



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 7, 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. Northwest Tours Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-160718

Dear Mr. King:

On June 22, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-160718 against Northwest Tours Inc. for ten violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-30-071 and 480-30-076), which requires charter and excursion 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 June 27, 2016, Northwest Tours Inc wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Northwest Tours Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...My company was based in Boise, ID and only did one job in Washington last year. In November last year we moved to another building across the street and had our mail forwarded, but unfortunately the packet containing the annual report information did not get to us. In the middle of all this we sold the assets of Northwest Tours and closed operations as of May 31, 2016. I paid the regulatory fee and filed the annual report once I received the penalty assessment."

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 nonprofit transportation companies. The instructions page informs the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form and pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 2, 2016, to avoid enforcement action.

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Northwest Tours Inc. has been active since 2015. On June 23, 2016, Northwest Tours Inc. voluntarily cancelled their certificate in docket TE-160827. Staff recommends the penalty be waived as the company is no longer regulated by the commission and the company was sold in May 2016.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. K. Walsh for SW".

Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services