# THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson Dwight D. Keen Annie Kuether

In the Matter of the Investigation of Hall ) Industrial Services, Inc, of Wichita, ) Kansas, Pursuant to the Kansas Highway ) Doc Patrol Issuance of a Notice of Violation(s) ) and Invoice for the Violations of the Kansas ) Motor Carrier Safety Statutes, Rules and ) Regulations. )

Docket No. 25-GIMM-351-KHP

## **ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

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:

## I. BACKGROUND

1. Hall Industrial Services, Inc (Carrier) is a motor carrier operating under USDOT

Number 374389 that hauls general freight and machinery/large objects.

2. On January 8, 2025, the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) issued a Notice of

Violation(s) to Hall Industrial Services Inc, for an alleged violation found during a December 18,

2024, routine motor carrier stop and inspection conducted by the KHP.

3. As a result of this inspection, Carrier was assessed \$400.00 in civil fines, comprised of the following six violations:

- a. a \$150.00 fine for "BRAKE BREAKAWAY NOT ATTACHED TO THE TOWING VEHICLE," citing 49 C.F.R. 393.43;
- b. a \$250.00 fine for "LICENSE (CDL) OPERATE A CMV AND DOES NOT POSSESS A VALID CDL," citing 49 C.F.R. 383.23.

4. On February 8, 2025, the Carrier submitted a challenge to the KHP.

5. On February 11, 2025, the Carrier paid the \$150.00 fine for "BRAKE – BREAKAWAY NOT ATTACHED TO THE TOWING VEHICLE."

6. On February 17, 2025, the KHP sent a denial of the challenge to the Carrier.

7. On March 7, 2025, the Carrier requested a hearing before the Commission.

8. On April 25, 2025, the parties discussed the possibility of a settlement. During this and subsequent discussions, the parties were able to reach mutually agreeable terms in anticipated settlement of the issues. It was agreed that Staff would subsequently reduce the terms to writing and forward the draft to Carrier's counsel for approval and signature.

9. On May 29, 2025, Staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement is attached to this Order as **Attachment A**.

10. In the Settlement Agreement, Staff agreed to recommend the Commission dismiss the violation alleging "LICENSE (CDL) – OPERATE A CMV AND DOES NOT POSSESS A VALID CDL," and reduce the corresponding \$250.00 civil fine to \$0.00.

11. Staff's Recommendation for dismissal of this violation and reduction of this civil fine is based upon the specific circumstances of the alleged violation as well as the Carrier's efforts to remediate the violation and attempts to ensure compliance.

12. Carrier agreed to withdraw its hearing request. Additionally, Carrier agreed, when applicable, to comply with Kansas law governing the regulation of motor carriers, the Kansas Administrative Regulations and provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations.

## **II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

13. The Commission concludes that pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,108b, 66-1,111, 66-1,112, 66-1,114b, and 66-1,115, the Commission is given full power, authority and jurisdiction to supervise and control motor carriers, as defined in 49 C.F.R. 390.5, as adopted by K.A.R. 82-4-3f, doing business or procuring business in Kansas, and is empowered to do all things necessary and convenient for the exercise of such power, authority and jurisdiction.

14. Pursuant to Supp. 66-1,129a, 66-1,130 and 66-1,142b, and amendments thereto, the Commission may suspend operations, revoke or amend certificates, and initiate sanctions or fines against every motor carrier and every person who violates any provision of Kansas law in regard to the regulation of such motor carriers and persons, or who fails to obey any order, decision or regulation of the Commission.

15. The Commission concludes that settlements are favored by the law. *Bright v. LSI Corp.*, 254 Kan. 853, 869 P.2d 686 (1994). A settlement of issues, all or part, with or without unanimous agreement, will be entertained by the Commission.

16. The Commission has reviewed the Settlement Agreement attached to the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement of the parties and concludes that the terms and provisions therein are an appropriate and reasonable disposition of this matter. The Commission therefore adopts and incorporates by reference the terms of the Agreement.

### IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. The Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement entered into between Hall Industrial Services, Inc and Transportation Staff is hereby granted. The terms of the Settlement Agreement are approved and are hereby incorporated by reference.

B. The \$250.00 violation alleging "LICENSE (CDL) – OPERATE A CMV AND DOES NOT POSSESS A VALID CDL," is dismissed and the corresponding civil fine is reduced from \$250.00 to \$0.00.

C. Hall Industrial Services, Inc's Request for Hearing is withdrawn. Additionally, the Carrier will continue to, when applicable, comply with Kansas law governing the regulation of motor carriers, the Kansas Administrative Regulations and provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations.

D. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).<sup>1</sup>

# BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner.

Dated: 06/03/2025

(use)

Celeste Chaney-Tucker Executive Director

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

## BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Investigation of **Hall** ) Industrial Services, Inc, of Wichita, **Kansas**, Pursuant to the Kansas Highway ) Patrol Issuance of a Notice of Violation(s) ) and Invoice for the Violations of the Kansas Motor Carrier Safety Statutes, Rules and ) Regulations.

Docket No. 25-GIMM-351-KHP

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

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This Settlement (Agreement) is entered into by and between the Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Staff and Commission, respectively), and Hall Industrial Services Inc (Carrier). Its effective date will be the date the Commission enters an Order approving or amending the terms of the Agreement.

#### I. JURISDICTION

Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,108b, 66-1,111, 66-1,112, 66-1,114b, and 66-1,115, and 1. amendments thereto, the Commission is given full power, authority and jurisdiction to supervise and control motor carriers, as defined in 49 C.F.R. 390.5 as adopted by K.A.R. 82-4-3f, doing business or procuring business in Kansas, and is empowered to do all things necessary and convenient for the exercise of such power, authority and jurisdiction.

2. Pursuant to Supp. 66-1,129a, 66-1,130 and 66-1,142b, and amendments thereto, the Commission may suspend operations, revoke or amend certificates, and initiate sanctions or fines against every motor carrier and every person who violates any provision of Kansas law in regard to the regulation of such motor carriers and persons, or who fails to obey any order, decision or regulation of the Commission.

3. The Commission has the authority, pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-237, to investigate an entity under the Commission's jurisdiction and issue an order on the Commission's own motion when the Commission believes the entity is in violation of the law or any order of the Commission.

4. Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,129(a), sanctions imposed against motor carriers must be done in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act.

5. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-505, nothing in the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act shall preclude the informal settlement of matters that may make other proceedings unnecessary.

6. Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,142c, a civil penalty may be compromised by the 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.

## II. BACKGROUND

7. Hall Industrial Services Inc is a common motor carrier operating under USDOT Number 374389 that hauls motor vehicles and drive away/towaway.

8. On January 8, 2025, the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) issued a Notice of Violation(s) to Hall Industrial Services Inc, for an alleged violation found during a December 18, 2024, routine motor carrier stop and inspection conducted by the KHP.

9. As a result of this inspection, Carrier was assessed \$400.00 in civil fines, comprised of the following six violations:

- a. a \$150.00 fine for "BRAKE BREAKAWAY NOT ATTACHED TO THE TOWING VEHICLE," citing 49 C.F.R. 393.43;
- b. a \$250.00 fine for "LICENSE (CDL) OPERATE A CMV AND DOES NOT POSSESS A VALID CDL," citing 49 C.F.R. 383.23.
- 10. On February 8, 2025, the Carrier submitted a challenge to the KHP.

11. On February 11, 2025, the Carrier paid the \$150.00 fine for "BRAKE – BREAKAWAY NOT ATTACHED TO THE TOWING VEHICLE."

12. On February 17, 2025, the KHP sent a denial of the challenge to the Carrier.

13. On March 7, 2025, the Carrier requested a hearing before the Commission.

14. On April 25, 2025, the parties discussed the possibility of a settlement. During this and subsequent discussions, the parties were able to reach mutually agreeable terms in anticipated settlement of the issues. It was agreed that Staff would subsequently reduce the terms to writing and forward the draft to Carrier's counsel for approval and signature.

## **III. TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

15. The parties agree that the Commission has jurisdiction and authority over this matter.

16. The parties also agree that adoption of this Agreement is in the public interest and that the Commission should approve the stipulations as set forth below.

17. Carrier agrees to operate commercial motor vehicles subject to the Commission's jurisdiction in a safe manner.

18. Staff agrees to recommend to the Commission that this Agreement be approved. Staff further agrees that upon approval by the Commission this Agreement shall constitute a final resolution of this matter.

19. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-504, the Carrier waives all rights to a hearing on, or appeal of the Invoice, and withdraws its request for a hearing previously filed herein.

20. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-526, the Commission expressly reserves and maintains the right and authority to enforce the terms of this Agreement.

21. Pursuant to the Kansas Judicial Review Act, K.S.A 77-601 *et seq.*, Carrier waives all rights to a hearing on, or appeal of, this Agreement.

### IV. MODIFICATION OF EXAMINATION AND INVOICE

22. Staff agrees to dismiss the violation alleging "LICENSE (CDL) – OPERATE A CMV AND DOES NOT POSSESS A VALID CDL," and reduce the corresponding \$250.00 civil fine to \$0.00.

23. Staff's recommendation for reduction of this civil assessment is based upon the specific circumstances of the alleged violation as well as the Carrier's efforts to remediate the violation and attempts to ensure compliance.

24. Carrier agrees to withdraw its Request for Hearing before the Commission.

25. Carrier shall, when applicable, comply with Kansas law governing the regulation of motor carriers, the Kansas Administrative Regulations and provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations.

### VI. **RESERVATIONS**

26. This Agreement fully resolves issues specifically addressed between the parties. The terms of this Agreement constitute a fair and reasonable resolution of the issues addressed herein.

27. The terms and provisions of this Agreement have resulted from negotiations between the signatories and are interdependent. In the event the Commission does not approve the terms of the Agreement in total, any party has the option to terminate this Agreement and, if so terminated, none of the signatories hereto shall be bound by, prejudiced, or in any way affected by any of the terms or provisions hereof, unless otherwise provided herein.

28. Unless (and only to the extent) otherwise specified in this Agreement, the signatories to this Agreement shall not be prejudiced, bound by, or affected in any way by the terms of this Agreement: (1) in any future Commission or court proceeding; (2) in any proceeding currently pending before the Commission under a separate docket; and/or (3) in this proceeding, if the Commission decides not to approve this Agreement in total or in any way conditions its approval of the same. This paragraph is not meant to limit future enforcement of this Agreement, should either party fail to fulfill all terms and provisions.

29. Unless (and only to the extent) otherwise specified in this Agreement, this Agreement does not prejudice or waive any party's legal rights, positions, claims, assertions or arguments in any proceedings in this docket, or any other proceeding before the Commission or in any court. If the Commission approves this Agreement in its entirety and incorporates the same into a Final Order in this docket, the parties agree to be bound by its terms and the Commission's Order incorporating its terms as to all issues addressed herein, and will not appeal the Commission's Order.

30. This Agreement shall be binding on all parties upon signing.

**IN WITNESS WHERETO,** Staff and Hall Industrial Services Inc hereby execute and approve this Settlement Agreement by subscribing their signatures below.

# /s/ Ahsan Latíf

By:

Ahsan A. Latif, KS S. Ct. #24709 Litigation Counsel Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027 Phone: 785-271-3118 Fax: 785-271-3167 Email: <u>ahsan.latif@ks.gov</u> Attorney for Commission Staff /s/ Dennís Wetta

By:

Dennis Wetta Attorney Martin Pringle Attorneys At Law 645 E. Douglas, Suite 100 Wichita, Kansas 67202 Phone: 316-265-9311

Email: dpwetta@martinpringle.com Attorney for Hall Industrial Services, Inc

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

### 25-GIMM-351-KHP

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of

electronic service on 06/03/2025

Scott Hall, OWNER HALL INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC. 1221E Murdock St Wichita, KS 67214 hallindsvc@aol.com AHSAN LATIF, LITIGATION COUNSEL KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION 1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD TOPEKA, KS 66604 ahsan.latif@ks.gov

Dennis Wetta, ATTORNEY HALL INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC. 645 E. Douglas Suite 100 Wichita, KS 67202 dpwetta@martinpringle.com

> /S/ KCC Docket Room KCC Docket Room