

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM :
COUNCIL TARIFF FILING - 2023 RATES : DOCKET NO. 23-08-FR**

ORDER

On February 24, 2023, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (Tourism Council) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing June 3, 2023. In support of its request, the Tourism Council stated that it has managed to maintain its current rates since 2016, however, due to an increase in operation expense, it filed to change its rates. The Tourism Council proposed to increase its rates for adult passengers from \$12.00 to \$20.00, and for senior and children from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Pirate Tours will be offered at \$25.00 for adults and \$20.00 for seniors and children. Education tours and charters will be offered at \$325.00.

On May 5, 2023, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) filed a memorandum noting that it does not object the proposed rates and recommended approval. In its memorandum, the Division noted that the Tourism Council is a non-profit agency offering cruises which are purely discretionary and, therefore, the Division did not believe a hearing on the matter was necessary.

On May 15, 2023, the PUC considered the matter at an Open Meeting and found the proposed rates to be proper, reasonable, and in the best interests of the ratepayers. The PUC further found that a comprehensive rate proceeding is not required in this matter and therefore elected to exercise its option under R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-3-12, finding good cause to exist to waive further investigation, further notice, and public

hearing based upon the fact that the services proposed by the applicant do not constitute lifeline ferry services to an isolated ratepayer population.

Accordingly, it is

(24656) ORDERED:

That the February 24, 2023 tariff filing made by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, seeking approval of its rates for ferry transportation along the Blackstone River commencing on June 3, 2023, is hereby approved.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JUNE 3, 2023, PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON MAY 15, 2023. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON MAY 17, 2023.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



Abigail Anthony, Commissioner



John C. Revens, Jr., Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.