

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Tariff Revisions to	)	DOCKETS TG-140041 and
Increase Rates Due to a Disposal Fee	)	TG-140042
Increase Filed by	)	
	)	ORDER 01
MURREY’S DISPOSAL COMPANY,	)	
INC., AND AMERICAN DISPOSAL	)	ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
COMPANY, INC.	)	FROM RULE
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On January 9, 2014, Murrey’s Disposal Company, Inc., and American Disposal Company, Inc. (Murrey’s and American or Companies), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to Tariff 26 to recover the increased cost of disposal fees. On February 6, 2014, the Companies filed revised pages. The Companies serve approximately 53,000 customers in Pierce County. The Companies’ last general rate increase became effective on October 16, 2013.
  
- 2 On March 1, 2014, Pierce County Recycling, Composting, and Disposal, LLC, will increase disposal fees from \$137.08 per ton to \$139.38 per ton. Staff’s analysis shows that the Companies’ proposed rate increase to recover these increased fees would generate approximately \$145,000 (.5 percent) additional annual revenue and become effective March 1, 2014.
  
- 3 A disposal fee increase falls within the definition of a general rate increase pursuant to WAC 480-07-505. WAC 480-07-520 lists the minimum required information the Companies must provide in a general rate increase filing. The Companies provided information pertinent to the disposal fee increase but did not provide the remainder of the information required by the rule and requested an exemption from the work paper filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520(4).
  
- 4 WAC 480-07-110 allows the Commission to grant an exemption from or modify the application of its rules if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-70-051.
  
- 5 Commission Staff reviewed the proposed tariff request together with other factors and recommends the Commission allow the tariff to become effective by operation of law, and grant the Companies an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), work paper filing requirements for this filing for the following reasons:

- (a) There have not been any significant changes since the last rate cases that became effective on October 16, 2013. Reviewing the rate case documents, customer numbers are relatively unchanged, inflation has been low, and the Companies have not changed their collection methods.
- (b) The increased disposal fees are set by Pierce County Recycling, Composting, and Disposal, LLC and are required as a part of the Companies' operations.
- (c) The Companies' financial information supports the proposed revenue requirement and the proposed rates.
- (d) Staff concluded the proposed rate increase, by reason of the increase in disposal fees, is fair, just, and reasonable.

### **DISCUSSION**

6 The Commission concurs with Staff's recommendation. The purpose of the work paper filing requirements in WAC 480-07-520(4) is to provide the Commission with information to determine whether a proposed rate increase is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Here, the Companies have provided sufficient information to enable the Commission to make that determination, and providing the additional information the rule requires would be unnecessary and unduly burdensome. Accordingly, an exemption from this requirement for purposes of the filings in these dockets is consistent with the public interest and the purposes underlying the rule and should be granted.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 7 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, and accounts of public service companies, including solid waste companies.
- 8 (2) Murrey's and American are engaged in the business of providing solid waste services within the state of Washington and are public service companies subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) Murrey's and American are subject to the filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520, for general rate increase proposals. The Companies requested an exemption

from WAC 480-07-520(4) and did not file the work papers required by WAC 480-07-520(4).

- 10 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 27, 2014.
- 11 (5) An exemption from general rate increase filing requirements set forth in WAC 480-07-520(4) for the filing in these dockets is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.
- 12 (6) It is in the public interest to allow the revisions to Tariff 26 filed on January 9, 2014, and revised on February 6, 2014, to become effective on March 1, 2014, by operation of law.

**ORDER**

- 13 THE COMMISSION GRANTS Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., and American Disposal Company, Inc.'s, requests for an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), for purposes of the tariff revisions filed in Dockets TG-140041 and TG-140042 on January 9, 2014, and revised on February 6, 2014.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 27, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary