

Agenda Date: January 15, 2009  
Item Number: B3

**Docket:** TS-082160  
Company Name: Argosy LP

Staff: David Gomez, Deputy Assistant Director  
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Protection Staff

### **Recommendation**

Enter a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff revisions filed by Argosy LP.

### **Discussion**

On November 26, 2008, Argosy LP (Argosy or company) filed with the 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 \$46,429 (5 percent) in additional 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.

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.

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.

On December 4, 2008, the company notified its Locks Tour customers by posting the proposed rates on its website. Consumer Protection staff reviewed the notice and approved of its content.

The commission has received no customer comments on this filing as of January 7, 2009.

Commission staff has requested supporting financial information from the company, but has not yet received that information. The company has failed to demonstrate it requires additional revenue and the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

### **Conclusion**

Enter a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff revisions filed by Argosy LP.