



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

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July 14, 2016

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. Alliance Group Services, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties UT-160543

Dear Mr. King:

On June 13, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$400 Penalty Assessment in Docket UT-160543 against Alliance Group Services, Inc. for four violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-120-382), which requires telecommunications companies to furnish annual reports, supporting documentation and the regulatory fee to the commission no later than May 1 each year, or in this case, May 2 as May 1 was a Sunday.

On June 30, 2016, Alliance Group Services, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Alliance Group Services, Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...Nationwide Regulatory Compliance mailed the report and payment on April 25, 2016. The check for payment of \$150 cleared our bank on April 29, 2016. Nationwide Regulatory Compliance was contacted for the Company Financial Information on May 6, 2016, which they supplied via email immediately."

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 29, 2016, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated telecommunications companies. The instructions page along with Schedule 1, Part A informs the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form, provide the supporting financial reporting documents and pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 2, 2016, to avoid enforcement action.

On April 28, 2016, Alliance Group Services, Inc. filed a 2015 annual report and paid the regulatory fee of \$150. The company's balance sheet and income statement was not provided as required by WAC 480-120-382. Commission staff called Nationwide Regulatory Compliance on

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May 3 and left a voice mail regarding the missing balance sheet and income statement. Nationwide Regulatory Compliance provided the required documents via email on May 6.

Alliance Group Services, Inc. has been active since 1998 and has never had a violation of WAC 480-120-382. In consideration of Alliance Group Services, Inc.'s long running compliance and prompt response to staff, it is staff's recommendation that the penalty be waived.

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

Sincerely,



Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services