June 6, 2014

Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary

Utilities and Transportation Commission

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW

P.O. Box 47250

Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. A Blackstone Limousine, Inc.*

 Commission Staff’s Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-141043

Dear Mr. King:

On May 23, 2014, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a $1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-141043 against A Blackstone Limousine, Inc. for 10 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-30-071, which requires charter and excursion carriers to furnish annual reports to the commission no later than May 1 each year.1

On May 30, 2014, A Blackstone Limousine, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties (Mitigation Request).2 In its Mitigation Request, A Blackstone Limousine, Inc. does not dispute that the violation occurred. The company states, “The first notice I received of this notification was your letter dated May 23. I received no other notification”.

It is the company’s responsibility to ensure that the regulatory fee is paid and the annual report is filed by the May 1 deadline. On February 28, 2014, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated charter and excursion companies. The instructions for annual report completion page of the annual report informed the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form, pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 1, 2014, to avoid enforcement action.

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On May 30, 2014, A Blackstone Limousine, Inc. filed the 2013 annual report and timely paid the required regulatory fees on December 9, 2013. The company permit was issued on April 8, 2010. No previous violations of WAC 480-30-071 are on commission record. The UTC also recently adopted new rules requiring the annual report to be filed by May 1 while the regulatory fees remained due on December 31. Despite the commission communication regarding these filing changes to all regulated charter and excursion companies, commission staff supports the company’s request for mitigation. Staff recommends a reduced penalty assessment of $200.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Amy Andrews, Regulatory Analyst, at (360) 664-1157, or aandrews@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sondra Walsh, Director

Administrative Services

ATTACHMENT A







ATTACHMENT B

