

Agenda Date: February 12, 2003

Item Number: B1

**Docket:** TG-021651

**Company:** Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., G-89

**Staff:** Bob Colbo, Transportation Program Staff

**Recommendation:**

Lift the suspension, dismiss the complaint, and allow revised rates generating \$478,269 (8.2%) to become effective February 13, 2003, for Docket TG-021651 filed by Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., G-89.

**Discussion:**

On December 17, 2002, Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., G-89, (Yakima Waste or the Company) filed new Tariff No. 9 that conforms to the new solid waste tariff format required by WAC 480-70-281 and also contained a general rate increase in all service categories proposed to become effective February 1, 2003. The voluntary recycling rate was also proposed to increase. The original request in all service categories was for an annual increase of \$861,731 (14.7%). The filing was caused by Yakima County tip fees increasing from \$18.30 to \$23.20 (26.8%) per ton, pay and fringe benefit increases for employees and owners, and increased tax, insurance and rent costs. Yakima Waste provides regulated and contract solid waste service throughout Yakima County. Present rates have been in effect since February, 1998.

On January 22, 2003, the Company deleted Page 34 from the original filing containing Pass Through Disposal Fees per Item 230. They made a separate filing in Docket TG-030084 to recover this cost that became effective February 1, 2003. Its revenue impact was \$175,781 (3.0%.) The remainder of the filing was suspended by the Commission at its Open Meeting of January 29, 2003.

The Staff has now completed its investigation in this matter and determined that the proposed increase in the voluntary recycling rate is appropriate (increasing from \$3.25 to \$3.46/mo. (6.5%)), however the justifiable amounts in the solid waste rates are less than the Company originally requested. The Company has agreed

with the Staff findings, and filed revised rates for residential and commercial service. Drop box rates remain as originally requested.

A representative sampling of present, proposed, and revised rates follows:

	<b>Present Rates</b>	<b>Proposed Rates</b>	<b>Revised Rates</b>
<u>Residential Service</u>			
(Wkly Svc, Monthly Rate)			
One Can	\$5.89	\$6.65	\$6.25
Two Can	7.68	8.68	8.16
<u>Commercial Containers</u>			
(Wkly Svc, Monthly Rate)			
1.25 Yard	\$29.15	\$33.11	\$31.80
Three Yard	52.03	58.70	56.30
<u>Drop Boxes</u>			
(One PickUp + Rent, Excluding Item 230 Disposal Fees)			
20 Yard	\$75.50	\$85.20	\$85.20
30 Yard	85.75	96.76	96.76

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the Commission lift the suspension, dismiss the complaint, and allow revised rates generating \$478,269 (8.2%) to become effective February 13, 2003, for Docket TG-021651 filed by Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., G-89.