

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: SEASTREAK, LLC :
TARIFF FILING : DOCKET NO. 4621

ORDER

On June 9, 2016, SeaStreak, LLC (SeaStreak), together with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (DOT), filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for expedited approval of SeaStreak's rates for ferry transportation between the City of Providence and the City of Newport commencing on July 1, 2016.¹ The rates were approved by the PUC on June 27, 2016 subject to the filing with the PUC of a Water Carrier Certificate of Operating Authority, which condition was satisfied on June 28, 2016. The effective date of the rates is July 1, 2016.

The proposed ferry rates were negotiated by the DOT and are subject to PUC approval.² On June 27, 2016, after a review of SeaStreak's filing and response to a data request, John Bell, Assistant to Chief Accountant of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) filed a memorandum with the PUC. Mr. Bell noted that on June 23, 2016, the Division conducted a hearing on an application filed by SeaStreak seeking a Water Carrier Certificate of Operating Authority. Mr. Bell expected a written decision approving the application to be issued on June 28, 2016. Addressing SeaStreak's rate application before the PUC, Mr. Bell recommended approval of the rates subject to the

¹ Tariff Filing at Exhibit 1; http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4621-SeaStreak-Tariff_6-9-16.pdf.

² The project is subsidized through a grant of \$500,000 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 RIDOT. The passenger fares for the ferry service only are as follows: Adults--\$10.00 one way, \$20.00 round trip; Senior Citizens, Disabled Individuals and children Ages 12 and under - \$5.00 one way, \$10.00 round trip. Tariff Filing at ¶ 6.

issuance of the Division's order approving SeaStreak's application and further recommended that the Commission waive further investigation and public hearings.³

On June 27, 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. Notwithstanding the PUC's jurisdiction to approve the tariff rates, SeaStreak may not operate without a Water Carrier Certificate of Operating Authority issued by the Division. Therefore, the PUC conditioned approval of SeaStreak's tariff filing upon the filing of a true and exact copy of the actual water carrier certificate issued by the Division with the PUC.⁴ Based upon the fact that the services proposed by the applicant do not constitute "lifeline" ferry services to an isolated ratepayer population, the PUC further found good cause existed under R.I. Gen. Laws. § 39-3-12, to waive further investigation, further notice, and public hearing.

³ Bell Mem. at 1-2; <http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4621-DPU-Memo.pdf>.

⁴ On June 28, 2016, the Division issued Order No. 22450 in Docket No. D-16-35, approving the application for a Certificate of Operating Authority. The certificate identification number is W-1178. The Division also filed a copy of the Certificate of Operating Authority with the PUC on June 28, 2016, thus satisfying the PUC's condition.

Accordingly, it is

(22462) ORDERED:

1. That the June 9, 2016 tariff filing made by SeaStreak, LLC seeking approval of its rates for ferry transportation between the City of Providence and the City of Newport commencing on July 1, 2016, is hereby approved.
2. Appendix A of the June 9, 2016 tariff filing, attached and incorporated by reference, is hereby adopted and shall constitute the authorized rates of SeaStreak, LLC.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JULY 1, 2016, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON JUNE 27, 2016. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON JUNE 29, 2016.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Margaret E. Curran, Chairman

Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr., Commissioner

Marion S. Gold, Commissioner

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 7 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.

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SCHEDULE

July 1, 2016 – September 5, 2016

Weekday Schedule (Mon. – Thurs.)

Providence Departures

10:00 am
12:30 pm
6:00 pm

Newport Departures

11:15 am
1:45 pm
7:15 pm

Weekends (Fri. – Sun.)/Holidays

Providence Departures

10:00 am
12:30 pm
5:00 pm
9:45 pm

Newport Departures

11:15 am
1:45 pm
6:15 pm
11:00 pm

FARES

	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