

THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners: Pat Apple, Chairman
Shari Feist Albrecht
Jay Scott Emler

In the Matter of the Investigation of **Stephens**)
Cattle LLC of Grinnell, Kansas, Regarding)
the Violation of the Motor Carrier Safety)
Statutes, Rules and Regulations and the) Docket No. 17-TRAM-457-PEN
Commission's Authority to Impose Penalties,)
Sanctions and/or the Revocation of Motor)
Carrier Authority.)

ORDER AMENDING PENALTY ORDER

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration. Having examined its files and records, and being duly advised in the premises, the Commission finds and concludes as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. On April 20, 2017, this Commission issued a Penalty Order to Stephens Cattle LLC (hereinafter Stephens Cattle), assessing it a civil penalty of \$3,000, in accordance with the FY 2017 Uniform Penalty Assessment Matrix. The penalty(s) was for eight (8) violation(s) of Kansas law that governs motor carriers, including various provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations.

2. Stephens Cattle was advised in the Penalty Order that it was a New Entrant motor carrier being reviewed for the first time, and was eligible for a reduced penalty of fifty-percent (50%) less than what is assessed motor carriers in accordance with the FY 2017 Uniform Penalty Assessment Matrix, as long as it complies with the terms and obligations described in the Notice of Penalty Assessment, the Reduced Penalty Agreement, and as set out below.

3. On May 26, 2017, Staff filed a Motion to Amend Penalty Order, recommending the Commission assess Stephens Cattle a fifty-percent (50%) reduced penalty of \$1,500, and set out specific terms and obligations for Stephens Cattle's compliance.

4. Staff states that on May 10, 2017, Stephens Cattle submitted the signed Reduced Penalty Agreement. The carrier submitted a Corrective Action Plan, which was been approved by Transportation Staff on May 26, 2017. A copy of the Reduced Penalty Agreement was attached to Staff's Motion.

FINDINGS OF FACT

5. The Penalty Order issued on April 20, 2017, assessed Stephens Cattle a civil penalty(s) of \$3,000 for eight (8) violation(s) of the motor carrier safety statutes, rules and regulations.

6. Staff recommended in its Motion that due to Stephens Cattle's agreement to comply with the terms and obligations for a fifty-percent (50%) reduction in the penalty assessed and approval of its CAP, an Amended Penalty Order be issued by the Commission assessing it a reduced penalty of \$1,500, and setting out the terms and obligations as stated in its motion.

7. K.S.A. 66-1,142c authorizes the Commission to determine the amount of civil penalty and states in pertinent part:

"Any civil penalty may be compromised by the state corporation commission. In determining the amount of the penalty or the amount agreed in compromise, the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of the business, the gravity of the violation and the good faith of the person charged in attempting to achieve compliance, shall be considered."
(emphasis added)

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

(A) The civil penalty of \$3,000 assessed to Stephens Cattle LLC in the Penalty Order dated April 20, 2017, is hereby amended to \$1,500, which is fifty-percent (50%) less than what is assessed to motor carriers pursuant to the FY 2017 Uniform Penalty Assessment Matrix.

(B) This Amended Penalty Order was mailed on June 6, 2017, via certified mail, return receipt requested, Certified Receipt No. 70161970000105740594. Service is complete upon the date the carrier signs the Domestic Return Receipt. Payment of the reduced amount is due within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this Amended Penalty Order. Payment of \$1,500 must be made through your personal account with the Kansas Corporation Commission's KTRAN application located at <https://puc.kcc.ks.gov/ktran/>. If you have not received a letter from the Transportation Division assigning you a PIN, please contact that Division at 785-271-3145. You must have an account through KTRAN to pay the penalty owed.

(C) Stephens Cattle is ordered to, within thirty (30) days from the date of the Penalty Order dated April 20, 2017, send an individual responsible for safety compliance to attend a Commission-sponsored safety seminar, and submit proof of attendance to Litigation Counsel.

(D) Stephens Cattle must submit to a follow-up compliance review within eighteen (18) months from the date of the Penalty Order dated April 20, 2017. Transportation Staff will contact Stephens Cattle to schedule the review.

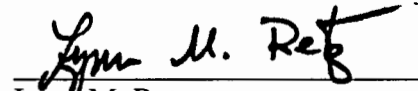
(E) If Stephens Cattle fails to pay the reduced fine of \$1,500 and/or fails to comply with the terms and conditions ordered above, the Commission may order Stephens Cattle additional sanctions, including enforcement of an out-of-service order, revoking its authority or any further sanctions as the Commission deems necessary.

(F) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties for the purpose of entering such further orders as it may deem necessary and proper.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Apple, Chairman; Albrecht, Commissioner; Emler, Commissioner

Dated: JUN 06 2017


Lynn M. Retz
Secretary to the Commission

AAL

Order Mailed Date

JUN 07 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

17-TRAM-457-PEN

I, the undersigned, certify that the true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following parties by means of first class mail/hand delivered on JUN 06 2017.

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/s/ DeeAnn Shupe

DeeAnn Shupe

Order Mailed Date

JUN 07 2017