

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND PILOTS,

Respondent.

DOCKET TP-190976

ORDER 01

COMPLAINT AND ORDER  
SUSPENDING INITIAL TARIFF  
FILING

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On November 19, 2019, Puget Sound Pilots (PSP or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) its initial proposed tariff. The purpose of this filing is to increase pilotage rates that have been in place since 2015.
- 2 Also on November 19, 2019, PSP filed testimony, proposed exhibits, and supporting documentation related its proposed tariff.

**DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

- 3 Because this is PSP's first tariff filing before the Commission, the methodology for calculating its pilotage rates has not been previously evaluated by Commission staff or other stakeholders. Further, PSP's requested increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and PSP has not yet demonstrated that the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. 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**

- 4 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers

of property, and affiliated interests of public service companies, including providers of marine pilotage services.

- 5 (2) PSP is a marine pilotage service provider and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) The proposed tariff PSP filed on November 19, 2019, would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSP and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (4) PSP has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 8 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission finds it is necessary to investigate PSP's books, accounts, practices and activities, and appraise various phases of PSP's operations.
- 9 (6) The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b) and that the parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), PSP bears the burden to prove that the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 11 (8) PSP may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with Chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 12 (9) The Commission should convene a prehearing conference in this matter, Docket TP-190976.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The filing made by Puget Sound Pilots on November 19, 2019, is suspended.
- 14 (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' service, rates, and charges related to its November 19, 2019, filing.

- 15 (3) Puget Sound Pilots must not change or alter the filing made in these dockets during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 16 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Pilots' books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations related to its November 19, 2019, filing.
- 17 (5) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 18 (6) Puget Sound Pilots shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with Chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 19 (7) The Commission will convene a prehearing conference in this matter, Docket TP-190976.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective November 21, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner