



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

July 18, 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. Trefethen & Co., Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TV-160647

Dear Mr. King:

On June 29, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TV-160647 against Trefethen & Co., Inc. for 10 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-15-480), which requires household good moving companies to furnish annual reports 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 July 5, 2016, Trefethen & Co., Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Trefethen & Co., Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...I fully admit to not filing on-time and apologize sincerely! This was an absolute mistake. I simply filed the report into my WUTC file and never completed it or sent it in. Trefethen and Co., Inc. and Bader and Olson have been filing for over 30 years. This is the first time I have made this error and would appeal to you to grant some leniency on the \$1,000 fin based on our past record."

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, or in this case, May 2 as May 1 was a Sunday. On February 29, 2016, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated household good moving companies. The instruction page 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 July 11, 2016, Trefethen & Co., Inc. filed a complete annual report and paid the regulatory fees owed.

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Trefethen & Co., Inc. became an active company in 2011 and has zero violations of WAC 480-15-480. In consideration of the company's long running compliance, it is staff's recommendation that the penalty be reduced to \$25 per day for a total penalty assessment of \$250.

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