

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: JAMESTOWN AND NEWPORT :
FERRY COMPANY : DOCKET NO. 3517

ORDER

WHEREAS, On May 5, 2003, Jamestown and Newport Ferry Company (“the Company”) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for approval of its rates and schedule for ferry transportation between Jamestown and Newport commencing on May 24, 2003; and

WHEREAS, In its application, the Company requested expedited treatment to allow service to commence on May 24, 2003; and

WHEREAS, In its application, the Company requested an exemption from notice and hearing requirements of R.I.G.L. § 39-3-11; and

WHEREAS, The proposed ferry rates were increased slightly from the previous season as a result of higher fuel and insurance costs and are subject to Commission’s approval;¹ and

WHEREAS, On May 19, 2003, after examination, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a Memorandum with the Commission recommending approval of the rates, noting that the service is not a “lifeline” service and noting that the Division has not received any complaints related to the Company’s service. The Division also recommended that the Commission waive further investigation and public hearings; and

¹ Rates are increasing \$1-\$2 per trip. The rate for bicycles has not changed.

WHEREAS, The Commission considered the matter at an open meeting and found the proposed rates to be proper, reasonable, and in the best interests of the ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, The Commission further found that a comprehensive rate proceeding is not required in this matter and therefore elected to exercise its option under R.I.G.L. § 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

(17482) ORDERED:

1. That the May 5, 2003 tariff filing made by the Jamestown and Newport Ferry Company seeking approval of its rates for ferry transportation between Newport and Jamestown commencing on May 24, 2003 is hereby approved.
2. Appendix A of the May 5, 2003 tariff filing, attached and incorporated by reference, is hereby adopted and shall constitute the authorized rates and schedules of the Jamestown and Newport Ferry Company, until further ordered by the Commission.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON MAY 22, 2003, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON MAY 29, 2003.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Elia Germani, Chairman

Kate F. Racine, Commissioner

Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner