

Agenda Date: February 12, 2009
Item Number: B3

Docket: TG-090088
Company Name: Sound Disposal, Inc.

Staff: Amy White, Regulatory Analyst
Nancy Paulson, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

Take no action on this filing at this time to allow for customer comments.

Discussion

On January 14, 2009, Sound Disposal, Inc., (Sound Disposal or company), filed with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) tariff revisions for garbage, recycling and yardwaste collection services that would generate \$101,077 (8 percent) in additional annual revenue. The proposed rates are prompted by increases in disposal fees, labor, employee benefits, postage, insurance, and other operating expenses. The company serves approximately 1,800 customers in Snohomish County. The company's last general rate increase became effective January 1, 2006.

Today's presentation allows customers or other parties to make comments to the commission concerning the company's proposed rates. No action is required by the commission. Staff will make its recommendation to the commission at the open meeting scheduled for February 26, 2009.

Customer Comments

One customer comment has been received to date, opposing the rate increase. Staff posted all requested materials to the commission's Web site. The results of the audit will be available when the staff recommendation is presented to the commissioners.

Consumer Protection staff advised customer that he may access all company's documents pertinent to this rate case at <http://utc.wa.gov>, or he may contact Nancy Paulson at 360-664-1102 with questions or concerns.

- **Business Practice Comments**

One customer commented that he is opposed to the rate increase until the company responds to the community's needs and offers composting.

Staff Response

Sound Disposal plans to offer this service after March 1, allowing compostable materials to be mingled with the yard waste. Date is contingent depending on readiness of informational materials and truck purchase.

Rate Comparison

Monthly Rates, Residential	Present	Proposed
Mini-Can Weekly Garbage / Every-Other-Week Recycling Service	\$9.72	\$10.68
60 Gallon Cart Weekly Garbage	\$22.18	\$24.37
90 Gallon Cart Weekly Garbage	\$27.47	\$30.19
32 Gallon Can Monthly Garbage Service	\$5.05	\$5.55
Mandatory Recycling , Every-Other-Week Pickup	\$4.52	\$4.97
Recycling only, Every-Other-Week Service	\$5.52	\$6.07
Voluntary Yardwaste Only, Every-Other-Week Service	\$6.00	\$8.45

Monthly Rates, Multi-Family	Present	Proposed
60 Gallon Garbage Container, Each Pickup, Including Recycling Service	\$6.00	\$6.59
90 Gallon Garbage Container, Each Pickup, Including Recycling Service	\$8.02	\$8.81
One Yard Container, Rental and First Pickup	\$30.36	\$33.37
One Yard Container, Each Additional Pickup	\$15.64	\$17.19
Two Yard Container, Rental and First Pickup	\$51.41	\$56.50
Two Yard Container, Each Additional Pickup	\$27.74	\$30.49

Monthly Rates, Commercial	Present	Proposed
One Yard Container, Rental and First Pickup	\$27.88	\$30.64
One Yard Container, Each Additional Pickup	\$13.16	\$14.46
Two Yard Container, Rental and First Pickup	\$46.45	\$51.05
Two Yard Container, Each Additional Pickup	\$22.78	\$25.04

Average Customer Charge Comparison – 60 Gallon Cart Weekly Service

Monthly Rates, Residential Single Family	Present	Proposed
60 Gallon Garbage Container, Monthly Cost	\$22.18	\$24.37
Mandatory Recycling , Every-Other-Week Pickup	\$4.52	\$4.97
Total Garbage and Recycling, Monthly Cost	\$26.70	\$29.34
Increase		9.9%

Monthly Rates, Residential Multi-Family	Present	Proposed
60 Gallon Garbage Container, Monthly Cost	\$25.98	\$28.55
Increase		9.9%

Monthly Rates, Commercial	Present	Proposed
One Yard Container, Rental Plus Weekly Pickups	\$71.70	\$78.80
		9.9%
Two Yard Container, Rental Plus Weekly Pickups	\$122.31	\$134.42
		9.9%

Commission staff has not yet completed its review of the company's supporting financial documents, books and records.

Conclusion

Take no action on this filing at this time to allow for customer comments.