



FROM Benjamin Sharbono
DATE October 20, 2021
SUBJECT TG-190358, Torre Refuse & Recycling, LLC
 dba: Sunshine Disposal & Recycling
 Redacted per WAC 480-07-160

Discussion:

Torre Refuse & Recycling, LLC (Torre, TRR or company) is a Class “A” solid waste company as defined in rule; WAC 480-70-041 with over \$9.5 million in regulated intrastate gross revenues. As required in WAC 480-70-079, the company filed on May 24, 2021, with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC or commission) a report on its affiliated interest and subsidiary transactions.

Scope of Staff Investigation:

Staff will examine the filing in UTC Docket TG-210406 and answer the following questions:

1. Does the information provided by the company meet the requirements of WAC 480-70-079?
2. As a result of examining the transactions contained in this filing, what areas and elements of affiliate contracts and arrangements will need to be examined in a future rate case to validate that they are reasonable and consistent with the public interest?

Requirements set forth in WAC 480-70-079:

WAC 480-70-079 requires regulated solid waste companies to provide the commission with the following information relating to transactions between a regulated solid waste company and its affiliate(s):

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Staff opinion</i>
Corporate organization chart of the company and its affiliated interests and subsidiaries (WAC 480-70-079 (2)).	Torre has met this requirement.

For 2020, TRR is reporting transactions with five separate affiliates four with transaction volumes over \$100,000 and 1 with a transaction volume under \$100,000:

1. Ada-Lin Waste Systems, Inc. (AWS) – Received from Torre equipment repair, management, procurement, facility, accounting and customer service support [REDACTED];
2. Sunshine Recyclers, Inc. (SRI) – Received from Torre equipment repair, management, procurement, facility, accounting, and customer service support [REDACTED]; and

3. Sunshine Disposal, Inc. (SDI) – Sunshine Disposal, Inc. is wholly owned by Sunshine Recyclers, Inc. Received from Torre equipment repair, management, procurement, facility, accounting, and customer service support [REDACTED].
4. WSF, LLC – Torre paid to WSF container maintenance, manufacturing and truck component purchasing [REDACTED].
5. SCLC, LLC – Torre paid to SCLC facility rental [REDACTED].

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Staff opinion</i>
WAC 480-70-079 (3) states that if total affiliated interest or a subsidiary are less than \$100,000 for the reporting period, the company must provide the name of the affiliated interest or subsidiary participating in the transactions and the total dollar amounts of the transactions.	Torre has met this requirement.
For transactions over \$100,000 the following information is also required by rule (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (a) through (g) and WAC 480-70-079 (4))	
<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Staff opinion</i>
Balance sheet and income statement for such affiliated interest (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (a)).	Torre has met this requirement.
Description of the products or services provided to or from the company and each such affiliated interest or subsidiary (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (b)).	Torre has met this requirement.
Description of the pricing basis or costing method, and procedures for allocating costs for such products or services, and the amount and accounts charged during the year (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (c)).	Torre has met this requirement.

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Staff opinion</i>
Description of the terms of any loans between the company and each such affiliated interest or subsidiary and a listing of the year-end loan amounts and maximum loan amounts outstanding during the year (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (d)).	Torre has met this requirement. Loans due to or from Torre at a rate of 3.25% (paid at bank’s prime rate). Balances at the end of December 31, 2020, are summarized below: 1. AWS payable to TRR - [REDACTED] 2. SRI payable to TRR - [REDACTED] 3. SDI payable to TRR - [REDACTED]
Description of the terms and total amount of any obligation or liability assumed by the company for each such affiliated interest or subsidiary (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (e)).	Torre has met this requirement.
Description of the activities of each such affiliated interest or subsidiary with which the company has transactions (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (f)).	Torre has met this requirement.
A list of all common officers and directors between the solid waste company and each such affiliated interest or subsidiary, along with their titles in each organization (WAC 480-70-079 (3) (g)).	Torre has met this requirement.
File copies of affiliated interest contracts and arrangements as stated in WAC 480-70-078 (WAC 480-70-079 (4)).	Reported none.

Areas and Elements Examined in the Next Rate Case:

(Prior Note) Allocation for services provided by company to its affiliates; amounts paid by Torre for maintenance and truck component purchasing, especially to WSF as the rate contains a “customary markup” and the amount of payments has increased significantly, and any potential effect on regulated customer rates; loan, interest, and repayment transactions with affiliates and any impact on regulated customer rates.

(2019 Note) Loan amounts from 2017 to 2018 increased significantly as well as the cost for container maintenance and manufacturing and truck component purchasing. From [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. Also, the 2017 AI report had the dollar exchange backwards for WSF and SCLC.

(2021 Note) Container maintenance and manufacturing costs have increased by approximately 30 percent from 2018 [REDACTED] to 2020 [REDACTED] and may warrant additional review. The loan balances owed to TRR have significantly reduced, with the loan payable to SRI converting to balance owed to TRR.

Conclusion:

Take no other action on this filing at this time and close the docket.