

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	) APPLICATION NO. TR-150
Prescription of Reasonable	)
Rates and Charges for Motor	) GRANTED AS MODIFIED
Carriers Passengers and	) ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS
Property for Hire Subject to	)
The provision of Neb. Rev. Stat.	)
(Reissue 2004), Chapter 75,	) ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2005
Articles 1 and 3.	)

BY THE COMMISSION:

## OPINION AND FINDINGS

On September 15, 2005, CABCO, Inc., Scottsbluff, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its rates for its operations as follows:

Description	Current	Proposed
1. First 1/8 mile or fraction thereof (Initial drop charge)	\$2.25	\$3.25
2. Each additional 1/8 mile thereafter	\$0.25	
Each additional 1/8 mile thereafter		\$0.50

Gasoline Surcharge:

As per an attached schedule.

Emergency action is requested.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1298. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers and their baggage between points in Scotts Bluff County over irregular routes.

In support of the application, the applicant stated to the Commission that the requested rates are necessary due to rising fuel costs. The Applicant requested emergency action be taken due to these increases in costs. The Applicant last had a rate increase in July of 1995.

The Applicant was consulted by Commission staff regarding its proposed increases. The proposed increases are as follows: a 44 percent increase in the initial drop charge, a 100 percent increase in the mileage charge, and a gasoline surcharge that amounts to a 21 percent surcharge when the price of gasoline is \$2.99 per gallon.

A review of rate increases granted within the last six months shows that only two rate orders in the last five granted by the Commission ordered a rate that was equal to the \$2.00 per mile that the Applicant currently has in place, and three of the orders approved rates less than \$2.00 per mile. The Applicant's initial drop charge is lower than three that have been approved, and the same as one that was approved.

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The Commission is of the opinion and finds that the proposed rates are not justified by either the current economic circumstances nor by rate orders granted by the Commission in the past six months. Increases in the amounts proposed have too great an impact on the general public, and requests for increases must be made more often than every ten years. The Commission further finds that the proposed gasoline surcharge is much higher than other surcharge schedules approved by the Commission, and therefore declines to approve the proposal.

After consultation with Commission staff, the Applicant verbally amended its application. It would request that the Commission raise its initial charge from \$2.25 to \$2.60, as well as to allow it to charge a fuel surcharge as ordered for other cab companies. The Applicant states that it does need some immediate relief, and that the amended proposal would meet its current needs to continue to provide service to Scotts Bluff County.

The Commission does find that an increase in the initial drop charge from \$2.25 to \$2.60, an increase of fifteen percent, as well as the granting of a fuel surcharge to the Applicant as the Commission has granted in the past for similar companies, is reasonable and warranted by the circumstances.

The Applicant is encouraged to apply for more timely rate increases in the future. Applying as necessary on a more frequent basis would allow for smaller increase that will minimize the impact of future increase on the general public while allowing for better cash flows for the Applicant.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted as modified on an emergency basis effective September 29, 2005.

## ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective September 29, 2005, CABCO Inc., Scottsbluff, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its rates for its use in Certificate No. B-1298 as follows:

### Description

1. First 1/8 mile or fraction thereof (Initial drop charge)	\$2.60
2. Each additional 1/8 mile thereafter	\$0.25
Gasoline Surcharge	
Price/Gallon	
\$2.30-2.39	\$0.50
\$2.40-2.49	\$0.55
\$2.50-2.59	\$0.55

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\$2.60-2.69  
\$2.70-2.79  
\$2.80-2.89  
\$2.90-2.99

\$0.60  
\$0.65  
\$0.70  
\$0.75

The surcharge will follow the above schedule of a 5 cent raise in the surcharge for every ten cent raise in the price of gasoline for prices over three dollars per gallon.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service that notice of this amendment to their rates be conspicuously displayed within each taxicab.

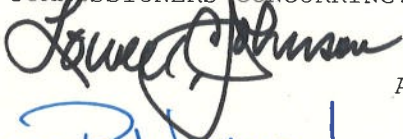
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the total amount of the fuel surcharge be paid to the individual or individuals paying for the fuel.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that public notice of this action be published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions of Section 75-121. R.R.S. 2003, and the Commissions Rules.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



ATTEST:



//s// Frank E. Landis  
//s// Gerald L. Vap

Chairman





Executive Director