Decision No. R25-0885-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 25G-0450TO

COLORADO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,

COMPLAINANT,

V.

NOUREDDIN "NORI" ORAYETH DOING BUSINESS AS ROCKY MOUNTAIN TOWING & RECOVERY LTD,

RESPONDENT.

INTERIM DECISION
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES, PROVIDING
INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING EXHIBITS AND
PARTICIPATING IN REMOTE HEARING, AND
SETTING A REMOTE EVIDENTIARY HEARING

Issued Date: December 9, 2025

I. <u>STATEMENT</u>

1. This proceeding concerns Civil Penalty Assessment Notice ("CPAN") No. 145729 issued by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission's ("PUC" or "Commission) Staff on October 24, 2025 ("CPAN No. 145729"), against Noureddin "Nori" Orayeth, doing business as Rocky Mountain Towing & Recovery Ltd ("Respondent" or "Rocky Mountain"). CPAN No. 145729 assesses Rocky Mountain a total penalty of \$13,195.00 for two alleged violations of §§ 40-10.1-107 and 40-10.1-401, as more specifically set forth in CPAN No. 145729.

- 2. The CPAN was purportedly served on Rocky Mountain on October 24, 2025, via certified mail, return receipt requested.¹
- 3. On November 19, 2025, the Commission referred this proceeding by minute entry to an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").
- 4. On December 5, 2025, the Notice of Intervention as of Right by Trial Staff of the Commission, Entry of Appearance, Notice Pursuant to Rule 1007(a) and Rule 1401, and Request for Hearing was filed by Trial Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

II. <u>FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS</u>

A. Remote Evidentiary Hearing and Unified Numbering System for Hearing Exhibits

- 5. A remote hearing is one in which all parties and witnesses appear remotely.

 A webcast of proceedings will be available to the public through the Commission's website.
- 6. The evidentiary hearing scheduled below will be held as a remote hearing. This Decision, Attachment A, and Attachment B provide important information and instructions to facilitate the remote hearing, which all parties must follow.
- 7. The procedures developed for the remote evidentiary hearing are intended to replicate, as practicable, evidence presentation as it occurs when parties and witnesses are physically present. Participating by video conference allows parties and witnesses to view exhibits on screen while the exhibits are being offered into evidence and discussed.
- 8. The remote evidentiary hearing will be conducted via video conference using the Zoom platform. Attachment A to this Decision provides information about the Zoom platform and its use. To minimize the potential for disruption by non-participants, the Zoom link and meeting

¹ See CPAN No. 145729 at 2.

ID will be provided to the parties by email approximately one week before the hearing, and parties and witnesses are prohibited from distributing that information to anyone not participating.

- 9. At the hearing, the parties may call witnesses, present evidence, and make arguments in support of their positions. Evidence includes documentary exhibits, testimony, and any tangible item offered for consideration. Because the hearing will be remote, all exhibits must be presented electronically.
- 10. The Public Utilities Commission Administrative Hearings Section uses box.com to receive, manage, and distribute electronic exhibits.² It is essential that the parties ensure they are able to access and use box.com prior to the evidentiary hearing. The parties will be provided box.com links and instructions to upload and download exhibits.
- 11. Each party must (a) pre-mark all hearing exhibits with a hearing exhibit number from within the party's assigned number block before uploading the exhibit to box.com; (b) sequentially page-number each page of any exhibit longer than two pages, beginning with page 1; and (c) upload all pre-marked exhibits to the party's designated box.com folder in advance of the hearing.
- 12. Attachment B outlines procedures and requirements for marking and formatting exhibits to facilitate efficient and smooth electronic evidence presentation. Parties must closely review and comply with all requirements in this Decision and Attachments A and B.

² Box.com is a web-based document sharing service. When exhibits are first presented during the hearing, the Commission will receive them electronically from each party's box.com folder for display.

- 13. To efficiently organize exhibits, the parties shall use a unified numbering system, as follows:
 - Staff is assigned hearing exhibit numbers 100 to 199; and
 - Respondent is assigned hearing exhibit numbers 200 to 299.

B. Additional Procedural Notices and Advisements

- 14. The parties are on notice that the ALJ retains the discretion to change the method by which the hearing will be conducted.
 - 15. Additional procedural requirements may be established by future interim decisions.
- 16. The parties are advised that this proceeding is governed by the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* ("CCR") 723-1. The ALJ expects full compliance. The rules are available on the Commission's website (http://puc.colorado.gov/pucrules) or in hard copy from the Commission.
- 17. All filings with the Commission must also be served on all other parties in accordance with Rule 1205 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 723-1.
- 18. The parties are on notice that failure to appear at the scheduled evidentiary hearing may result in decisions adverse to their interests, including assessment of penalties against Respondent.

C. Informational Video Conference Practice Session

- 19. The ALJ will hold an informal practice session if requested by any party to allow the parties to practice using Zoom and box.com before the hearing.
- 20. Parties may request a practice session by contacting the Commission Legal Assistants at casey.federico@state.co.us, stephanie.kunkel@state.co.us, or april.crain@state.co.us to schedule an informal practice video conference session.

21. The parties will receive participation information for the practice session by email.

III. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. A remote hearing in this matter shall be conducted at the following date, time, and place:

DATE: January 15, 2026

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

WEBCAST: Commission Hearing Room B

METHOD: Join by video conference using Zoom at the link to

be provided in an email from the Administrative

Law Judge or Staff of the Commission.³

2. The parties and witnesses may not distribute the Zoom link and access code to anyone not participating in the remote hearing.

3. All participants in the hearing must comply with the requirements in Attachments A and B to this Decision.

4. **Video Conference Participation**. Counsel for the parties, parties, and witnesses shall participate in the evidentiary hearing by video conference using the Zoom platform.

5. **Evidence Presentation at the Evidentiary Hearing**. Because the hearing may accommodate remote participation by video conference, all evidence must be presented electronically. Each party is responsible for ensuring that they and their respective witnesses: (a) have access to all pre-filed exhibits; and (b) can download and view documents available from box.com during the hearing.

³ Instructions for using the Zoom video conferencing platform are provided in Attachment A to this Decision.

- 6. The Administrative Law Judge will hold an informal Zoom practice session upon request.
- 7. The parties shall comply with the requirements established in this Interim Decision and shall make the filings as required by the adopted procedural schedule.
 - 8. This Decision shall be effective immediately.

(SEAL)

THE PRINCE NUMBER OF COLORS

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

AVIV SEGEV

Administrative Law Judge

Rebecca E. White, Director