

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

Re: Pennsylvania PUC
v.
Yellow Cab Company of Pittsburgh

Public Meeting: July 30, 2015
2487170-TUS
Docket Nos. A-00049926 & R-2015-2487170

MOTION OF COMMISSIONER JAMES H. CAWLEY

Before us is Yellow Cab Company of Pittsburgh's (Yellow Cab) Tariff Call or Demand Pa. PUC No. 33, filed June 11, 2015 with a proposed effective date of July 13, 2015. The Tariff proposes increases to the first 1/7th of a mile (\$2.25 to \$4.00), waiting time (\$.25 to \$.55 per minute), and to both the applicable times and charges for weekend and holiday surcharges (adding Fridays and Saturdays 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. to applicable times the surcharge will be charged, and changing the surcharge rate from \$1 per trip to up to \$8 per trip).

To ensure that all rates charged by a public utility are just and reasonable, the Commission's Bureau of Technical Utility Services (TUS) recommends denial of this tariff because Yellow Cab has proposed a variable surcharge rate that does not allow a passenger to determine if it is the proper amount, and because the amount charged appears to be arbitrarily determined. With this Order, TUS also notifies Yellow Cab that it must cease and desist utilizing a surcharge that was approved by emergency order on January 14, 2008. This surcharge allowed Yellow Cab to adjust costs in implementing the Unified Carrier Registration Program by charging passengers a surcharge equal to 1% of the final fare for the trip from March 1, 2008 to March 1, 2009.

The proposed changes to the weekend and holiday surcharge should be denied. The application of a surcharge should be clear and consistent, and should enable passengers to determine if the surcharge is being applied properly. Rather than denying the entirety of Yellow Cab's Tariff No. 33, the remaining portions of the tariff changes—the increase in the first 1/7th mile or fraction thereof and the increase in the waiting time per minute—should be remanded to TUS for financial analysis and a determination of justness and reasonableness. This may avoid an unnecessary delay in approving just and reasonable rate increases proposed by Yellow Cab while it modifies that weekend and holiday surcharge petition.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT:

1. The Yellow Cab Company of Pittsburgh Call or Demand Pa. PUC No. 33 regular rate increases (first 1/7th of a mile or fraction thereof, and waiting time) be remanded to TUS for financial analysis and determination of justness and reasonableness.
2. The Yellow Cab Company of Pittsburgh Call or Demand Pa. PUC No. 33 weekend and holiday surcharge changes be denied.
3. That Yellow Cab Company of Pittsburgh immediately cease and desist from utilizing the surcharge that expired March 1, 2009.

DATE: July 30, 2015



James H. Cawley, Commissioner