Assistant Director
Administrative Law Division

Inquiries should be addressed to:

Jeff Killip
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

² Judge Bonfrisco can be reached at (360) 664-1355 or amy.bonfrisco@utc.wa.gov.

NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: The hearing facilities are accessible to interested people with disabilities; that smoking is prohibited; and, if limited English-speaking or 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.

The information needed to provide an appropriate interpreter or other assistance should be stated below and returned to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary, 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250.
(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.: (____) _____