

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET TG-061310
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 02
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
FIORITO ENTERPRISES, INC. &)	
RABANCO COMPANIES, d/b/a)	
KENT-MERIDIAN DISPOSAL)	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT
COMPANY, G-60)	AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS; GRANTING TARIFF
Respondent.)	REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 15, 2006, Fiorito Enterprises, Inc. & Rabanco Companies, d/b/a Kent-Meridian Disposal Company, (Kent-Meridian or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revised pages to Tariff No. 27.
- 2 Kent-Meridian filed proposed rates to increase revenues by \$1,293,600 (10.74%). Staff review revealed that the proposed rates were excessive. Staff and the Company negotiated revised rates that would increase revenues by approximately \$669,000 (5.56%). On September 25, 2006, Kent-Meridian filed revised, lower rates on substitute tariff pages.
- 3 The Commission received 26 comments concerning the Company’s original (August 15, 2006) filing. Customers objected to the percentage increase in the rates and contended that Kent-Meridian’s customer service is poor. Customers did not have the opportunity to comment on the proposed revised rates filed by the Company prior to the Commission’s open meeting on September 27, 2006.
- 4 On September 27, 2006, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions to allow customers the opportunity to comment on the revised rates before determining whether the revisions were fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The Commission allowed the revised rates to go into effect on a temporary basis, subject to refund.

5 On Monday, October 2, 2006, Consumer Affairs staff sent all customers who had commented on the filing a letter advising them of the staff recommended revised rates. One customer responded to the letter. He stated that the revised rates were much more reasonable than the proposed rates. However, he still feels that a 5.56 percent increase is quite substantial

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, affiliated transactions, and transfers of public service companies, including solid waste companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 81.01 RCW; Chapter 81.04 RCW; Chapter 81.28 RCW; Chapter 81.16 RCW; and Chapter 81.77 RCW.*
- 7 (2) Kent-Meridian is a solid waste company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 8 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2006.
- 9 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Kent-Meridian on August 15, 2006, and the substitute pages filed on September 25, 2006, increase solid waste and residential recycling rates and decrease multi-family recycling and yard waste rates.
- 10 (5) The Commission allowed the revised rates filed on September 25, 2006, to become effective October 1, 2006, on a temporary basis subject to refund.
- 11 (6) On October 2, 2006, Consumer Affairs staff sent all customers who previously commented on Kent-Meridian's proposed tariff changes a letter advising them of the staff revised rate recommendation. Customers have now had an opportunity to comment on the revised rates.

- 12 (7) Kent-Meridian has demonstrated that it requires additional revenues and the revised rates, now in effect on a temporary basis are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and should become effective permanently.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-061310 dated September 27, 2006, is dismissed.
- 14 (2) The proposed revised rates Fiorito Enterprises, Inc. & Rabanco Companies, d/b/a Kent-Meridian Disposal Company filed on September 25, 2006, that reflect Staff-recommended levels are approved to become effective October 26, 2006, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 25, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner