

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. MR-1009/PI-70  
Public Service Commission, on )  
its own motion, initiating an )  
investigation on range )  
uniformity in the Official ) ORDER  
Intracity Household Goods )  
Tariff 22, and to develop )  
procedures for efficiently )  
processing household goods )  
mover tariff amendments. ) Entered: June 22, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

On January 28, 2003, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission), on its own motion, initiated this investigation to examine the development of a uniform range in household goods mover rates and to develop procedures to efficiently process household goods mover tariff amendments. The Commission established an annual review process to determine whether any adjustment is to be made in the household goods movers Tariffs 7F and 22. On March 21, 2017, the Commission entered an Order setting the 2017 schedule for affidavits and setting the matter for hearing. Notice of the hearing was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on May 3, 2017.

On March 23, 2017, the Commission sent the adopted affidavits to all household goods movers. Six affidavits were returned to the Commission. A hearing was held on May 23, 2017, in the Commission Hearing Room. Ms. Jamie Reyes and Ms. Shana Knutson appeared on behalf of Commission staff. Mr. Dennis Leslie made a statement on behalf of Chieftain Van Lines. The March 21, 2017 Order, the six affidavits, and the notice of hearing were entered into the record as Commission Exhibits 1 through 3.

E V I D E N C E

Ms. Jamie Reyes, Director of the Motor Transportation Department, testified on behalf of Commission staff. Ms. Reyes stated that the affidavits sent in the spring give carriers the an opportunity to identify any changes in their costs, including wages, benefits, supplies, and fuel, to help determine if the tariffs need to be raised or lowered. Ms. Reyes stated that six affidavits were returned to the Commission, with mixed responses. Based on the affidavits received, the department does not recommend any changes to the tariff at this time.

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Application No. MR-1009/PI-70

Page 2

In addition, Ms. Reyes testified that her conversations with movers have indicated a more extensive overhaul of the tariff may be appropriate. Ms. Reyes stated that the Commission may want to evaluate what a new tariff system would look like. Ms. Reyes stated that some carriers have indicated that they want to keep the current tariff system with significant changes, while others would prefer to move to a system like the federal system. Ms. Reyes recommended that the Commission consider having an additional proceeding and possibly some workshops later in the summer or early in the fall to bring movers together and get feedback on what a new system would look like.

Upon questioning by Commissioners, Ms. Reyes stated that she could see the benefits to a system like the federal system, but that she has some concerns about the system when it comes to smaller businesses, especially in the rural community. Ms. Reyes stated that the Department does not yet know what system would be best.

Mr. Dennis Leslie provided testimony on behalf of Chieftain Van Lines. Mr. Leslie stated that Chieftain files a federal tariff as well as a state tariff with Iowa, and have not changed its Iowa tariff in 15 years. Mr. Leslie stated that Chieftain has the flexibility to discount on the filed tariffs. It is Chieftain's position that the Nebraska tariff is outdated. Mr. Leslie also stated that Chieftain is in agreement with the Transportation department that a change to the tariff is not necessary this year, but would like to see a serious overhaul of the system. Mr. Leslie stated the weight classes and systems for moving items do not make sense anymore, and recommended that the Commission look into a federal-type system. Mr. Leslie suggested that, under such a system, the Commission would not have basis to deny a rate set by a carrier but would instead track the rates so that the Commission can intervene in case a complaint is filed.

O P I N I O N S   A N D   F I N D I N G S

The Commission opened the above-captioned docket in order to annually review the Household Goods Movers Tariffs 7F and 22, and to make any necessary adjustments.

Based upon the affidavits and testimony provided during the hearing, the Commission finds that no changes to either the Tariff 7F or Tariff 22 are warranted at this time. There appear

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. MR-1009/PI-70

Page 3

to be some increases in certain costs, but these increases are modest on average. Additionally, the Commission finds that steps should be taken to determine whether major changes to the current tariff system should be undertaken. In making this determination, the Commission will seek input from members of the household goods moving industry and the public in a future proceeding.



O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Tariff 7F and Tariff 22 shall remain unchanged. The Commission will determine the next steps regarding the future of the Household Goods Movers tariffs.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
  
//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Tim Schram

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Director