

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

SAN JUAN EXPRESS, INC.,
BC-000117

Docket

PETITION TO TEMPORARILY
DISCONTINUE COMMERCIAL FERRY
SERVICE

1. San Juan Express, Inc. (“SJE”) holder of Certificate BC-000117 provides passenger and freight service between Seattle and the San Juan Islands, Washington and brings this petition by and through its counsel David W. Wiley, Williams Kastner & Gibbs, PLLC, 601 Union Street, Suite 4100, Seattle, WA 98101.
2. SJE, pursuant to WAC 480-51-130, respectfully requests that the Commission grant it permission to temporarily discontinue providing commercial ferry service between Seattle and Friday Harbor for the 2020 sailing season including a period of up to 12 months to be measured from the current Memorial Day weekend of 2020 to Memorial Day weekend, 2021.
3. Due to the recent declaration of a national emergency because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the national and international travel agency has been decimated, with air and cruise lines in some instances permanently shutting down or seeking protection from creditors. Moreover, social distancing and protocols instituted by the Centers for Disease Control and federal, state and local government have made all forms of public passenger transportation a potential risk of public and personal health. The widespread uncertainty of when the virus will be alleviated or mitigated adds to the present uncertainty of timing.
4. For these reasons, Petitioner SJE is seeking, under applicable rule, to suspend regulated service for a maximum of 12 months. While it hopes to be able to resume seasonal service pursuant to an approved schedule, in order to allow external events to develop, asks for the requisite year

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period in order to afford it and the traveling public the necessary flexibility and sufficiency of time to respond consistent with both public health and safety and fiscal economy.

5. SJE thus contends that it is consistent with the public interest to allow it to temporarily suspend regulated service in the 2020 season until spring 2021 when it will make a final determination on resumption of service pursuant to a time schedule and sailings subject to the Commission's approval in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of March, 2020.

WILLIAMS KASTNER & GIBBS PLLC

s/ David W. Wiley

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