

Agenda Date: November 12, 2024
Item Number: B1

Docket: TG-240678
Company Name: Pullman Disposal

Staff: Tiffany Van Meter, Regulatory Analyst
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing the Tariff pages filed by Pullman Disposal on September 4, 2024, as revised on November 15, 2024, to take effect December 1, 2024.

Discussion

On September 4, 2024, Pullman Disposal (Pullman or Company), filed for rate increases as revisions to Tariff No. 19 with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) that would generate approximately \$710,000 (12.7 percent) in additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling, and yard waste. The Company serves approximately 12,000 customers in Whitman County. The Company’s last general rate case took effect February 1, 2020.

The proposed increase is a result of new truck purchases, payroll increases, new insurance plans, and growth in other operating expenses since the Company’s last general rate case.

After review, Commission staff (Staff) found the proposed rates are substantiated. Staff did make adjustments and removed depreciation expense and investment for assets that have reached the end of their useful life. Staff also removed certain non-allowable employee appreciation expenses and normalized expenses that were incurred in the test year but are not yearly expenses. Staff found there was a error in the Company’s calculation of investment which was quite significant and the cumulative outcome of all changes was insignificant. Staff and the Company agreed to move forward with the rates the Company filed originally with the exception of page 33 of the tariff which was revised on November 15, 2024, to correct Multi Family recycling rates.

Rate Comparison

Residential Rates (Per Month)	Current Rates	Proposed Rates	Increase/Decrease
32 Gal. Cans Weekly Garbage	14.65	16.41	12.01%
68 Gal. Weekly Garbage	21.56	24.15	12.01%
Every-Other-Week Recycling	6.70	7.51	12.01%
95 Gal. Every-Other-Week Yard waste	7.20	8.07	12.01%
30 Yard pick up	217.40	243.54	12.01%

Customer Comments

On September 4, 2024, the Company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail. Staff received one consumer comment against the proposed rate increase. The commenter stated that the quality of service was poor. If approved, the proposed rates will become effective on December 1, 2024.

Customers were notified that they may access relevant documents about this rate increase on the commission's website, and that they may contact Kris Irelan at 1-888-333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov with questions or concerns.

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing the Tariff pages filed on September 4, 2024, as revised on November 15, 2024, to take effect December 1, 2024.