

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. TV-050683
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
Amending Household Goods Tariff)	ORDER DIRECTING
15-A, Relating to Intrastate)	INCREASED MAXIMUM
Transportation.)	HOUSEHOLD GOODS RATES
.....)	
.)	

BACKGROUND

1 RCW 81.80.150 assigns responsibilities to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) relating to tariffs applying to the transportation of property (household goods) in intrastate commerce. Among these duties are:

- (a) Compiling tariffs containing rates, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations to be used by all common carriers;
- (b) Selling and distributing copies of the compiled tariffs;
- (c) Amending and altering compiled tariffs after notice and hearing, by issuing and distributing revised pages or supplements to the tariffs; and
- (d) Reissuing tariffs when appropriate.

2 WAC 480-15-490 (2)(b)(ii) requires the Commission to adjust the maximum rates and charges each June 1, through 2005, by an index calculated using the first quarter Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) of the Gross Domestic Product. The Bureau of Economic Analysis releases the first quarter IPD number in stages. The first IPD number released is called the *advance* number. The *advance* IPD number was released on April 28, 2005. The second IPD number released is called the *preliminary* number. The difference between the advance and preliminary

numbers is small, ranging from a .02 percent decrease to a .04 percent increase for 2001 through 2004.

3 The Commission prefers to use the *preliminary* IPD number in its calculation because it is the most accurate index available before the June 1st deadline. However, this year the *preliminary* IPD number will not be released until after the May 24, 2005, open meeting. Because the difference between the *advance* and *preliminary* numbers is minimal, delaying the increase until the June 16, 2005, open meeting may adversely affect the companies. Staff discussed this with the Executive Director of the Washington Movers Conference, who supported the use of the *advance* number. Therefore, the Commission will use the *advance* IPD number in its calculation of the increase of the maximum household goods rates.

4 The calculated index shows the household goods maximum rates should be increased by 2.87 percent.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate public service companies, including household goods carriers. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 81.01 RCW; Chapter 81.04 RCW; Chapter 81.28 RCW and Chapter 81.80 RCW.*
- 6 (2) The household goods maximum rates should be increased 2.87 percent effective June 1, 2005.
- 7 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 24, 2005.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) The household goods Tariff 15-A shall be revised and republished to reflect a 2.87 percent increase to the maximum rates. The effective date of the increased rates shall be June 1, 2005.

The Commissioners, having determined this filing to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 24th day of May, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary