



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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October 29, 2019

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Rocket Transportation LLC
d/b/a Rocket Transportation*
Commission Staff's Recommendation to Impose Suspended Penalties of Order 01
Docket TC-171022

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On October 18, 2017, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) issued a penalty assessment against Rocket Transportation LLC d/b/a Rocket Transportation (Rocket Transportation or Company) in the amount of \$7,000 for violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-30-221, Vehicle and Driver Safety Requirements, which adopts Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (Title 49 CFR) Part 391 – Qualifications of Drivers.

On November 1, 2017, Rocket Transportation filed with the Commission its application for mitigation of penalties. In the request for mitigation, Rocket Transportation admitted some of the violations, believed the penalties should be reduced for reasons set out in the response, and asked for a hearing to present evidence to an administrative law judge for a decision.

On November 22, 2017, the Commission entered Order 01, which mitigated the penalty to \$3,500, and suspended a \$1,750 portion of the reduced penalty for a period of two years, before being waived, subject to the following conditions: (1) Rocket Transportation must maintain a “conditional” safety rating, (2) the Company may not incur any repeat violations of Title 49 CFR, and (3) Rocket Transportation must either pay the \$1,750 portion of the penalty that is not suspended or file jointly with staff a proposed payment plan. Order 01 stated that if Rocket Transportation failed to comply with any condition of the Order, the entire \$1,750 suspended penalty would become due and payable.

On January 5, 2018, the Commission issued Order 02, which granted the Company's request for payment arrangements to pay the \$1,750 unsuspended portion of the penalty. On June 25, 2018,

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the Commission's Financial Services Division filed a statement of account noting that the \$1,750 unsuspended portion of the penalty was paid in full.

On October 22, 2019, staff completed a follow-up safety investigation of Rocket Transportation, and documented repeat violations of Title 49 CFR Part 391.21(a), 391.45(a), and 391.51(b)(6). Because the Company failed to comply with the conditions outlined in Order 01, staff recommends the Commission impose the \$1,750 portion of the penalty that was suspended.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Hoxit, Compliance Investigator, Transportation Safety, at (360) 867-8305, or by email at Jason.Hoxit@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mathew Perkinson
MATHEW PERKINSON
Assistant Director, Transportation Safety