



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY 1-800-833-6384 or 711

November 18, 2020

**NOTICE EXTENDING DEADLINE TO OPEN INQUIRY
(Now due by September 30, 2021)**

RE: *In the Matter of the Petition of the Washington Movers Conference for a Declaratory Order Clarifying Whether Commission Household Goods Rules Authorize Permitted Carriers to use Third-Party Contractors to Perform Regulated Services,*
Docket TV-200348

TO ALL PARTIES AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

On April 9, 2020, the Washington Movers Conference (WMC) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a letter petitioning the Commission for a declaratory order (Petition) in Docket TV-200348. WMC requests that the Commission clarify whether Commission rules authorize regulated household goods carriers to contract with third parties to perform regulated services such as packing, loading, transporting, unloading, and unpacking household goods.

On May 8, 2020, the Commission issued a notice declining to enter a declaratory order, but stating the Commission's intent to open an inquiry in a new docket by December 31, 2020, to consider whether a rulemaking or policy statement is the appropriate method to clarify and resolve the issues raised in the Petition and comments received.

On October 8, 2020, Commission staff (Staff) filed a letter in this docket requesting that the Commission extend the deadline to open an inquiry from December 31, 2020, to September 30, 2021. In its letter, Staff states that it requires the additional time due to the economic uncertainty created by the ongoing COVID-19 global health crisis, the increased workload imposed on Commission staff by the pandemic, and constraints imposed by ongoing state furloughs resulting from the pandemic.

The Commission finds good cause to extend the deadline to open an inquiry. While the Commission is aware of the importance of addressing the issues raised in the Petition, the

Commission is also cognizant of the significant impact on Staff, stakeholders, and the public of the ongoing pandemic-related restrictions and constraints. Accordingly, the Commission extends the deadline for opening an inquiry into the issues raised by the use of independent contractors by regulated household goods carriers to September 30, 2021.

THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that the deadline for the Commission to open an inquiry into the use of independent contractors by regulated household goods carriers is extended to September 30, 2021.

MARK L. JOHNSON
Executive Director and Secretary