

Agenda Date: November 23, 2011  
Item Numbers: B2, B3 and B4  
**Dockets:** **TG-111813, TG-111814 and TG-111815**  
Company Names: Waste Management of Washington, Inc., G-237, d/b/a's:

- Waste Management – Northwest;
- Waste Management – Sno-King; and
- Waste Management – South Sound, Waste Management of Seattle

Staff: Dave Gomez, Deputy Assistant Director

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends the commission issue a complaint and order suspending revisions to each of the company's tariffs filed in Dockets TG-111813, TG-111814 and TG-111815, and allow monthly recyclable commodity revenue adjustments filed by the company on October 17, 2011, and revenue sharing to become effective on December 1, 2011, on a temporary basis, subject to refund or credit.

### **Discussion**

On October 17, 2011, Waste Management of Washington, Inc. (Waste Management or company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) revisions three currently effective tariffs filed on behalf of three operating units:

- Waste Management – Northwest's Tariff No. 17, Pages 2, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27;
- Waste Management – Sno-King's Tariff No. 15, Pages 2, 21, 22, 25 and 26; and
- Waste Management – South Sound, Waste Management of Seattle's Tariff No. 22, Pages 2, 21, 22 and 25.

The stated effective dates are December 1, 2011.

The company proposes to increase the amount it pays to single family and multi-family customers for the value of the recyclable materials collected as part of its residential recycling collection service. The monthly credit for single family customers would increase as follows:

- Waste Management – Northwest - from \$1.31 to \$3.60
- Waste Management – Sno-King - from \$1.70 to \$4.15
- Waste Management – South Sound, Waste Management of Seattle - from \$1.51 to \$3.07

The multi-family customer per yard credit for each pickup would increase as follows:

- Waste Management – Northwest - from \$0.41 to \$0.62
- Waste Management – Sno-King - from \$0.21 to \$0.64
- Waste Management – South Sound, Waste Management of Seattle - from \$0.21 to \$0.64

Also, on October 17, 2011, Waste Management filed with the commission requests to retain thirty percent of the revenue the company receives from the sale of recyclable materials collected in its recycling collection operations from December 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012. Included with the request was a revenue sharing report for the 2010-2011 plan period showing the amount of revenue retained and the amount of money spent on the activities identified in Waste Management's recycling and revenue sharing plans, and the effect the activities had on

increasing recycling.

RCW 81.77.185 states that the commission shall allow a solid waste collection company collecting recyclable materials from residential single and multi-family customers to retain “up to fifty percent of the revenue paid” to the company for the material if the company submits a plan to the commission that is certified by the appropriate local government authority as being consistent with the local government solid waste plan and that demonstrates how the revenues will be used to increase recycling. The remaining revenue must be passed through to residential single and multi-family customers.

The company’s filing of October 17, 2011, did not include an approved recyclable commodity revenue sharing plan certified by either King or Snohomish Counties as required by RCW 81.77.185. Also lacking in Waste Management’s filing was a statement from the respective county that the company has met the obligations and requirements specified in the approved 2010-2011 plans and that the company is entitled to keep the full fifty-percent it retained.

Staff therefore recommends that the commission issue a complaint and order suspending revisions to Waste Management's tariffs identified above and allow monthly recyclable commodity revenue adjustments filed on October 17, 2011, and revenue sharing on a temporary basis, subject to refund or credit.

### **Conclusion**

Issue a complaint and order suspending revisions to Waste Management’s tariffs, and allow monthly recyclable commodity revenue adjustments filed by the company on October 17, 2011, and revenue sharing to become effective on December 1, 2011, on a temporary basis, subject to refund or credit.