

other contexts. In this Analysis we have described particular techniques that can show active supervision in the context of tariff filings. Such filings often involve recurring, concrete acts of private rate setting that tend to automatically trigger review on the occasion of each such filing. As noted above, however, if a rate filing remains in place for a prolonged period of time, the state will have an obligation to review the level of those rates on an ongoing basis. Similarly, there may be other industries where specific events do not trigger a review of private conduct, yet where the state has still displaced competition and therefore the state action defense would apply only where it could be shown that the conduct was being actively supervised. We believe that the review principles described here can be adapted to those circumstances as well. Evidence of active supervision then might be required, not in connection with particular events, but rather on a reasonable periodic basis. That supervision might still involve the elements discussed here, such as notice, analysis in light of the statutory purposes, and a written decision.

The proposed Order has been placed on the public record for 30 days in order to receive comments from interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After 30 days, the Commission will again review the Agreement and comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the Agreement or make final the Order contained in the Agreement.

By accepting the proposed Order subject to final approval, the Commission anticipates that the competitive issues described in the Complaint will be resolved. The purpose of this analysis is to invite and facilitate public comment concerning the proposed Order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the Agreement and proposed Order or to modify their terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission, Commissioner Harbourn not participating.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 021 0115]

New Hampshire Motor Transport Association; Analysis To Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed consent agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed in paper form should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159-H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Comments filed in electronic form should be directed to: consentagreement@ftc.gov, as prescribed in the Supplementary Information section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dana Abrahamsen, FTC, Bureau of Competition, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326-2906.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and Section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 2.34, notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for October 30, 2003), on the World Wide Web, at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/10/index.htm>. A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room 130-H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-2222.

Public comments are invited, and may be filed with the Commission in either paper or electronic form. Comments

filed in paper form should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159-H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. If a comment contains nonpublic information, it must be filed in paper form, and the first page of the document must be clearly labeled "confidential." Comments that do not contain any nonpublic information may instead be filed in electronic form (in ASCII format, WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word) as part of or as an attachment to email messages directed to the following email box: consentagreement@ftc.gov. Such comments will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii).

Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted for public comment an Agreement Containing Consent Order with New Hampshire Motor Transport Association ("NHMTA" or "Respondent"). The Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by NHMTA that the law has been violated as alleged in the Complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true.

I. The Commission's Complaint

The proposed Complaint alleges that Respondent New Hampshire Motor Transport Association, a corporation, has violated and is now violating Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act. Specifically, the proposed Complaint alleges that Respondent has agreed to engage, and has engaged, in a combination and conspiracy, an agreement, concerted action or unfair and unlawful acts, policies and practices, the purpose or effect of which is to unlawfully hinder, restrain, restrict, suppress or eliminate competition among household goods movers in the State of New Hampshire.

Respondent is an association organized for and serving its members, which are approximately 400 firms primarily engaged in the trucking industry, of which approximately 19 members are household goods movers that conduct business within the State of New Hampshire. One of the functions of Respondent is preparing, and filing with the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Bureau of Common Carriers, tariffs and supplements on behalf of members engaged in moving household goods. These tariffs and supplements contain rates and charges for the intrastate and local transportation of

household goods and for related services.

The proposed Complaint alleges that Respondent is engaged in initiating, preparing, developing, disseminating, and taking other actions to establish and maintain tariff rules which have the purpose or effect of fixing, establishing or stabilizing rates for the transportation of household goods in the State of New Hampshire. The proposed Complaint further alleges that Respondent files with the New Hampshire Bureau of Common Carriers tariffs containing rules that institute automatic increases to carriers' rates.

The proposed Complaint further alleges that Respondent's conduct is anticompetitive because it has the effect of raising, fixing, and stabilizing the prices of household goods moves. The acts of Respondent also have the effect of depriving consumers of the benefits of competition.

II. Terms of the Proposed Consent Order

The proposed Order would provide relief for the alleged anticompetitive effects of the conduct principally by requiring Respondent to cease and desist from its practice of filing tariffs containing rules that call for automatic increases in movers' intrastate rates.

Paragraph II of the proposed Order bars Respondent from filing a tariff that contains rules mandating automatic price increases. This provision will terminate Respondent's current practice of filing tariffs that contain such rules that are the product of an agreement among movers in the State of New Hampshire. This paragraph also prohibits Respondent from engaging in activities such as exchanges of information that would facilitate member movers' agreement to include such rules in their intrastate tariffs. For example, the order bars Respondent from providing certain non-public information to member carriers.¹

Paragraph III of the proposed Order requires Respondent to cancel all tariffs that it has filed that contain rules concerning automatic rate increases. This provision will ensure that the intrastate tariffs containing such rules now on file in the State of New Hampshire will no longer be in force, allowing for future individual mover tariffs. Paragraph III of the proposed Order also requires Respondent to cancel any provisions in its governing documents that permit it to engage in activities barred by the Order.

Paragraph IV of the proposed Order requires Respondent to send a letter explaining the terms of the Order to its members engaged in moving household goods. This will make clear to members that they can no longer engage in activities prohibited by the Order.

Paragraphs V and VI of the proposed Order require Respondent to inform the Commission of any change in Respondent that could affect compliance with the Order and to file compliance reports with the Commission for a number of years. Paragraph VII of the proposed Order states that the Order will terminate in 20 years.

III. Opportunity for Modification of the Order

Should the Commission issue a final Order in this matter, Respondent can seek to modify that Order to permit it to engage in collective action regarding prices if it can demonstrate that the "state action" defense would apply to its conduct.² The Commission has recently explained in detail the factors it would consider in determining whether the state action defense is met.³ At present, Respondent would not be able to establish that its conduct is covered by the state action defense because the State of New Hampshire does not actively supervise the tariffs filed by Respondent.

IV. Opportunity for Public Comment

The proposed Order has been placed on the public record for 30 days in order to receive comments from interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After 30 days, the Commission will again review the Agreement and comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the Agreement or make final the Order contained in the Agreement.

By accepting the proposed Order subject to final approval, the Commission anticipates that the competitive issues described in the proposed Complaint will be resolved. The purpose of this analysis is to invite and facilitate public comment concerning the proposed Order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the Agreement and

² 16 CFR 2.51.

³ See Analysis of Proposed Consent Order to Aid Public Comment in: Indiana Household Movers and Warehousemen, Inc. (Mar. 18, 2003) available at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/03/indianahouseholdmoversanalysis.pdf>; Iowa Movers and Warehousemen's Association (Aug. 1, 2003) available at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/08/imwaanalysis.htm>; and Minnesota Transport Services Association (Aug. 1, 2003) available at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/08/mtsaanalysis.htm>.

proposed Order or to modify their terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission, Commissioner Harbour not participating.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-69-03]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 498-1210. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer, Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503; or by fax to (202) 395-6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project: Health and Safety Outcomes Related to Work Schedules in Nurses—NEW—The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The mission of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is to promote safety and health at work for all people through research and prevention.

In the United States, approximately 1.1 million registered nurses work shift schedules to provide essential nursing services that are required around the clock. A recent U.S. Government report indicates that the average nurse works more than 40 hours per week. Both shift work and overtime have been independently associated with increased health and safety risks. Little is known about the combined influence of shift work and overtime. In addition, most previous shift work studies of nurses have used young participants. However, the age of the average working U.S. registered nurse is now 43.3 years and has been increasing over the past 20 years. This aging workforce will be more vulnerable to the adverse health and safety risks associated with shift work and overtime. This study will examine

¹ A state statute requires carriers to keep their tariffs "open to public inspection." N.H. Rev. Stat. § 375-A:9.