



Public Service Commission of West Virginia

Contact: Susan Small, 304-340-0820, ssmall@psc.state.wv.us



For Immediate Release

December 9, 2015

PSC Conducts More than 10,000 Commercial Vehicle Inspections; Receives Grant to Continue Patrols

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia's Transportation Enforcement Officers conducted a total of 10,627 commercial vehicle inspections on 10 highways designated as high crash areas in the 12 month period ending September 30, 2015. Of those inspections, 4,670 were made possible by funding from the Increased Commercial Enforcement (I.C.E.) grant the Public Service Commission received in September 2014 from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Most of the grant-funded inspections were conducted during non-typical working hours, such as late nights, weekends and holidays. As a result of these inspections, 439 vehicles were taken out of service for equipment safety violations such as faulty brakes, lights, tires and steering mechanisms, poorly secured loads and improperly labeled hazardous materials. Officers conducted 3,986 checks for alcohol and controlled substances, and cited drivers for 985 speed violations and 156 seatbelt violations.

The Commission's Transportation Enforcement Division also recently received a new High Priority Program grant from FMCSA in the amount of \$223,604. This program focuses on high visibility commercial motor vehicle enforcement of traffic laws and safety regulations in areas that are associated with oil and gas exploration and drilling. Increased inspections will be conducted in Brooke, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Marshall, Ohio, Ritchie, Tyler and Wetzel Counties as well as other areas that are active in the development of oil and gas fields. Officers will also work to raise awareness of drivers relating to safe operation, implications of distracted driving, the ban on hand-held mobile devices and information about the rural roadways used to gain access to the drilling sites. The High Priority Program grant will expire on September 30, 2016.

"We are fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with FMCSA. They continue to work with our agency in an effort to promote safety on West Virginia's roadways through increased presence," said Bob Blankenship, Director of the Transportation Enforcement Division. "Increased presence has been shown to directly impact speeds of commercial motor vehicles and improve driving behaviors."

###