



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 (360) 586-8203

November 27, 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 Response to Request to Continue Suspension of Penalty Assessment  
Docket TC-171022 and TC-171023 (Consolidated)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On November 6, 2019, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) imposed a \$1,750 suspended penalty due to Rocket Transportation LLC's (Rocket Transportation or Company) failure to comply with the terms of Order 01 in Docket TC-171022.

On November 8, 2019, the Commission received a letter from Kathy Roman, CEO of Rocket Transportation, requesting a continued suspension of the \$1,750 suspended penalty. In its request, the Company acknowledges that it failed to comply with the conditions outlined in Order 01 but requests one more deferment due to employee transitions which led to gaps in safety oversight and ultimately repeat violations.

Staff understands it is difficult for companies to maintain continuity of operations during employee transitions. All companies must deal with employee turnover or transition. The most successful companies implement systems that prevent breakdowns in safety during these transitions.

When the motor carrier safety program identifies process breakdowns it provides specific remedies to help companies prevent repeat violations. Companies are given tools to effectively address compliance issues and improve compliance with commission regulations. Despite staff's efforts, Rocket Transportation incurred repeat violations following the mitigation and suspension of a previously issued penalty assessment.

Mark L. Johnson  
November 27, 2019  
Page 2

Because Rocket Transportation presents no new information supporting a further suspension staff recommends the outstanding balance of the penalty remain due and payable immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Sharp, Motor Carrier Safety Supervisor, Transportation Safety, at (360) 664-1238, or by email at [Jason.sharp@utc.wa.gov](mailto:Jason.sharp@utc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

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