

[Service Date April 20, 2007]

April 20, 2007

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Friday, May 18, 2007)
and
NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
(Set for Thursday, May 24, 2007, 9:30 a.m.)

RE: Household Goods Carrier Rules, WAC 480-15
Docket TV-070466

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

On April 18, 2007, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Office of the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to examine whether new or revised regulations are needed in the household goods carrier industry.

The Commission adopted the current rules in 2000, after extensive changes in economic regulation of intra and inter-state motor carriers. At the federal level, Congress had recently deregulated rates and services for commodity haulers and preempted states from independent regulation. Subsequently, the state legislature transferred safety enforcement, the only remaining regulation of commodity haulers, to the State Patrol. The Commission retained full economic regulation only over household goods and solid waste carriers. The changes at the federal and state level made many of the Commission's rules obsolete and did not reflect the limited competition that existed in the household goods industry.

Competition continues to increase in the household goods industry. Some of the Commission's rules, designed to regulate strictly every aspect of the industry, may no longer be appropriate. Additionally, Commission rules were developed at a time when the Commission regulated almost 10,000 trucking companies. The Commission

now regulates only a fraction of that – just over 200 household goods companies. It is time to review the rules and design them to fit the new marketplace and the new industry.

In addition to revising the rules, the Commission will also revise the household goods tariff (Tariff 15-B). The Commission can not change its rules unless it also changes the associated tariff; the tariff puts many of the rules into effect.

To identify the rule changes envisioned in this rulemaking, the Commission has prepared a set of draft rules, as well as revisions to the tariff and consumer information guide, which are available for your review and comment on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/070466. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the draft rules mailed to you, please contact the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234. All of these documents include Commission Staff's recommendations for revising the rules, tariff and consumer information.

Interested persons have the opportunity to file written comments and attend a workshop to discuss the recommended revisions, as discussed below.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments regarding the proposed rule or tariff must be filed with the Commission no later than **Friday, May 18, 2007**. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments may be submitted via the Commission's Web portal (www.wutc.wa.gov/e-filing) or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@wutc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (TV-070466).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

You may also submit comments by mail or by delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a CD or 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format and in .doc MSWord 97 or later. Include all the information requested above. The Commission will post on its web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at

<<http://www.wutc.wa.gov/070466>>. If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will always accept a paper document.

Questions may be addressed to Betty Young at (360) 664-1202 or by e-mail at <byoung@wutc.wa.gov>.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

The Commission will convene a workshop on **Thursday, May 24, 2007, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Room 230, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.** If you cannot attend the workshop, you can arrange to dial into the Commission's conference bridge at (360) 664-3846.

The Commission will post an agenda for the workshop on its web site prior to the workshop (www.wutc.wa.gov/070466). If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the agenda, when it becomes available, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

The Commission welcomes participation in the workshop by all interested persons.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE

The Commission anticipates you will have an opportunity to comment on the next set of draft rules and tariff after the workshop. The Commission will post information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments on its web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- 1) Call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234.
- 2) E-mail the Commission at <records@wutc.wa.gov>.
- 3) Mail written comments to the address below.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket TV-070466 to ensure you are placed on the appropriate service list(s). The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary