



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

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June 27, 2016

Memo To: Luly Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission

From : John Bell, ^{JB} Assistant Chief Accountant
Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

Subject : Docket No. 4621 – Tariff Filing of SeaStreak, LLC
For Ferry Service Between Providence and Newport

On June 9, 2016, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (“RIDOT”) along with SeaStreak, LLC filed a proposed tariff for ferry service between Providence and Newport. The service is scheduled to commence on July1, 2016. According to the filing, RIDOT received Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (“CMAQ”) funding for the purpose of linking centralized marine transportation services together with ground transportation options located in Providence and Newport. RIDOT solicited proposals for the service and awarded the contract to SeaStreak.

The tariff filing noted that on June 3, 2016 SeaStreak submitted an application to the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) seeking an operating license/certificate to operate between Providence and Newport. SeaStreak requests that if the Division hasn’t issued its certificate before the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) rules on the proposed tariff that the PUC issue a conditional approval subject to issuance of the Division’s certificate. The Division held hearings on SeaStreak’s application on June 23, 2016 and the Hearing Officer stated on the record that he would recommend approval of the application to the Division Administrator. The Division expects a written order to be issued on June 28, 2016.

The proposed fares included in the June 9, 2016 tariff filing are as follows:

	One Way	Round Trip
Adult	\$10.00	\$20.00
Disabled	\$5.00	\$10.00
Senior Citizens (65 and over)	\$5.00	\$10.00
Children (12 and under)	\$5.00	\$10.00

As the Commission is aware, the proposed service is discretionary and doesn't constitute lifeline ferry services to an isolated ratepayer population. In similar cases in the past, the Commission determined that a comprehensive rate proceeding was not required and it exercised its option under Rhode Island General Laws, Section 39-3-12 and waived further investigation and public hearings and it approved the rates as filed.

Due to the facts mentioned above and the nominal rates proposed, the Division recommends the Commission waive further investigation and public hearings on the filing and approve the rates as filed subject to issuance of the Division's order issuing the certificate.

cc: Service List