

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14V-0056CP

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF UNION TAXI COOPERATIVE DOING
BUSINESS AS UNION TAXI FOR WAIVER/VARIANCE OF COMMON/CONTRACT
CARRIER RULES AND MOTION TO SHORTEN NOTICE PERIOD.

DECISION GRANTING WAIVER IN PART

Mailed Date: February 18, 2014

Adopted Date: February 13, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of a Petition for a Waiver/Variance from Commission Rule 723-6-6255(a)(III)-(VII) filed on January 13, 2014 by Union Taxi Cooperative (Union Taxi).

2. Union Taxi requests a waiver of Rule 6255(a)(III)-(VII) of the Rules Regulating Transportation by Motor Vehicle, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-6 (Communications and Dispatch). The waiver is requested from January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015.

3. Rule 6255(a)(III)-(VII) applies to taxi cab companies operating within or between the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Jefferson, and El Paso, and reads as follows:

- (III) Beginning January 1, 2014, taxicab carriers shall employ a GPS-based, digital dispatch system that tracks and records driver hours or service, and records and reports trip information including origination point and customer wait times.

- (IV) Beginning January 1, 2014, taxicab carriers shall employ a GPS-based, digital dispatch system that records and reports driver location and on-duty time. Said system must log a driver on-duty when the driver's assigned vehicle is within two miles of Denver International Airport or Colorado Springs Municipal Airport, and 500 feet of any known taxi stand.
- (V) Beginning January 1, 2014, taxicab carriers shall employ a GPS-based digital dispatch system that locks out any driver who has exceeded on-duty hours of service maximums.
- (VI) Beginning January 1, 2014, taxicab carriers shall lockout, for a minimum of eight hours, a driver who has exceeded on-duty hours of service maximums. Drivers who are locked-out, shall not be allowed access to the [carrier's] dispatch system, credit card processing system, and metering system.
- (VII) Beginning January 1, 2014, taxicab carriers shall log a driver as being on-duty when the vehicle assigned to said driver, enters an area no less than two miles of Denver International Airport or Colorado Springs Municipal Airport, or 500 feet of known taxi stands.

4. The Commission noticed this petition to all interested persons, firms, and corporations pursuant to § 40-6-108(2), C.R.S., on January 27, 2014, for a period of ten days.

5. No petition to intervene or otherwise participate in this proceeding has been filed. This proceeding is therefore uncontested. Pursuant to § 40-6-109(5), C.R.S., this matter may be determined without a hearing.

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7. In support of its Petition, Union Taxi states that it has been in a multi-year process of adapting its dispatch system to comply with the new rules. Sections (IV) and (VII) of the rule are proving particularly difficult to implement and even after the system has been adapted to comply with those sections of the rule, additional time will be needed to test the changes and make sure the changes fully integrate properly with the existing dispatch system.

8. Rule 1003(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure 4 CCR 723-1 provides that:

[t]he Commission has promulgated these rules to ensure orderly and fair treatment of all persons. The Commission may, for good cause shown, grant waivers or variances from tariffs, Commission rules, and substantive requirements contained in Commission decisions. In making its determination the Commission may take into account, but is not limited to, considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.

9. We find that good cause exists to grant Union Taxi's petition for a waiver. However, the Commission finds that the waiver should only be granted in part, from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Metro Taxi in Proceeding No. 13V-1403CP, requested a waiver of the same rules from January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014, indicating that the rules can be complied with using existing technology within a shorter timeframe. If Union Taxi is still having difficulty complying with the rule as of June 30, 2014, Union Taxi can petition for another waiver and make a filing at that time detailing Union Taxi's efforts to update its dispatch and communications system to comply with the rule in the interim.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Petition for Waiver/Variance from Commission Rule 723-6-6255(a)(III)-(VII) filed by Union Taxi Cooperative is granted in part, *nunc pro tunc*, from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

2. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114(1), C.R.S., to file an application for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the Commission mails this Decision.

3. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
February 13, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners