

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	DOCKET TG-981476
Complainant,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT,
	)	LIFTING SUSPENSION AND
NOOKSACK VALLEY DISPOSAL, INC.	)	APPROVING PERMANENT RATES
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
.....	)	

On November 16, 1998, Nooksack Valley Disposal, Inc., Permit No. G-166, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Tariff No. 3, replacing Tariff No. 2, naming rates to become effective January 1, 1999.

Tariff No. 3 would have effected an increase in residential and commercial garbage rates, an increase in residential curbside recycling, the discontinuance of the deferred accounting tracker for disposal fees, and the institution of deferred accounting for the value of curbside residential recycled commodities.

At the Commission's open public meeting of December 30, 1998, the Commission suspended the filing because it found that the company had not demonstrated the proposed rates were fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The Commission ordered an investigation to ensure the rights and interests of the public would not be injuriously affected.

The Commission Staff has completed its investigation into the rates and charges contained in Docket TG-981476. The investigation established that rates and charges filed by the respondent were excessive. Staff ascertained that there was no revenue requirement for the garbage operations and only a \$17,965 additional revenue requirement for the recycling operations verses the \$40,004 requested in the company's filing.

The respondent has accepted the Commission Staff recommendations and Staff-recommended rate levels. The respondent has filed substitute tariff sheets on March 30, 1999, to reflect the Staff recommendations and rate levels. Commission Staff has verified that the replacement tariff sheets are appropriate.

At the open public meeting of March 31, 1999, Commission Staff recommended that Tariff No. 3 as revised by the respondent on March 30, 1999, be allowed to become effective as permanent rates. Staff recommended that

Supplement 3 also be accepted, but to expire on August 31, 2001, or when the total amount over-refunded has been recovered, if prior to August 31, 2001. Further, Staff recommended that the proposed deferred accounting methodology for the value of curbside residential recycled commodities be approved as filed reflecting a \$0.28 credit to be applied against the revised recycle rate. Staff also recommended the discontinuance of the company's deferred accounting tracker for disposal fees.

Pursuant to review of the filing, testimony and Staff recommendations, the Commission accepts the Commission Staff recommendations. The Commission finds that the Complaint and Order suspending Docket TG-981476 should be dismissed and Tariff No. 3 should be allowed to become effective as revised and filed by the respondent.

**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED That:

1. The Complaint and Order issued December 30, 1998, suspending Docket TG-981476 is hereby dismissed.

2. Tariff 3, as revised and filed by the respondent on March 30, 1999, be allowed to become effective April 1, 1999 on a permanent basis. Supplement No. 3 is also accepted, but to expire August 31, 2001, or when the total amount over-refunded has been recovered, if prior to August 31, 2001.

DATED and signed at Olympia, Washington, this 31st day of March, 1999.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

  
MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

  
RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

  
WILLIAM R. GILLIS, Commissioner