

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. TV-041850
)	
Washington Movers Conference)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For An Order Establishing a Fuel)	ORDER ALLOWING FUEL
Surcharge for WUTC Tariff No. 15A)	SURCHARGE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 19, 2004, the Washington Movers Conference of the Washington Trucking Associations filed a petition seeking a 1.50 percent Fuel Surcharge to offset in part the increased fuel expenses being incurred by the carriers currently hauling household goods under WUTC Tariff No. 15A. The matter was assigned Docket TV-041850.

- 2 Over the last several months, national and statewide fuel and diesel prices have been steadily increasing and have been monitored by Staff via the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) through the Office of State Procurement and the American Automobile Association (AAA) web site. Based on both sets of measurements, fuel prices have now reached the point where the earning of the household goods carriers may be adversely impacted. The percentage change in fuel price from these indices, times the household goods industry fuel-to-revenue ratio yields an appropriate fuel surcharge percentage.

DISCUSSION

- 3 Fuel prices can change rapidly and at different levels in various geographical areas of the state, and fuel-to-revenue- ratios may differ by company. Therefore the need for fuel surcharges may differ from company to company, and each carrier must be free to determine its individual operational needs within the

framework of the currently allowed surcharge amount. Fuel surcharges must also be reviewed monthly in lieu of current conditions and should apply only to fuel-consuming, transportation-related charges.

- 4 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled Open Meeting on October 27, 2004. The Commissioners, having been fully advised in the matter, and having determined the following order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter the following order and related provisions:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including common carriers of household goods *Chapter 80.01 RCW; Chapter 81.04 RCW and Chapter 81.28 RCW.*
- 6 (2) On October 19, 2004, the Washington Movers Conference filed a petition seeking a 1.50 percent fuel surcharge to offset the increased fuel expense currently being incurred by household goods carriers operating under WUTC Tariff No. 15A.
- 7 (3) The proposed 1.50 percent surcharge is necessary to provide the standard of service needed by shippers and the general public. Good cause has been shown for publication of the 1.50 percent surcharge effective November 1, 2004, and to be updated each month thereafter.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) The Washington Movers Conference's request for a 1.50 percent fuel surcharge for WUTC Tariff No. 15A is allowed to become effective November 1, 2004. Subsequent surcharge petitions will be filed monthly by the petitioner, and the sought-after percentage shall be rounded to the nearest one-quarter percent (.0025.) Commission Staff will continue to monitor statewide diesel prices and evaluate such update requests accordingly.
- 9 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and the Washington Movers Conference to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 27th day of October, 2004

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary