

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: NEW ENGLAND FAST FERRY, LLC :
TARIFF FILING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2007 : DOCKET NO. 3819

ORDER

WHEREAS, On February 9, 2007, New England Fast Ferry (“NEFF”) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for approval of its tariff amendment seeking changes to its schedule for ferry transportation between the city of Newport and the city of Providence for effect May 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The proposed ferry rates were negotiated by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (“RIPTA”) and NEFF and are subject to Commission’s approval;¹ and

WHEREAS, The proposal will change the time of trips to better reflect the usage by NEFF’s customer, and will charge a \$2.00 per bicycle fee for a one way trip; and

WHEREAS, On February 27, 2007, after examination, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a response to NEFF’s application indicating that it had reviewed the proposed tariff amendment and recommended approval of the tariff amendment as filed; and

WHEREAS, On March 8, 2007, the Commission considered the matter at an open meeting and found the proposed rates set forth in the tariff amendment to be proper, reasonable, and in the best interests of the ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, The Commission further finds that a comprehensive rate proceeding is not required in this matter and therefore exercises its option under R.I.G.L. § 39-3-12,

¹ The project is subsidized through a grant to the State of Rhode Island under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (“CMAQ”) Program. The project is to be operated under a contract with RIPTA.

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.

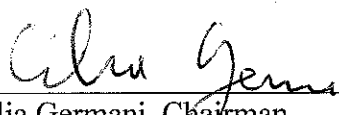
Accordingly, it is

(18903) ORDERED:

1. That the February 9, 2007 tariff filing made by New England Fast Ferry, LLC seeking changes to its schedule for ferry transportation between the city of Newport and the city of Providence and a bicycle fee for effect May 1, 2007, is hereby approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON MAY 1, 2007, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON MARCH 8, 2007. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON MARCH 19 , 2007.


PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman



Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner



Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: UNITED WAY'S PETITION : DOCKET NO. 3815
REGARDING 211 :

ORDER

On January 31, 2007, the United Way of Rhode Island filed a petition with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") seeking the authority to implement 211 in Rhode Island. As the basis for its petition the United Way cited Paragraph 21 of FCC 00-256 3rd Report and Order, which indicated that the FCC assigned 211 to be used to provide access to community information and referral services and directed telecommunication service providers to satisfy requests from entities such as the United Way to complete 211 calls. The United Way pointed out that as of November 2006, there were 211 systems in 41 states. Also, in May 2006, the United Way of Rhode Island's Board of Directors approved a major financial commitment for the operation of Untied Way 211 in Rhode Island. United Way indicated it aimed to test the 211 service in the spring of 2007 and launch the service publicly in the summer of 2007.

On February 16, 2007, Cox filed a letter indicating it was working with the United Way to implement 211. On February 22, 2007, Verizon Rhode Island ("VZ-RI") filed a letter indicating it entered a five year contract with Untied Way for utilization of 211 and that VZ-RI has completed the deployment of 211 dialing in all of its central offices. On February 28, 2007, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division") filed a letter indicating it did not oppose United Way's petition. At an open meeting on March 8, 2007, the Commission approved United Way's petition. This 211 mandate arose from an FCC order which specifically referenced the United Way. The United Way has made

progress in having this 211 service operational in Rhode Island for 2007. This 211 service could prove to be a benefit to those individuals in need of community services. The Commission grants United Way's petition to have the authority to implement 211 in Rhode Island.¹

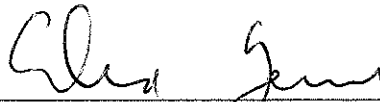
Accordingly, it is

(18904) ORDERED:

1. The petition of United Way to implement 211 in Rhode Island is hereby approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING ON MARCH 8, 2007. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED MARCH 19, 2007.

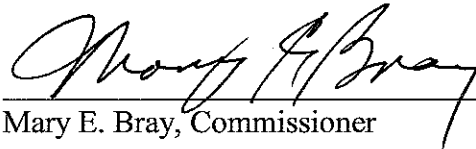
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman



Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner



Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

¹ For the sake of clarity, approval of this petition does not in any way authorize the placement of a surcharge on any utility bill for the sake of 211.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PASCOAG'S REQUEST FOR WAIVER : DOCKET NO. 3569
FROM THE COMMISSION'S CREDIT :
CARD REGULATIONS :

ORDER

On February 15, 2007, the Pascoag Utility District ("Pascoag") filed a request for reconsideration of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") decision to require credit card charges associated with a utility payment be borne by the customer making a utility payment through a credit card.¹ Pascoag indicated that it was notified by Visa/MasterCard that an assessment to the card holder of the charge to make a utility payment through a credit card violates Visa/MasterCard's Terms and Conditions. Pascoag stated that credit card acceptance is a very worthwhile policy. Also, Pascoag asserted that small amounts associated with these transactions is justifiable because this method of payment avoids utility service termination for non-payment.

At an open meeting on February 28, 2007, a majority of the Commission denied Pascoag's request of a waiver from the Commission's Credit Card Regulations. The Commission has determined that "it is in the best interest of all ratepayers to assess responsibility for the credit card fee to the cost causer, the user of the credit card."² Pascoag has failed to make any argument to cause this Commission to waver from this principle. Payment through a credit card is discretionary. By not using a credit card, the customer can avoid paying any credit card fees when he or she makes a utility payment. Furthermore, there is no evidence that credit card usage for utility payments is

¹ See Order No. 17993, which adopted Rules Covering the Acceptance of Credit Cards by Utility Companies. ("Credit Card Regulations")

² Id.

widespread among ratepayers or has any clear benefit to all ratepayers. In fact, in Pascoag, for the last few months, less than two dozen customers used a credit card to make a utility payment, which is less than one percent of all its customers. Pascoag can either cease accepting credit cards, work with National Grid and utilize National Grid's vendor for accepting payments by credit card, or select a new vendor that will allow them to comply with the Commission's regulations. Although the credit card fees may be small, the principal of requiring the cost causer to bear the cost he or she creates is significant. Since the costs are clear, real and calculable, this principle should not be waived unless there is a clear, real and calculable benefit to all ratepayers.

Accordingly, it is

(18905) ORDERED:

1. The request of the Pascoag Utility District filed on February 15, 2007 is denied.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2007. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED MARCH 19, 2007.

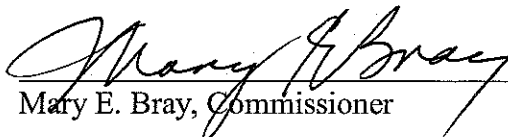
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman



Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner*



Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

*Commissioner Holbrook dissented. He believes that all ratepayers should bear the costs associated with credit card transactions, and have the opportunity to make a utility payment without paying a fee. By denying Pascoag's request, he noted that no one will be able to make a utility payment through a credit card and the costs associated with accepting credit cards are small.