

Contact Information

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Comments

Utility Company Name * Docket T-101661

Do you support the filing issue?

How would you like to be contacted? *

Comments:

Commissioners:

I believe that there are two issues being discussed in this docket. The first is fuel surcharges, the second is the recently identified need from Staff to regularly see updated tariffs filed. I'd like to comment on both.

Fuel Surcharges: Governor Gregoire's Executive order 10-06 was clear- the State was not to initiate any new rules nor regulation that were going to be burdensome to Washington State business.

The fuel surcharge that we apply for each month generates income that is directly passed on to our fuel vendors to cover additional fuel expense. To remove this ability would place a new burden on us because we would have to cover the rising fuel costs out of existing income. For example a company that uses 100,000 gallons and sees prices rise from \$3/gallon to \$4/gallon has a new \$100,000 expense to cover. A fuel surcharge previously covered this expense and now can't so the increase is clearly a new burden that the commission is creating. It is therefore not allowed under the Governor's order.

Updated tariffs: Staff has held out the notion that because a new tariff hadn't been filed for years that we should now file one, before any further fuel surcharges are requested. This is despite very clear justification (using a WUTC spreadsheet) by the carriers that fuel has dramatically increased and a surcharge is required to cover the increase. It is clear then that their position isn't about a fuel surcharge but is instead about our tariff. The two issues are getting mixed up in this docket and it is not the time to be discussing a new tariff filing rule. Lets discuss this later if it is necessary, and remain focused on the fuel surcharge issue.

Sincerely

Richard Johnson
President – Airporter Shuttle