

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	DOCKET TP-250574
Complainant,	ORDER 01
v.	
PUGET SOUND PILOTS,	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 29, 2025, Puget Sound Pilots (PSP) filed Tariff No. 3 with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), revising its currently effective Tariff No. 2, as listed in Appendix A attached to this Order. PSP characterizes its filing as a general rate case (GRC). PSP’s proposed revised tariff sheets provide an effective date of August 29, 2025. Also on July 29, 2025, PSP filed testimony, proposed exhibits, and supporting documentation related to its proposed tariff revisions.
- 2 PSP proposes to increase the organization’s revenue requirement from approximately \$42.0 million to \$67.2 million (a 60.0 percent increase).
- 3 PSP indicates in its cover letter that it agrees to suspension of its proposed tariff revisions and waives the suspension hearing. PSP further requests that the Commission issue an order suspending the proposed tariff revisions for investigation.

DISCUSSION

- 4 PSP’s requested increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and PSP has not demonstrated that the increase would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.116.030(4), the Commission, therefore, suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Commission is an agency of the state of Washington vested by statute with
the authority to establish in tariffs the rates for pilotage services provided under
chapter 88.16 RCW.
- 6 (2) PSP is an association of pilots subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) The proposed tariff filed by PSP on July 29, 2025, would increase charges and
rates for service provided by PSP and might injuriously affect the rights and
interests of the public.
- 8 (4) PSP has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are
fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 9 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as
authorized in RCW 80.04.130, as incorporated by RCW 81.01.010, and RCW
81.116.020(1), the Commission finds it necessary to investigate PSP's books,
accounts, practices, and activities, and appraise various phases of PSP's
operations.
- 10 (6) The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of Washington
Administrative Code (WAC) 480-07-400(2)(b), and the parties may conduct
discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 –
425.
- 11 (7) As required by RCW 81.04.130 and RCW 81.116.030(5), PSP bears the burden to
prove that the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 12 (8) PSP may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to
such an investigation, consistent with chapter 81.20 RCW.
- 13 (9) The Commission should convene a prehearing conference in this matter, Docket
TP-250574.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) The tariff revisions filed by Puget Sound Pilots on July 29, 2025, are suspended.


- 15 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required. Such hearings may also examine any of Puget Sound Pilots' services, rates, and charges related to its July 29, 2025, filing.
- 16 (3) Puget Sound Pilots must not change or alter the filing made in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 17 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Pilots' books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations related to its July 29, 2025, filing.
- 18 (5) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 19 (6) Puget Sound Pilots shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with chapter 81.20 RCW.
- 20 (7) The Commission will convene a prehearing conference in this matter, Docket TP-250574.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 21, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



BRIAN J. RYBARIK, Chair



ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner



MILTON H. DOUMIT, Commissioner

Appendix A
PSP Tariff No. 3, Puget Sound Pilotage District

Tariff No. 03 Original Page No. 1	Cancelling	Tariff No. 2 1 st Revised Page No. 1
Tariff No. 03 Original Page No. 2	Cancelling	Tariff No. 2 1 st Revised Page No. 2
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