

Agenda Date: February 14, 2008
Item Number: B4

Docket: **TG-080105**
Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Pierce County Disposal, G-98

Staff: Layne Demas, Transportation Program Staff
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Program Staff

Recommendation

Take no action on this filing at this time to allow for customer comments.

Discussion

On January 16, 2008, Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Pierce County Disposal, G-98 (Pierce County Disposal), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$1,560,000 (7.56 percent) in additional revenue per year. The tariff revisions propose to increase rates for solid waste collection, curbside recycling, and update the recycle commodity credit. Pierce County Disposal serves approximately 45,000 residential and commercial customers in southern Pierce County and a small portion of northern Thurston County. Pierce County Disposal's last general rate increase became effective March 1, 2007. The proposed rate revisions are prompted by an increase in disposal fees, labor and benefits, and increased investment. Disposal fees are increasing in Pierce County from \$98.89 to \$101.95 per ton and in Thurston County from \$72.46 to \$76.00 per ton.

Today's presentation allows customers or other interested parties to comment to the commission. No action is required by the commission. Staff will make its recommendation to the commission at the open meeting on February 28, 2008.

Pierce County Disposal notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail on January 31, 2008. The table shows the number and type of comments received.

The commission received eleven comments on this filing. The commenting customers believe the requested rate increase is: (1) more than what inflationary rates should be, (2) excessive when the company owns the landfill, (3) unjust when the company is profiting from the landfill, (4) unjust when consumers' incomes are not increasing proportionally, (5) unjust to retired citizens living on limited and fixed incomes and (6) out of proportion to area wages and inflation. One consumer stated he did not like paying for benefits for another company that he himself cannot afford.

Rate Comparison

<u>Residential - monthly rates</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
One 32 gallon Can per week	\$ 12.50	\$ 14.25
Two 32 gallon Cans per week	18.70	21.00
One 65 gallon Cart per week	19.15	20.15
One 95 gallon Cart per week	24.10	25.95
Curbside Recycling	4.35	5.02
Recycle Commodity Credit	(1.68)	(1.90)
<u>Commercial - per pickup</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
One Yard Container -1 st pick up	\$ 19.60	\$ 25.60
One Yard Container – additional pick ups	12.52	13.16
Two Yard Containers -1 st pick up	33.91	41.56
Two Yard Containers – additional pick ups	23.15	23.56
20 Yard Drop Box – 1 st pick up	123.00	160.00
20 Yard Drop Box – additional pick ups	70.00	115.00

Commission staff has not yet completed its review of Pierce County Disposal's supporting financial documents, books and records.

Conclusion

Take no action on this filing at this time to allow for customer comments.