

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Tariff Revisions to	)	DOCKET TG-130711
Increase Rates Due to a Disposal Fee	)	
Increase Filed by	)	ORDER 01
	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
MASON COUNTY GARBAGE CO.,	)	FROM RULE AND ALLOWING
INC.,	)	TARIFF REVISIONS TO BECOME
	)	EFFECTIVE BY OPERATION OF
Certificate G-88	)	LAW
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On May 8, 2013, Mason County Garbage Co., Inc. (Mason County Garbage or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to Tariff No. 13 to increase rates due to a disposal fee increase. The Company also requests that the Commission, on its own Motion under WAC 480-07-370(b), allow this disposal fee filing as an exception to the general rate case work paper rule at WAC 480-07-520. The Company serves approximately 9,800 customers in Mason County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on April 1, 2013.
  
- 2 On July 1, 2013, the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners will increase disposal fees from \$62.02 per ton to \$65.00 per ton at the Olympic View Transfer Station. The proposed rate increase would generate approximately \$10,700 (0.2 percent) additional annual revenue and become effective July 1, 2013.
  
- 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 Company must provide in a general rate increase filing. The Company provided information pertinent to the disposal fee increase but did not provide the remainder of the information required by the rule and did not request 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 WAC 480-07-370(1)(b)(i) states, in part, that the Commission may undertake an action  
that would be the proper subject of a party's petition, such as authorizing exemption from  
a Commission rule, without receiving a petition from a party.

6 Commission Staff reviewed the tariff request together with other factors and recommends  
the Commission allow the tariff to become effective by operation of law, and, on its own  
motion, grant the Company 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 case that became effective on April 1, 2013. Reviewing the rate case documents, customer numbers are relatively unchanged, inflation has been low, and the Company has not changed its collection methods.
- (b) The increased disposal fees are set by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners and are required as a part of the Company's operations.
- (c) The Company's 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.

### **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, accounts and affiliated interests of public service  
companies, including solid waste companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01,  
RCW 81.04, RCW 81.16, RCW 81.28 and RCW 81.77.
- 8 (2) Mason County Garbage is engaged in the business of providing solid waste  
services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to  
Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) Mason County Garbage is subject to the filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520,  
for general rate increase proposals. The Company did not file the work papers  
required by WAC 480-07-520(4) and did not request an exemption from WAC

480-07-520(4). WAC 480-07-370(1)(b)(i) states, in part, that the Commission may undertake an action that would be the proper subject of a party's petition, such as authorizing exemption from a Commission rule, without receiving a petition from a party.

10 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 27, 2013.

11 (5) After review of the petition filed in Docket TG-130711 by Mason County Garbage on May 8, 2013, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds:

(a) An exemption from the general rate increase filing requirements set forth in WAC 480-07-520(4) is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should, on the Commission's own motion, be granted; and

(b) It is in the public interest to allow the revisions to Tariff No. 13 filed on May 8, 2013, to become effective on July 1, 2013, by operation of law.

### **ORDER**

#### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

12 (1) After the effective date of this Order, the Commission, on its own motion, grants Mason County Garbage Co., Inc., an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), for purposes of the tariff revisions filed in Docket TG-130711 on May 8, 2013.

13 (2) The Commission takes no action on the tariff revisions implementing the disposal fee increase and allows them to become effective on July 1, 2013, by operation of law.

14 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Mason County Garbage Co., Inc., to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

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 June 27, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Acting Executive Director and Secretary