



Rocket Transportation  
261321 US 101  
Sequim, WA 98382

Gregory J Kopta, Administrative Law Judge  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
PO BOX 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

October 24, 2017

Honorable Judge Kopta;

Rocket Transportation is writing this appeal to eliminate or reduce penalty assessments: TC-171022.

Rocket fully admits that the lapses in Driver DOT Renewals and the lack of filing of the documents in their respective files are in violation of WAC 480-50-221. However, we deny that there are as many violations as indicated and we respectfully request a hearing to present our evidence. We request the Commission to combine any and all Dockets for convenience of any meetings/hearings.

Although it does not excuse the violations, in determining the fines we ask that you take into account the challenges that Rocket has worked through since our last audit. Rocket has been reduced to one of the original three owners. Owner compensation has been reduced as van expenses have increased beyond reasonable and we struggle to keep these vehicles on the road. As the last remaining owner of Rocket Transportation I currently draw an annual salary of only \$27,300. Finding additional owners willing to work at this compensation level does not come with full competency. However, our willingness to listen carefully and implement procedures suggested by Commission is boundless.

Rocket is making many changes utilizing automation options that will prevent a driver from being assigned to drive if either their WDL or DOT Physical is expired. The system will also have both documents scanned and readily available for inspection at all times. These changes take time and money which can't come from vehicle maintenance, driver pay, or insurance. Income is not increasing as fast as expenses and we intend to seek a rate increase to bring owners up to living wage and management, agents and drivers to competitive wages. Rocket is unable to provide medical benefits of any amount.

We are distressed and concerned that the document expiration and filings were overlooked and assure you that this was not as we intended nor reflects our history. Nor will it happen again.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Kathy Roman  
CEO, Director of Finance & Technology  
Rocket Transportation LLC

RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
2017 NOV - 1 AM 9:03  
STATE OF WASH  
UTIL. AND TRANSP  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
PENALTY ASSESSMENT TC-171022

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed. I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

- 1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violation occurred and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the penalty.
- 2. **Contest the violation.** I believe that the alleged violation did not occur for the reasons I describe below (if you do not include reasons supporting your contest here, your request will be denied):

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR  b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

- 3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violation, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below (if you do not include reasons supporting your application here, your request will be denied):

*Not as many violations as indicated. Please see attached letter.*

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR  b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: 10-30-2017 [month/day/year], at Port Townsend, WA [city, state]

Rocket Transportation LLC - Kathy Roman  
Name of Respondent (company) – please print

Kathy Roman  
Signature of Applicant