BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the PETITION of SAN JUAN EXPRESS, INC. for a CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

PETITION FOR CEASE AND DESIST ORDER - 1

NO. 75-940956

PETITION FOR CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

For its Petition for a Cease and Desist Order, petitioner San Juan Express, Inc. states as follows:

- Petitioner San Juan Express, Inc. ("San Juan Express") is a Washington Corporation with offices at 2701 Alaska Way, Seattle, WA.
- San Juan Express, in this matter, seeks the issuance of a cease and desist order pursuant to the provisions of RCW 81.84.010, WAC 480-50-020, RCW 81.04.510 and 81.68.040.
- San Juan Express holds Permit No. BC-000117 issued by this Commission which, among other things, authorizes petitioner to transport passengers and freight between Seattle and Friday Harbor on San Juan Island.
- At times material hereto and, in particular, at the time of this Petition, San Juan Express has provided and continues to provide

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regular, daily passenger service between Seattle and Friday Harbor. Petitioner's vessel boards passengers each morning at Pier 69 in downtown Seattle and then sails to San Juan Island. Passengers are permitted to disembark in Friday Harbor. San Juan Express's vessel again boards passengers each afternoon in Friday Harbor and returns to Pier 69 in Seattle.

- 5. Petitioner's San Juan Island service operates upon a regular, published schedule. Passengers are charged fares according to a tariff which has been approved by this Commission. San Juan Express provides one-way and round-trip service. Round-trip passengers, including those making round-trips in a single day, are the most important source of San Juan Express' revenues on this route.
- 6. Petitioner's service and business are currently being injured by competition on the San Juan Island route from two boat operators, Mosquito Fleet Enterprises, Inc. ("Mosquito Fleet"), and Yachtship Cruiseline, Inc. ("Yachtship"), which are unlawfully operating without certificates of convenience and necessity.
- 7. Mosquito Fleet, like Petitioner, offers daily passenger service from the Seattle area to San Juan Island. Mosquito Fleet operates over a regular route and between the fixed termini of Everett and Friday Harbor. Said company advertises and sells tickets for its voyages to the general public.
- 8. Each day, on a regular, advertised schedule, Mosquito
 Fleet's boat boards passengers at the Marina Village dock in Everett.
 The vessel then sails to Friday Harbor where passengers disembark.

Mosquito Fleet's boat again boards passengers at the Friday Harbor dock at a regularly scheduled time each afternoon and returns to the Everett dock. Mosquito Fleet also offers bus service between Seattle and Everett for passengers on Mosquito Fleet's boat. Each morning, on a regular schedule, Mosquito Fleet's bus picks up passengers at downtown Seattle hotels and delivers them to the Everett dock in time to board Mosquito Fleet's boat to Friday Harbor. In the evening, the bus returns passengers from the Everett dock to downtown Seattle.

- 9. Yachtship, like Petitioner, offers daily passenger service between Seattle and San Juan Island. Yachtship operates a vessel over a regular route, between the fixed termini of Seattle and Roche Harbor. Said company advertises and sells tickets for its voyages to the general public.
- 10. According to a regular, advertised schedule, Yachtship, at the same time each day, boards passengers at the Shilshole Bay Marina in Seattle and sails to Roche Harbor on San Juan Island where it disembarks passengers. The vessel boards passengers at Roche Harbor for a return trip to Seattle approximately 4 hours later.
- 11. The president and owner of Yachtship is Robert Giersdorf.

 Mr. Giersdorf is also the president and owner of Glacier Bay Lodge,

 Inc. ("Glacier Bay"). At times material hereto, Glacier Bay has

 offered regular passenger service between Seattle and San Juan Island

 similar to that currently being offered by Yachtship.
- 12. Mosquito Fleet, Yachtship and Glacier Bay provide passenger service for hire between fixed termini and/or over regular routes. RCW 81.84.010 and WAC 480-50-020 prohibit such operations

except where the operator has applied for and obtained a certificate of convenience and necessity from the Commission. Neither Mosquito Fleet, Yachtship, nor Glacier Bay holds a certificate of convenience and necessity to provide water transportation service to San Juan Island. The operations of said companies are, therefore, in violation of law.

- 13. Mosquito Fleet provides bus transportation for hire over a regular route and/or between the fixed termini of Seattle and Everett. RCW 81.68.040 prohibits such operations except where the operator has applied for and obtained a certificate of convenience and necessity from this Commission. Mosquito Fleet does not hold a certificate of convenience and necessity to operate its bus transportation service between Seattle and Everett. Its operations are, therefore, in violation of law.
- 14. Yachtship acknowledged that it needs a certificate of convenience and necessity for its San Juan Island service when, on or about April 1, 1994, it applied to this Commission for transfer to it of Permit No. SBC-103 which, if valid, would, according to Yachtship, authorize service between Seattle and Roche Harbor. That permit is, however, no longer valid. Although Yachtship's application for transfer of the certificate has never been granted, Yachtship has, since April 1, 1994, continued to operate on the San Juan Island route.
- 15. Mosquito Fleet and Yachtship have aggressively competed and continue to aggressively compete with Petitioner on the San Juan Island route. They frequently advertise the transportation services

that they provide, their schedules and their fares. Operating free from any regulation, said companies skim the most important source of revenues upon which San Juan Express, operating as a regulated carrier, depends.

- 16. Mosquito Fleet and Yachtship have engaged in extensive promotional pricing and temporary price discounting in order to take business away from San Juan Express. Because Mosquito Fleet and Yachtship are operating without a certificate of convenience and necessity, they do not submit their fare schedules for approval by the Commission. In the absence of regulation by the Commission, Mosquito Fleet and Yachtship are free to change their prices at will, with little or no advance notice. Petitioner, because its prices are governed by a Commission-approved tariff, is prevented from adjusting its prices in response to the short-term price moves of Mosquito Fleet and Yachtship.
- 17. In the absence of regulation by the Commission, Mosquito Fleet, Yachtship and Glacier Bay are free to discontinue or change their operations at will, to operate without adequate financial resources, to discriminate in price, and to operate with inadequate or no insurance.
- 18. On one or more occasions, Yachtship has canceled or interrupted its scheduled service to San Juan Island without notice or explanation even to passengers with reservations on the canceled voyages. Prospective passengers have learned of such cancellations only when Yachtship's vessel failed to appear at the Seattle dock at the scheduled time. Many passengers have been seriously

inconvenienced and disappointed as a result of Yachtship's unreliable service.

19. San Juan Express and the public interest have been and continue to be seriously injured by the unregulated operations of Mosquito Fleet, Glacier Bay and Yachtship. San Juan Express has lost business and, as a result, has been forced to abandon plans to upgrade its San Juan Island service and add a new, better-equipped boat.

NOW, THEREFORE, petitioner San Juan Express, Inc. prays for the issuance by the Commission of an order requiring Mosquito Fleet, Enterprises, Inc., Yachtship, Inc. and Glacier Bay Lodge, Inc., and their respective owners, officers and affiliated corporations, to cease and desist from offering or providing water transportation services between the Seattle-Everett area and San Juan Island without first applying for and obtaining a certificate of convenience and necessity pursuant to the provisions of RCW 81.84.010.

DATED: Jah 15, 1994.

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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the PETITION of)
SAN JUAN EXPRESS, INC. for a) NO.
CEASE AND DESIST ORDER)
MOTION E

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED HEARING AND CONSOLIDATION

Petitioner San Juan Express, Inc. ("San Juan") moves the Commission for an order (1) consolidating, pursuant to WAC 480-09-610, San Juan's Petition for a Cease and Desist Order with the pending petitions of Mosquito Fleet, Inc. and Yachtship Cruiseline, Inc. for declaratory orders; (2) instituting, with respect to said consolidated matter, a "special proceeding" under RCW 81.84.510 upon an expedited basis such that the Commission's final order shall be rendered within 45 days of the filing of San Juan's petition; and (3) permitting the parties to said "special proceeding" to submit briefs, offer oral argument, present live testimony and offer exhibits for consideration by the Commission.

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED HEARING AND CONSOLIDATION - 1

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Consolidation is appropriate for the reason that all of the petitions to be consolidated arise from a common set of facts and raise the same or closely-related issues. An expedited "special proceeding" is required because Mosquito Fleet and Yachtship are currently operating in violation of law, and petitioner San Juan and the public interest are suffering immediate and continuing harm as a result of said violations.

This motion is based upon RCW 81.84.510, WAC 480-09-610 and San Juan's petition in this matter, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

DATED: July <u>/5</u>, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,

CULP, GUTERSON & GRADER

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE - 1

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct. /Seattle, Washington