



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 25, 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. Whitecastle Tours, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-160733

Dear Mr. King:

On June 22, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-160733 against Whitecastle 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 July 8, 2016, Whitecastle Tours, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Whitecastle Tours, Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...Whitecastle Tours was required to apply for a temporary UBI & UTC Authority in order to perform shuttling in connection with the US Open from June 17 through June 21. Whitecastle Tours does not and will not have any intrastate operations in the state of Washington."

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 charter and excursion 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.

Whitecastle Tours, Inc. has been active since 2015. On July 13, 2016, Whitecastle Tours, Inc. voluntarily cancelled their certificate in docket TE-160902 and has had zero WA intrastate operations in 2016. Staff recommends the penalty be waived as the company is no longer regulated by the commission.

UTC Annual Reports

July 25, 2016

Page 2

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