

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM :  
COUNCIL TARIFF FILING : DOCKET NO. 4601

ORDER

On February 12, 2016, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing on May 8, 2016. The proposed ferry rates for adult passengers increase from \$10.00 to \$12.00, the first increase in ten years, while the senior and child rate is proposed to increase from \$8.00 to \$10.00. There will be an online processing charge of \$1.00 and an additional contribution of \$1.00 to the Blackstone Valley Heritage Environmental Trust Fund for tickets purchased online. In support of its request, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council stated that in the past ten years, there has been a reduction of the number of allowed passengers per trip, due to changes in Coast Guard Regulations, along with an increase in operating expenses.

On February 18, 2016, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) filed a memorandum recommending approval of the proposed rates, finding them to be reasonable. In its memorandum, 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.

On February 25, 2016, the PUC considered the matter at an Open Meeting and found the proposed rates to be proper, reasonable, and in the best interests of the ratepayers. The PUC further found that a comprehensive rate proceeding is not required in this matter and therefore elected to exercise its option under R.I. Gen. Laws § 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

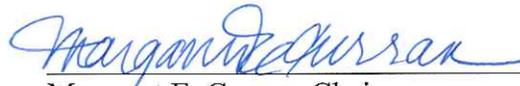
(22359) ORDERED:

That the February 9, 2016 tariff filing made by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, seeking approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing on May 8, 2016, is hereby approved.

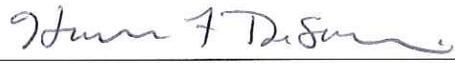
EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON MAY 8, 2016, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON FEBRUARY 25, 2016. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON MARCH 15, 2016.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



  
Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson

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\*Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner

  
Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr., Commissioner

\*Commissioner Roberti concurs with this decision but is unavailable for signature.

**NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL:** Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.