

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM :
COUNCIL TARIFF FILING : DOCKET NO. 3795

ORDER

WHEREAS, On November 29, 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 May 1, 2007; 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 \$8.00 to \$10.00; the first increase in ten (10) years, while the senior and child rate will increase from \$6.00 to \$8.00 because of escalating operational costs; and

WHEREAS, On December 20, 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

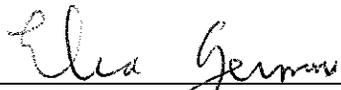
(18832) ORDERED:

1. That the November 29, 2006 tariff filing made by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council seeking approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing on May 1, 2007, 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.

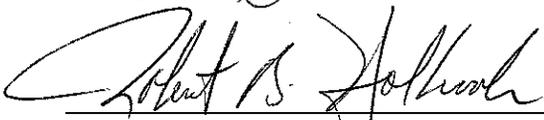
EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON MAY 1, 2007, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON JANUARY 12, 2007. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON JANUARY 19, 2007.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION





Elia Germani, Chairman



Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner



Mary E. Bray, Commissioner