

Agenda Date: December 19, 2019
Item Number: B1

Docket: TP-190965
Company Name: Port of Grays Harbor

Staff: Danny Kermode, Assistant Director of Water and Transportation

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing the tariff pages filed by the Port of Grays Harbor on November 11, 2019, in Docket TP-190965 to become effective January 1, 2020, by operation of law.

Background

On November 11, 2019, the Port of Grays Harbor (the Port) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) its recommended increase to its tariffed rates for pilotage service consistent with RCW 53.08.390. The Port also provided its 2020 pilotage budget, its five-year capital spending plan along with the Port's prior-year financial statement along with its proposed pilotage tariff, also consistent with RCW 53.08.390. The schedules and tariff were released to the public on October 8, 2019, at a scheduled public hearing at the Port's offices.

A public hearing was held at the Port's main office at 111 S. Wooding Street in Aberdeen on November 12, 2019, where the public was provided the opportunity to comment. The Port's commission reviewed the proposed amendments adopting a resolution to approve, and recommending the 2020 pilotage tariff, rates, and rules of service to the commission for its approval.

The Port recommends a 15 percent increase in the draft, tonnage, boarding and harbor-shift rates. The increased rates are because of decreased vessel traffic, the addition of a pilot trainee, and the purchase of a new pilot boat.

Although the commission has the ability to assess fees through the Ports pilotage tariffs to recover the reasonable costs the commission incurs to establish or amend the tariff rates of the Port, commission staff (staff) recommends that no fee be collected in this filing since the marginal costs of establishing the Port's tariff has not been significant, thus not justifying a separate fee at this time.

No comments have been received by the commission, nor did the Port receive any comments on the proposed tariff during its consideration process.

Commission staff has completed its review of the Port's tariff filing and finds the revised rates and charges to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

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Conclusion

Staff reviewed the Port's filing and recommends the commission take no action, thereby allowing the tariff pages filed by the Port of Grays Harbor on November 11, 2019, in Docket TP-190965 to become effective January 1, 2020, by operation of law.