

[Service Date December 1, 2003]

December 1, 2003

Mr. Gordon Bainbridge
4414 Honeymoon Bay Road
Greenbank, WA 98253

RE: In re Application No. D-079145 of SeaTac Shuttle, LLC, d/b/a SeaTac Shuttle, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate Motor Vehicles in Furnishing Passenger and Express Service as an Auto Transportation Company, Docket No. TC-030489

Dear Mr. Bainbridge,

Thank you for your electronic mail message about Application No. TC-030489 of SeaTac Shuttle for authority to provide airporter service. The Commission entered an order granting the application on November 26, 2003.

Sometimes it seems as though the administrative application process is quite long, and I sense from your inquiry that you find it frustrating. The length of time to complete an adjudication generally results at least in part from the requirements of state statutes and the state and federal constitutions. A contested application for bus authority must, under law, be conducted as a trial before an administrative law judge, and the parties (applicant and opponent) must have the opportunity to argue their positions to the judge.

The judge's decision is not final, however. Once the judge enters an initial order, the parties have an opportunity to "appeal" that order to the Commission. The Commissioners must then consider the written evidence, the transcript, and the parties' briefs before it makes a decision.

The judge entered the initial order on September 8. One party petitioned the Commissioners to review the decision; the others answered the petition. In addition, the parties presented and argued two legal motions during the review period, with the last pleading filed on October 28, 2003. The review was therefore completed and the final order prepared and entered within 30 days after the parties' final pleading, amid other matters that the Commissioners and their staff must attend to. No delay resulted from any person refusing to sign paperwork.

Thanks again for your inquiry. We hope this letter reassures you that the Commission does its best to resolve the matters before it both quickly and carefully.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

cc: Parties of Record