

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM :
COUNCIL TARIFF FILING : DOCKET NO. 3728

ORDER

WHEREAS, On February 2, 2006, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing on June 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, In its application, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council requested under R.I.G.L. § 39-3-12 an Exemption from Notice and Hearing Requirements of R.I.G.L. § 39-3-11; and

WHEREAS, The proposed ferry rates for adult passengers increase from \$7.00 to \$8.00, the first increase in ten (10) years, while the senior and child rate will remain at \$6.00; and

WHEREAS, On March 3, 2006, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) filed a Memorandum recommending approval of the proposed rates, finding them to be reasonable; and

WHEREAS, the Division noted that the Tourism Council is a non-profit agency offering cruises which are purely discretionary and therefore, the Division did not believe a hearing on the matter was necessary; and

WHEREAS, The Commission considered the matter at an open meeting and found the proposed rates to be proper, reasonable, and in the best interests of the ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, The Commission further found that a comprehensive rate proceeding is not required in this matter and therefore elected to exercise its option under R.I.G.L. § 39-3-12, finding good cause to exist to waive further investigation, further notice and public hearing based upon the fact that the services, proposed by the applicant, do not constitute “lifeline” ferry services to an isolated ratepayer population.

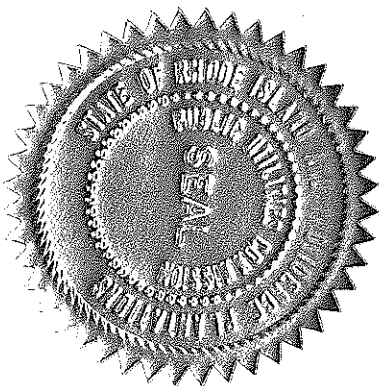
Accordingly, it is

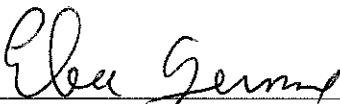
(18563) ORDERED:

1. That the February 2, 2006 tariff filing made by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council seeking approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing on June 1, 2006, is hereby approved.
2. The request for a waiver of the R.I.G.L. § 39-3-11 hearing requirement pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 39-3-12 is hereby granted on the basis that the service being offered is purely discretionary and not a lifeline service.

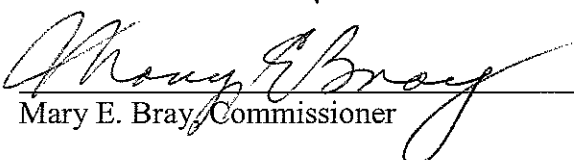
EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JUNE 1, 2006, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON MARCH 16, 2006. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON APRIL 4, 2006.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION




Elia Germani, Chairman


Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner


Mary E. Bray, Commissioner