STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: INTERSTATE NAVIGATION COMPANY

GENERAL RATE FILING : DOCKET NO. 4373

COMMISSION'S SEVENTH SET OF DATA REQUESTS DIRECTED TO INTERSTATE NAVIGATION COMPANY

(February 18, 2021 Fuel Charge Settlement)

Issued March 3, 2021 – Please respond as soon as possible

- 7-1. In the proposed Settlement between Interstate and the Division, signed on February 18, 2021, the parties proposed a "negative fuel surcharge" of a \$1.00 to be credited to all-class passenger and vehicle tickets until the Fuel Account balance reached \$50,000. Mr. Bebyn projects the credit to be in place for approximately six months (September 2021). Tickets can be reserved in advance or purchased for the same day.
 - a. Is the "negative fuel surcharge" applied to the ticket on the date of sale or date of travel?
 - b. When will Interstate credit the Fuel Account and how will Interstate know when it reaches the \$50,000 balance?
 - c. When does Interstate reconcile its monthly balances?
 - d. Where the "negative fuel surcharge" begins at the start of a month, will it continue to apply to tickets through the end of the month even if the Fuel Account balance drops below \$50,000 mid-month?
 - e. How far in advance will Interstate notify the Division that it will be ceasing to apply the "negative fuel surcharge"?

RESPONSE:

- a. The negative fuel surcharge will be applied to the ticket on the date of the sale. The settlement schedule presenting how long the discount should last took into consideration the date of travel. Keep in mind that many summer vehicle tickets will be sold by advanced tickets which start the week of the March 8. This is why the settlement schedule has a March starting point to address the vehicle reservations. The Company would like to make sure the discount for vehicle reservations is addressed as soon as possible. The accounting would be difficult to handle if the discounts were applied after the advanced sales.
- b. Interstate is relying upon the schedule to give a general forecast for what month the discount will end. Interstate will track the balance of the Fuel Account and the discounts applied when they file their monthly fuel surcharge filing. The monthly filing going forward from this point will include the prior month's discounts

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applied to reduce the fuel account balance. Interstate will also look at the current and following month's projection to determine if the \$50,000 will be reached after the following month.

- c. The reconciliation will be done as part of the monthly fuel surcharge filing. See the response to item b.
- d. Yes. The intent is to have it continue for the whole month.
- e. One month as detailed in the response to item b.

Witness responsible: David G. Bebyn, CPA