

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In re the Matter of:

Petition for Exemption by Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a  
Tri-County Disposal

Case No. TG-

PETITION FOR EXEMPTION FROM  
PORTIONS OF WAC 480-07-520(4)

1 COMES NOW Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Tri-County Disposal (“Tri-County Disposal,” or  
“Petitioner”), 1600 127th Avenue NE, Bellevue, Washington, 98005, by and through their  
counsel Williams Kastner & Gibbs PLLC and David W. Wiley, 601 Union Street, Suite 4100,  
Seattle, Washington, 98101, and hereby petitions the Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission (“the Commission”), pursuant to WAC 480-70-051, WAC 480-  
07-110 and WAC 480-07-370(1)(b), seeking an exemption from certain requirements of the  
general rate proceeding workpaper filing requirements. The request for exemption is sought  
as applied to Rabanco, Ltd. as the “Company,” in interpretation and application of the rule  
requirement in light of the revised Commission policy for stricter enforcement of the general  
rate case rule and consistent with the Commission’s decision in Order No. 4, TG-091933,  
*Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Waste Management of Washington, Inc. d/b/a*  
*Waste Management of Sno-King* and Order No. 3, TG-091945 in re the *Petition of Waste*  
*Management, Inc. d/b/a Waste Management of Sno-King* (March, 2010), (hereinafter the “*Sno-King*  
*Order*”).<sup>1</sup>

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2 This filing seeks exemptions from specific portions of WAC 480-07-520(4) in asking that the  
Commission not require in this filing, in addition to the substantial workpapers being filed

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<sup>1</sup> Rabanco, Ltd. is comparable to Waste Management of Washington, Inc. (“WMW”), in operating here as a single corporate entity in regulated service with numerous separate operating divisions spanning multiple counties within multiple tariff filing areas.

herewith under WAC 480-07-520, that certain supporting documents and computations be applied to Rabanco, Ltd., as opposed to Tri-County Disposal, as the tariff-filing entity.

II. SPECIFIC PORTIONS OF WAC 480-07-520(4) FROM WHICH PETITIONER NOW SEEKS EXEMPTION/RELAXATION OF/FROM THE GENERAL RATE CASE WORKPAPERS FILING RULE

3 Request for Exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4)(a). Petitioner here seeks exemption from the workpaper detailed pro forma income statement requirement to the extent that it asks that subparts (i) and (ii) for restating “actual adjustments” and “pro forma adjustments” be limited to demonstration of the impact upon Tri-County Disposal rather than Rabanco, Ltd. as a whole.

4 WAC 480-07-520(b). No exemption requested.

5 WAC 480-07-520(c). No exemption requested.

6 WAC 480-07-520(d). Petitioner here seeks application of the subpart 4(d) requirement on non-regulated revenue exceeding 10% of total company test period revenue in limiting the workpaper computations and submissions to Tri-County Disposal, as the tariff-filing entity, and further asks that the detailed separation of all revenue and expenses requirement in subsection 4(d) apply to intracompany transactions between Tri-County Disposal as the tariff-filing entity and Rabanco, Ltd. as the company as a whole, providing what would be analogously required for disclosure under the affiliated interest transaction rule of 480-70-079 but for the fact that Tri-County Disposal is a part of Rabanco, Ltd.

7 WAC 480-07-520(e). Petitioner is requesting a partial exemption from the requirement of listing all unregulated operations of Rabanco, Ltd. to the extent that it asks that this requirement be limited to unregulated city contracts and businesses and any transactions or relationships between those Tri-County Disposal-based business operations and other Rabanco, Ltd. business entities.

8 WAC 480-07-520(f). Petitioner here seeks limitation of the detailed price-out information and reconciliation requirement of this subpart of the general rate case workpaper rule to be here applied to Tri-County Disposal, the tariff-filing entity, only.

9 WAC 480-07-520(g). No exemption requested. (See attachment of parent company cost of debt computation).

10 WAC 480-07-520(h). Petitioner hereby seeks an exemption to limit the detailed depreciation schedule applicable to the test period to the tariff-filing entity only, Tri-County Disposal.

11 WAC 480-07-520(i). Petitioner asks that the computed average investment calculation requirement be limited to applying only to the tariff-filing entity, Tri-County Disposal, in presenting computed average investment information.

12 WAC 480-07-520(j). No exemption requested.

### III. ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS OF GENERAL WORKPAPER FILING RULE

13 Petitioner acknowledges the Commission's letters to the industry of April 16, 2009 and November 3, 2009 cited at footnote 5 at page 4 of the *Sno-King* Order which announced the stricter policy of the Commission regarding workpaper filing requirements in general rate cases. As Staff of the Commission is aware, the historic practice of rate case submissions logically isolated and focused upon the particular division within G-12 then seeking a rate adjustment at any particular juncture.

14 G-12, like Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s Certificate G-237, contains multiple counties, varying geographic routes and tariff filing divisions comprising Rabanco, Ltd., of which Tri-County Disposal which, along with Eastside Disposal, Allied Waste of Lynnwood, Allied Waste of Kent d/b/a Sea-Tac Disposal and Rabanco Recycling Companies are all divisions. Combined G-12 operations currently service approximately 48,700 regulated

residential customers and 2,100 regulated commercial customers in Snohomish, King and Klickitat Counties. Many of the subparts of WAC 480-07-520, in application, implicate broad swaths of territory and disparate routes and operations in both regulated and unregulated services. Historically, accounting data has been maintained based upon and oriented to those separate operating and tariff-filing divisions and it is thus very difficult to aggregate the various data in its current format to be correlated for “the Company,” or G-12, as a whole.

15 While Petitioner and Rabanco, Ltd. have been progressing in conformance of those accounting data to the expectations and parameters of the general rate case workpaper rule over the past two years, there clearly remains a considerable distance to go before Company-wide data (such as a depreciation schedule, WAC 480-07-520(4)(h)), tied to the annual report and reported results of operation for Rabanco, Ltd. can be fully reconciled and subject to detailed and accurate bifurcation by any tariff-filing entity within G-12. In short, the current reliability of the Company-wide calculations and correlations do not have the susceptibility to audit review that does data derived from and pertinent to the operations of the tariff-filing division, Tri-County Disposal.

16 Because of the greater detail and reconcilable qualities of the individual division’s data reporting for a general rate case, Petitioner believes modification/relaxation of the general rate case workpaper rule for the filing by Tri-County Disposal is fully consistent with the public interest as required by WAC 480-07-110 and WAC 480-70-051<sup>2</sup>, allowing exemption from any rule in WAC 480-70 if consistent with the public interest and the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes, and that exemptions from the general rate workpaper rule should therefore be granted.

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<sup>2</sup> As found in a prior exemption request in TG-101157, *in re: Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal*, Order No. 1 (July, 2010).


17 Indeed, all of the exemptions here requested under the particular subparts of the rule appear to be consistent with the *Sno-King* Order. As in *Sno-King*, the corporate structure of Rabanco, Ltd. has numerous distinct regulated and unregulated lines of business within a single corporation operating within numerous counties. Granting the exemption would furthermore relieve a material administrative burden for both the Company and the Commission in processing another successive rate filing in light of presently unattainable Company-wide data refinement that does not bear upon or have a direct relationship to the results of operations of Tri-County Disposal and would be counter-productive to the goal of regulatory efficiency and economy in addressing all pertinent financial impacts raised in this filing which again is limited to the regulated tariff and overall operations of Tri-County Disposal.

#### IV. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

18 For all the foregoing reasons, Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Tri-County Disposal, respectfully asks that the Commission consider the specific requests for exemption from portions of WAC 480-07-520(4) noted above, and that after due consideration, it issue an order granting the Petition in full, and thereafter, allowing conventional audit and review by the audit staff of the general rate case accompanying this filing.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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DAVID W. WILEY  
Attorney for Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Tri-County Disposal

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 16, 2011, I caused to be served the original and three (3) copies of the foregoing document to the following address via first class mail, postage prepaid to:

David Danner, Executive Director and Secretary  
Policy and Legislative Issues  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

I certify I have also provided to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's Secretary an official electronic file containing the foregoing document via email to: [records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov).

  
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Lyndsay C. Taylor