BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Investigation of

SAFE-TO-GO-MOVERS, LLC

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

In the Matter of the Penalty Assessment Against

SAFE-TO-GO-MOVERS, LLC

In the Amount of \$8,600

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DOCKETS TV-190514 and TV-190515 (Consolidated)

COMMISSION STAFF'S MOTION TO IMPOSE SUSPENDED PENALTY

I. INTRODUCTION

In Dockets TV-190514 and TV-190515 the Commission imposed a penalty on Safe-To-Go-Movers, LLC (Safe-To-Go) for violations of the Commission's household goods carrier safety rules, but suspended a portion of that penalty on the company's compliance with several conditions. One of these conditions required Safe-To-Go to refrain from incurring repeat critical or acute violations in a follow up review performed by the Commission's regulatory staff (Staff). Staff has performed that review and discovered repeat critical and acute violations. The Commission, consequently, should impose the suspended penalty.

II. RELIEF REQUESTED

Staff respectfully requests that the Commission order Safe-To-Go to pay the \$5,000 penalty that the Commission imposed, but then suspended, in Dockets TV-190514 and TV-190515.

STAFF'S MOTION TO IMPOSE SUSPENDED PENALTY - 1

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

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In August 2019, the Commission entered Order 01 in Dockets TV-190514 and TV-190515. In it, the Commission imposed a penalty of \$8,600 on Safe-To-Go for violations of federal regulations incorporated into Washington law through WAC 480-15-560 and -570. Specifically, the Commission found that Safe-To-Go committed, among others, 42 violations of 49 C.F.R. § 391.15(a) for allowing a disqualified driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle (an acute violation) and one violation of 49 C.F.R. § 391.45(a) (a critical violation).

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The Commission, however, suspended \$5,000 of the penalty it imposed, conditioned on Safe-To-Go's compliance with several conditions.⁴ One of those conditions required Safe-To-Go to refrain from incurring repeat acute or critical violations in a follow-up review.⁵

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In February and March 2020, Staff performed the follow-up review ordered by the Commission in Order 01.⁶ In the course of that review, Staff determined that, among other things, Safe-To-Go allowed a disqualified driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of 49 C.F.R. § 391.15(a), and also allowed a driver not medically examined and certified to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of 49 C.F.R. § 391.45(a).⁷

¹ See generally in re the Investigation of Safe To Go Movers, LLC, Dockets TV-190515 & TV-190514, Order 01 (Aug. 12, 2019).

 $^{^{2}}$ *Id.* at 6 ¶¶ 23, 26.

³ *Id.* at $2 \P 3$, 4-5 $\P \P 14$ -15, $6 \P 21$.

⁴ *Id.* at $5 \P 17$, $6 \P 26$.

⁶ Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. Safe To Go Movers, LLC, Docket TV-200161, Order 01, 2 ¶ 7 (Mar. 26, 2020).

⁷ *Id.* at $3 \P \P 10-11$.

IV. STATEMENT OF ISSUES

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Should the Commission order Safe-To-Go to pay the \$5,000 portion of the penalty the Commission imposed on the company, but then suspended, in Dockets TV190514 and TV-190515?

V. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

Staff relies on the record in Dockets TV-190514, TV-190515, and TV-200161.

VI. ARGUMENT

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In Order 01 in these Dockets, the Commission "suspend[ed] a \$5,000 portion of the penalty" it imposed "for a period of two years, and then waive[d] it, subject to" several conditions. One of these conditions required Safe-To-Go to "not incur any repeat acute or critical violations of WAC 480-15 upon re-inspection." Safe-To-Go incurred repeat acute and critical violations during its re-inspection: the company used a driver disqualified by the suspension of his license and also a driver not medically examined or certified. The Commission should, accordingly, find that Safe-To-Go violated the terms of the penalty suspension and order the company to pay the suspended portion of the penalty imposed in Dockets TV-190514 and TV-190515.

VII. CONCLUSION

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Staff requests that the Commission grant its motion and order Safe-To-Go to pay the \$5,000 portion of the penalty imposed but suspended in Dockets TV-190514 and TV-190515.

 $^{^8}$ In re the Investigation of Safe To Go Movers, LLC, Dockets TV-190514 & TV-190515, Order 01, 5-6 ¶¶ 17, 26.

⁹ *Id*.

DATED this 27th day of March 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeff Roberson, WSBA No. 45550 Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Utilities and Transportation Division P.O. Box 40128 Olympia, WA 98504-0128 (360) 664-1188 jeff.roberson@utc.wa.gov