

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Amending Washington  
Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Tariff 15-C, Relating to Intrastate  
Transportation of Household Goods

DOCKET TV-210326

ORDER 01

APPROVING REVISIONS TO  
TARIFF 15-C

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.80.150 assigns certain duties and responsibilities to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for tariffs that apply to intrastate transportation of household goods. These duties include amending, altering, and reissuing tariffs when changes are approved by the Commission. The Commission published Tariff 15-C, which applies to the intrastate transportation of household goods, effective February 1, 2008.
- 2 This tariff revision is intended to increase the maximum tariff rates for containers. These changes are being made in response to a request received from Jim Tutton of the Washington Movers Conference (WMC), filed on May 7, 2021, requesting increases to container and packing rates contained in Tariff 15-C.
- 3 Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed WMC's letter filed on May 7, 2021, and Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed revisions to Tariff 15-C.
- 4 The increase to the container rates is being made pursuant to a price increase notification sent by one of the largest cardboard container suppliers, Pioneer Packaging. This notice was included with the May 7, 2021, letter from the WMC, which requested that the Commission increase container rates to offset these price increases. The notice referenced a 12 percent price increase to all containers effective May 24, 2021, citing increased demand and supply constraints for cardboard containers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of Tariff 15-C's banded rate structure and the need to provide recovery of costs and a reasonable return on investment, Staff believes it is appropriate to increase the maximum rates for all containers by 12 percent. For the container prices listed in Item 196 – Container Prices, and Item 225 – Container Prices, Staff's proposal would increase all maximum rates by 12 percent. For Item 195 – Packing Rates, which are rates that

include both container prices and labor costs for packing the containers, the proposed rates include a 12 percent increase to the container portion of the rates only.

### DISCUSSION

5 We agree with Staff's recommendation and approve the proposed amendments to Tariff 15-C. Pursuant to RCW 81.80.150, the Commission may alter or amend the tariffs applicable to household goods carriers after notice and hearing.

6 We conclude that Staff's proposed revisions are reasonable and consistent with the public interest. Carriers should be allowed to recoup, rather than be required to absorb, increased container costs. Accordingly, we approve the proposed revisions as reflected in Appendix A to this Order.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington required by statute to compile, publish, and distribute tariffs containing rates, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations to be used by all common carriers, including household goods carriers.

8 (2) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 29, 2021.

9 (3) After review and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that Tariff 15- C should be amended as proposed by Commission Staff and reflected in Appendix A to this Order.

### ORDER

10 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:** Effective July 30, 2021, the revisions proposed to Tariff 15-C, attached to this Order as Appendix A and by this reference made a part of this Order, are adopted for use by all carriers transporting household goods in the state of Washington that are subject to Commission regulation.

*11* The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the provision of RCW 81.80.150 and in the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective July 29, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON  
Executive Director