



Rocket Transportation  
261321 US 101  
Sequim, WA 98382

Rayne Pearson, Director Administrative Law Division  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO BOX 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

November 7, 2019

Dear Mr. Pearson;

Rocket Transportation is writing this appeal to eliminate or reduce penalty assessments: TC-190879 and we appreciate for your time and consideration of this matter.

Rocket fully admits that the lapses in Driver DOT Renewals, the lack of filing of the documents in their respective files, and inconsistent vehicle inspections are in violation of WAC 480-50-221.

Although it does not excuse the violations, we ask that you take into account the additional challenges that Rocket has worked through since our last audit. As I mentioned two years ago, "Finding additional management willing to work at such a low compensation level (the same \$15/hour that I make as Owner) does not come with full competency." The Operations Manager and Dispatcher both departed Rocket soon after the last audit finding the level of responsibility too high for the compensation received. As a result, the safety training received by them at the audit was also lost.

Rocket did not give up and continued forward with Agents and Drivers stepping outside of their duties in an attempt to maintain safety while serving our clients. In addition we have learned that processes are weak if someone isn't responsible to ensure action. We now have: a strong Dispatcher who maintains personnel files with my assistance; a new Vehicle Maintenance Manager whose sole job at Rocket is Vehicles; and a new DVIR that will make Safety just standard practice.

We are distressed and concerned that the document expiration and filings were overlooked and assure you that this was not as we intended nor reflects our path forward. We will not stop here but will continue to make changes in daily operations until a Perfect Safety Compliance is achieved at every audit.

Respectfully,

Kathy Roman  
CEO, Director of Finance & Technology  
Rocket Transportation LLC

Received  
Records Management  
11/08/19 07:09  
State Of WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
PENALTY ASSESSMENT TC-190879

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed. I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

- 1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violations occurred and enclose \$1,300 in payment of the penalty.
- 2. **Contest the violation(s).** I believe that the alleged violation(s) did not occur for the reasons I describe below (**if you do not include reasons supporting your contest here, your request will be denied**):

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision.

OR  b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

- 3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violations, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below (**if you do not include reasons supporting your application here, your request will be denied**):

*See attached letter*

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision.

OR  b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: 11-1-19 [month/day/year], at Port Hadlock, WA [city, state]

Rocket Transportation LLC  
Name of Respondent (company) – please print

Nathy Roman  
Signature of Applicant