

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET TS-082160
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	ORDER 01
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
ARGOSY LP,	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
	)	AND INSTITUTING
Respondent.	)	INVESTIGATION
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On November 26, 2008, Argosy LP (Argosy or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to both its commercial ferry (Locks Tour) and launch service tariffs seeking to increase rates. The proposed rate increase is expected to generate an additional \$46,429 (5 percent) in annual revenue. The Company’s filing is prompted by higher costs for fuel, moorage, insurance, employee pay and benefits. The Company’s last rate increase became effective March 30, 2007. In addition to its proposed rate increase, the Company also filed a revision to its Locks Tour time schedule
- 2     The Company states that in 2008, it provided launch service to four customers, operated ten trips, and charged \$4,000 annual revenue. The Company has not yet provided notified its four launch service customers of the proposed increase but is working with Consumer Protection Staff to meet its notice requirement.
- 3     Argosy also transports passengers in scheduled service from Pier 56 in downtown Seattle, north through Elliot Bay, and through the Hiram Chittenden Locks to Lake Union. Passengers disembark and board a Gray Line of Seattle bus to travel back to Pier 56. This service is also known as the “Locks Tour” and the Company markets it as a 2.5-hour “pleasure cruise.” In 2008, the Company reports 751 trips, 39,078 passengers, and \$1,068,000 revenue.
- 4     Commission Staff has requested but not received supporting financial information from the Company. The Company has failed to demonstrate that it requires additional revenue and the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including commercial ferries. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.08, RCW 81.12, RCW 81.16 and RCW 81.84.
- 6 (2) Argosy is engaged in the business of providing commercial ferry services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 15, 2009.
- 8 (4) RCW 81.04.070 authorizes the Commission and Staff to inspect the accounts, books, papers and documents of any public service company.
- 9 (6) The Commission deems it necessary to conduct an investigation under this statute in order to carry out the duties imposed on it by law, to investigate the Company's books, accounts, practices and activities.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) The tariff revisions filed by Argosy LP, on November 26, 2008, are suspended.
- 11 (2) The Commission institutes an investigation of Argosy LP's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations on its own motion.
- 12 (3) Argosy LP, must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission in this docket.
- 13 (4) Argosy LP, may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such investigation, consistent with RCW 81.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 15, 2009.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman**

**PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner**