

Agenda Date: February 12, 2009  
Item Number: B2

**Docket:** TG-090087  
Company Name: Rubatino Refuse Removal, Inc., G-58

Staff: Nicki Johnson, Regulatory Analyst  
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Protection Staff

### **Recommendation**

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

### **Discussion**

On January 14, 2009, Rubatino Refuse Removal, Inc., (Rubatino or company), filed with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) tariff revisions for garbage, recycling, and yardwaste collection services that would generate \$1,170,000 (7.1 percent) in additional annual revenue. The proposed rates are prompted by increases in disposal fees, labor, and other operating costs. Snohomish County is increasing disposal fees from \$89 to \$105 per ton. The company serves approximately 19,000 customers in Snohomish County. Rubatino's last general rate increase became effective in July 2004.

The company provides weekly collection for its voluntary yardwaste program, except during December, January and February when the collection is monthly. Currently, the company bills yardwaste customers for nine months out of the year (there is no charge for December, January and February). Customers pay \$80.10 for a year of service. The company's proposed rates change the billing so that customers would pay \$9.00 all 12 months of the year. Customers would pay \$108.00 for a year of service. Proposed rates increase yardwaste revenues by approximately \$239,000 (34.8 percent).

Today's presentation allows customers or other parties to make comments to the commission concerning the company's proposed rates. No action is required by the commission. Staff will make its recommendation to the commission at the open meeting scheduled for February 26, 2009.

### **Customer Comments**

On January 29, 2009, the company notified its customers of the rate increase by mail. The commission has received no customer comments on this filing.

**Rate Comparison**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Residential Monthly Rates</b>		
One Can Weekly Service	\$13.15	\$14.32
48 Gallon Cart Weekly Service	\$17.50	\$19.05
Mandatory Recycling – Weekly Service	\$5.80	\$6.32
Voluntary Yardwaste – Weekly Service	\$8.90	\$9.00
<b>Commercial</b>		
One Yard Container Service Per Month	\$64.26	\$69.98
20 Yard Drop Box Service Per Pick-up	\$69.36	\$73.52

**Average Customer Charge Comparison – One Can Garbage**

<b>Monthly Garbage</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Garbage Component	\$13.15	\$14.32
Mandatory Recycling – Weekly Service	\$5.80	\$6.32
Recycle Commodity Credit	\$2.25	\$2.25
Total Garbage and Mandatory Recycling	\$16.70	\$18.39
		10.1%
Total Garbage and Mandatory Recycling	\$16.70	\$18.39
Voluntary Yardwaste Weekly Service	\$8.90	\$9.00
Total Garbage, Mandatory Recycling and Voluntary Yardwaste	\$25.60	\$27.39
		7.0%

Commission staff has not yet completed its review of the company's supporting financial documents, books and records.

**Conclusion**

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