

Agenda Date: July 28, 2022
Item Number: B1

Docket: TG- 220437
Company Name: Trilogy MedWaste West, LLC

Staff: Jaclynn Simmons, Regulatory Analyst
John Cupp, Regulatory Analyst, Consumer Protection

Recommendation:

Take no action, allowing tariff pages filed by Trilogy MedWaste West, LLC on June 15, 2022, in Docket TG- 220437, as revised on July 19, 2022, to become effective August 1, 2022, by operation of law.

Discussion

On June 15, 2022, Trilogy MedWaste West, LLC (Trilogy or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that will generate approximately \$533,000 (10.4 percent) additional annual revenue for the collection and disposal of biomedical or biohazardous waste. The main driver for this filing is an increase to general operating expenses: largely fuel expense and payroll expense. The Company provides regulated medical waste disposal to approximately 2,000 customers state-wide. The Company's current rates were adopted in docket TG-210036, which was the transfer of the biomedical waste portion of certificate G000237, from Waste Management Inc., d/b/a Healthcare Solutions of Washington (Waste Management), to Trilogy. The rates were established in the last general rate increase under Waste Management and became effective on July 1, 2019.

After review of the filing, Commission staff (Staff) has determined that the revenue requirement calculated in the Company's filing is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Staff requested the Company revise its tariff by adjusting the trip rate to only recover the cost of the round-trip ferry to Vashon Island and the San Juan Islands. Staff also requested the Company remove services from Item 95 in the tariff that no longer had customers. The Company agreed to both requests. Staff agreed to the rate design the Company presented even though it used a methodology different from Staff's normal practice to increase rates. This service is a statewide competitive market and customers can choose which medical waste company they would like to use.

| Type | Current Rate | Proposed Rate | Revised Rate | Precent Increase |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| 0-50 Gallons | 1.92 | 2.09 | - | 8.9% |
| 1001-2000 Gallons | 0.30 | 0.31 | - | 3.3% |
| 23 Gallon Box | 30.00 | 35.00 | - | 16.7% |

Customer Comments

The Company notified its customers by mail of the proposed rate increase on May 31 and followed up on June 30 with an updated notice. Staff received no comments.

Conclusions

Staff has completed its review of the Company's documentation. Staff's review shows that the tariff pages filed are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations.

Recommendations:

Take no action, allowing tariff pages filed by Trilogy MedWaste West, LLC on June 15, 2022, in Docket TG- 220437, as revised on July 19,2022, to become effective August 1, 2022, by operation of law.