

Agenda Date: April 25, 2024
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG- 240147
Company Name: Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services

Staff: Jeanine Leggett, Regulatory Services
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services, on February 28, 2024, to become effective May 1, 2023, by operation of law.

Discussion

On February 28, 2024, Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services (Eastside or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$534,269 (7.1 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company serves approximately 29,000 residential and commercial garbage customers in King County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on May 1, 2023.

The reasons for this request are inflationary pressures on key operating costs which include repair and shop expenses, insurance and taxation (mostly B&O). Commission Staff (Staff) adjusted the Company's fuel expense, bringing it to the most current 12 months per WAC 480-70-346, however most of the trucks run on compressed natural gas (CNG). Per the Lurito Gallagher models, residential recycling has been subsidizing multi-family recycling. With this general rate case and rate recommendations the subsidy is being reduced and will be totally eliminated in future filings.

Staff has completed its review of the Company's books and records and believes the Company has demonstrated the rate increase is necessary to provide service. Staff believes the revised rates agreed upon by the Company are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Rate Comparison

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Percent Increase
Garbage			
Appendix A&B:			
32 gal 1x wk.	\$16.96	\$18.54	9.3%
64 gal 1x a wk.	\$28.22	\$30.85	9.3%
MF 4 yard	\$103.99	\$117.52	13.0%
MF 30 yard	\$339.24	\$399.62	17.7%
Yard Waste and Recycling			
Appendix A: EOW Recycling			
96 gal 1x wk. RC	\$11.15	\$10.67	-4.3%
96 gal YW	\$11.34	\$12.44	9.7%
MF Recycling per yard	\$6.18	\$7.77	25.7%
Appendix B: Weekly Recycling			
96 gal RC	\$13.82	\$13.25	-4.1%
96 gal YW	\$14.88	\$16.32	9.6%
MF Recycling per yard	\$6.18	\$7.77	25.7%

Customer Comments

On March 15, 2024, the Company notified its customers by mail of a proposed 7 percent rate increase for the collection of solid waste, recycling, and yard waste. Staff received 8 consumer comments. All customers were opposed to the rate increase because they felt that inflation is high, the Seattle CPI is only at 5.3 percent and that they cannot afford a rate increase because they are on a fixed/low income. Customers were notified that they may access relevant documents about this rate increase on the commission's website, and that they may contact Kris Irelan at (888) 333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov with questions or concerns.

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services, on February 28, 2024, to become effective May 1, 2023, by operation of law.