



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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March 28, 2018

Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Puget Express LLC*
Commission Staff's Response to Company's Proposed Payment Plan
Docket TE-170951

Dear Mr. King:

On August 7, 2017, Motor Carrier Safety Investigator Jason Sharp completed a routine safety investigation of Puget Express LLC (Puget Express or Company). As a result of this investigation, on September 15, 2017, the Commission issued a notice of penalties against Puget Express for violations of Washington Administrative Code 480-30-221 Vehicle and Driver Safety Requirements.

Following a brief adjudicative proceeding in this matter on October 18, 2017, the Commission issued Order 01, which assessed a penalty of \$8,200 against Puget Express. Order 01 suspended a \$5,200 portion of the penalty on several conditions, one of which was that the Company cease and desist all charter and excursion service operations. Puget Express paid the remaining penalty amount of \$3,000 in full on November 6, 2017.

On February 28, 2018, the Commission issued Order 02, finding that Puget Express violated Order 01 by continuing to operate as a charter party and excursion carrier. As a result, the Commission imposed the suspended penalty of \$5,200. Puget Express responded on March 20, 2018, with a proposal to pay the penalty in \$50 monthly payments.¹

Staff does not support the Company's payment proposal of 104 monthly payments continuing until 2026. Staff does not believe that a minimal monthly payment of \$50 creates a significant deterrent to future violations.

¹ In his proposal, Mr. Fikre notes that his company is currently making \$200 monthly payments toward a \$3,000 penalty assessed in Docket TC-170824.

Staff proposes the Commission allow Puget Express to pay the remaining penalty of \$5,200 in 26 monthly payments of \$200. Staff also proposes that each payment be due on the third Monday of the month, as depicted below.² When the third Monday of the month falls on a holiday, the payment will be due the following day. Finally, staff proposes that if Puget Express misses one payment, the entire balance will become due and payable immediately.

May 21, 2018	\$200
June 18, 2018	\$200
July 16, 2018	\$200
August, 20, 2018	\$200
September 17, 2018	\$200
October 15, 2018	\$200
November 19, 2018	\$200
December 17, 2018	\$200
January 22, 2019	\$200
February 19, 2019	\$200
March 18, 2019	\$200
April 15, 2019	\$200
May 20, 2019	\$200
June 17, 2019	\$200
July 15, 2019	\$200
August 19, 2019	\$200
September 16, 2019	\$200
October 21, 2019	\$200
November 18, 2019	\$200
December 16, 2019	\$200
January 21, 2020	\$200
February 18, 2020	\$200
March 16, 2020	\$200
April 20, 2020	\$200
May 18, 2020	\$200
June 15, 2020	\$200

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Turcott, Compliance Investigations, Consumer Protection, at (360) 664-1108 or by email at mike.turcott@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Bridgit Feeser
Assistant Director, Consumer Protection

²This corresponds with the payment schedule in TC-170824.