

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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| <p>In the Matter of the Petition of</p> <p>IMMEDIATE RELOCATION SERVICES, LLC</p> <p>For Exemption From Provisions of WAC 480-15-302(11); For a Permit to Operate as a Household Goods Carrier</p> | <p>DOCKET TV-250022</p> <p>ORDER 01</p> <p>GRANTING PETITION FOR EXEMPTION; GRANTING APPLICATION FOR HOUSEHOLD GOODS PERMIT</p> |
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BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 4, 2024, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) cancelled the household goods permit held by Immediate Relocation Services LLC (IRS or Company) for failure to provide sufficient proof of insurance as required by WAC 480-15-450(1)(c).
- 2 On January 13, 2025, IRS filed an Application for Reinstatement (Application) and a Petition for Exemption from WAC 480-15-302(11) (Petition) with the Commission. In accordance with RCW 81.80.075(2), applications must be on file with the Commission for at least 30 days before issuance.
- 3 IRS explains in its Petition that the Company changed insurance carriers in November. Though it did have liability coverage through a new carrier on November 4, 2024, the company failed to provide the proof of coverage to Commission as required.
- 4 The Commission issued the original provisional household goods permit on November 30, 2023. Commission staff (Staff) has no knowledge of any issues or complaints against the Company. The Company has completed all required annual reports and has no unpaid fees.
- 5 IRS’s Application will be considered in all aspects an application for new authority as required by WAC 480-15-540(4)(b). The Company submitted a complete application in compliance with WAC 480-15-302. Upon approval of the Application, the Commission, will issue a reinstated temporary household goods permit. Staff does not have any concerns about the Company’s fitness to operate and supports the Company’s request to reinstate its household goods permit.

DISCUSSION

- 6 We grant the Company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-15-302(11), and thus grant the Application, for the reasons discussed below.
- 7 WAC 480-07-110 provides that the Commission "in response to a request or on its own initiative, may grant an exemption from, or modify the application of, any of its rules in individual circumstances if the exemption or modification is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes."
- 8 Under WAC 480-07-110(2)(c), the Commission applies the public interest standard to determine whether to grant a requested exemption. Factors we may consider include whether the rule imposes an undue hardship on the requesting person of a degree or a kind different from hardships imposed on other similarly situated persons, and whether the effect of applying the rule to the requesting person would be contrary to the underlying purposes of the rule and the public interest.
- 9 We find that it would be contrary to the public interest to deny the Exemption, and therefore the Application, when the owner is fully capable to operate a permitted household goods company. The rules in WAC 480-15-302(11) are designed to determine a company's fitness to operate as a household goods carrier. Healthy small businesses are essential to the overall strength of the state's economy. Staff has stated it has no concerns with the Company's fitness to operate and recommends approving the Application. Penalizing a small business which has corrected the cause of its permit cancellation would be contrary to the stated public goal of creating "sound economic conditions" for household goods carriers. Therefore, granting the exemption does not run contrary to the underlying purposes of the rule or the public interest.
- 10 For the reasons explained above, the Commission finds that granting the Permit is consistent with the purposes underlying regulation, applicable statutes, and the public interest. Accordingly, we conclude that the exemption should be granted, and that the Company's Application should be approved 30 days from the application filing date in accordance with RCW 81.80.075(2).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 11 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property, and affiliated interest transactions of public service companies, including household goods companies.
- 12 (2) On November 4, 2024, the Commission cancelled the household goods carrier permit held by IRS for failure to provide proof sufficient proof of insurance as required by WAC 480-15-450(1)(c).
- 13 (3) The Company did not contest the cancellation or seek reinstatement of its permit within 30 days, as required by WAC 480-15-450(4). On January 13, 2025, IRS filed with the Commission a Petition for exemption from WAC 480-15-302(11) and an application for the reinstatement of its household goods carrier permit, approximately seven months after the 30-day deadline.
- 14 (4) Staff supports the Company's request for exemption and recommends the Company's permit be reinstated.
- 15 (5) WAC 480-07-110 provides that the Commission "in response to a request or on its own initiative, may grant an exemption from, or modify the application of, any of its rules in individual circumstances if the exemption or modification is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes."
- 16 (6) Granting the Petition for exemption from WAC 480-15-302(11) is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.
- 17 (7) Staff has no concerns with the Company's fitness to operate.
- 18 (8) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 30, 2025.
- 19 (9) Granting the Company's petition for exemption from WAC 480-15-302(11) is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 20 (1) Immediate Relocation Services Inc's petition for exemption from WAC 480-15-302(11) is granted.
- 21 (2) Immediate Relocation Services Inc's Application for authority to operate as a household goods carrier is granted, effective February 14, 2025, per RCW 81.80.075(2).
- 22 (3) The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective January 30, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP
Executive Director and Secretary