

Agenda Date: January 28, 2015  
Item Number: B1

**Docket:** TG-152350  
Company Name: Carroll-Naslund Disposal Service, Inc.  
dba Naslund Disposal Service, Inc., G-37

Staff: Greg Hammond, Regulatory Analyst  
Ann LaRue, Regulatory Analyst  
John Cupp, Consumer Protection Staff

### **Recommendation**

1. Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Carroll-Naslund Disposal Service, Inc. dba Naslund Disposal Service, Inc., on December 15, 2015, and revised on January 20 and 21, 2016.
2. Allow the revised rates, filed on January 20 and 21, 2016, to become effective on February 1, 2016, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.

### **Discussion**

On December 15, 2015, Carroll-Naslund Disposal Service, Inc. dba Naslund Disposal Service, Inc. (Naslund or company), filed revisions to Tariff No. 4 with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) that would generate approximately \$95,000 (8.1 percent) additional annual revenue. The proposed increase would become effective February 1, 2016, and is prompted by increases in disposal fees, wages, postage, insurance, and other operating expenses. Naslund currently serves approximately 3,700 residential, commercial, and drop box customers in Asotin and Garfield Counties. The company's last general rate increase became effective May 1, 2009.

Commission staff has not completed its review of the company's supporting financial documents. Several data requests are still outstanding and staff requires more time to complete its analysis. However, there is a disposal fee increase of approximately \$38,900 (3.8 percent) scheduled to become effective February 1, 2016.

On January 20 and 21, 2016, the company filed revised tariff pages reflecting a disposal fee only rate increase, at staff recommended levels, subject to refund. The revenue impact of the revised rates is approximately \$38,900 (3.8 percent) additional annual revenue.

### **Rate Comparison**

<b>Residential Monthly Rates</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Disposal Fee Only Rate</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Asotin County – weekly service			
64 Gal Toter	16.00	16.52	3.3%
96 Gal Toter	19.10	19.86	4.0%
Garfield County – weekly service			
1 Can	13.86	14.24	2.7%
96 Gal Toter	19.54	20.30	3.9%
<b>Commercial Per Pickup Rates</b>			
Asotin County			
32-Gal Can	2.58	2.65	2.9%
1.5-Yard Container	12.43	13.07	5.2%
Garfield County			
1.5-Yard Container	14.78	15.42	4.3%

### **Customer Comments**

On December 31, 2015, the company notified customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff received one consumer comment opposed to the proposed rate increase. The customer was notified that relevant documents about this rate increase are available on the commission's website, and they may contact John Cupp at 1-888-333-9882 or [jcupp@utc.wa.gov](mailto:jcupp@utc.wa.gov) with questions or concerns.

### **General Comments**

The customer commented the proposed increase will make it difficult for her to retire.

### **Staff Response**

The customer was advised state law requires rates to be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient to allow the company to recover reasonable operating expenses and the opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its investment. Regulatory staff reviews filings to ensure all rates and fees are appropriate.

### **Conclusion**

1. Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Carroll-Naslund Disposal Service, Inc. dba Naslund Disposal Service, Inc., on December 15, 2015, and revised on January 20 and 21, 2016.
2. Allow the revised rates, filed on January 20 and 21, 2016, to become effective on February 1, 2016, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.