

Agenda Date: April 9, 2009
Item Number: B1

Docket: TS-082160
Company Name: Argosy LP

Staff: Layne Demas, Regulatory Analyst
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff revisions filed by Argosy LP and allow the proposed rates to become effective April 10, 2009.

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 was 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. In addition to its proposed rate increase, the company also filed a revision to its Locks Tour time schedule. The company's last rate increase became effective March 30, 2007.

On January 15, 2009, the commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions to determine whether the proposed revisions are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

On February 23, 2009, in response to a joint petition filed by Argosy and staff, the commission cancelled the ferry service "Lock Tour" portion of Certificate BC-101 in Docket TS-090228. The launch service is Argosy's only remaining regulated service. The company proposes to increase rates for launch service by 4.3 percent.

Argosy provides launch service between Pier 56 in Seattle and East, West and North anchorage points located in Elliott Bay and Alki points, and between shore and ocean-going vessels at anchor in an area bound by Wells Point Williams and Point Vashon on the south. The company states that in 2008, it provided launch service to four customers, operated ten trips, and earned \$4,000 annual revenue. To date for 2009, the launch service has made one trip for a total of \$437.50 revenue.

The commission has received no customer comments on this filing as of March 31, 2009.

Commission staff has completed its review of the company's supporting financial documents, books and records for the launch service. Staff's review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the company's operations. The company's financial information supports the revenue requirement and the proposed rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Conclusion

Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff revisions filed by Argosy LP and allow the proposed rates to become effective April 10, 2009.