

Agenda Date: June 27, 2024
Item Number: B1

Docket: TG- 240292
Company Name: Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services

Staff: Jeanine Leggett, Regulatory Services
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services, on April 30, 2024, to become effective July 1, 2024, by operation of law.

Discussion

On April 30, 2024, Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services (Eastside or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$642,400 (4.6 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company serves approximately 28,500 residential garbage customers in King County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on May 1, 2023.

The reasons for this request are inflationary pressures on key operating costs and made investments in strategic operating assets. The proposed rates will offset increases in labor, recycling and organics processing costs, and increased healthcare expenses. Commission Staff (Staff) adjusted the Company's fuel expense, bringing it to the most current 12 months per WAC 480-70-346, however most of the trucks run on compressed natural gas. Per the Lurito Gallagher models, residential recycling has been subsidizing multi-family recycling. With this general rate case and rate recommendations the subsidy is being reduced and will be eliminated in future filings.

The company also added the July 4 holiday to the list of holidays without trash pickup. This is because Snohomish County will be closing its transfer station on July 4, commencing this year. Trash will be collected on the next regular collection date, with no charges for extra garbage.

Staff has completed its review of the Company's books and records, making some small adjustments to the most recent assets purchased and believes the Company has demonstrated the rate increase is necessary to provide service. Staff believes the revised rates agreed upon by the Company are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Rate Comparison

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Percent Increase
Garbage			
Appendix A&B:			
32 gal Toter	\$14.32	\$14.75	3.0%
64 gal Toter	22.85	23.54	3.0%
MF 4 yard	\$52.10	\$53.68	3.0%
MF 30 yard	\$133.08	\$137.11	3.0%
Yard Waste and Recycling			
Appendix A: EOW Recycling			
96 gal 1x wk. Recycling	\$11.65	\$12.51	7.4%
96 gal Yard Waste	\$13.02	\$13.98	7.4%
Appendix B: Weekly Recycling			
96 gal Recycling	\$11.65	\$12.51	7.4%
96 gal Yard Waste	\$13.02	\$13.98	7.4%
MF Recycling Per yard	\$6.45	\$6.41	-0.6%

Customer Comments

Staff received seven consumer comments. All customers are opposed to the rate increase because they believe that the proposed rate is too high and increases often. One customer stated they could save a lot of money by hauling their own garbage to the dump, but thought they were required to have service at their residence. Staff contacted this customer and informed them of their rights to self-haul. Another customer does not want to pay for recycling services since they do not use the service. 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 (888) 333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov with questions or concerns.

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Rabanco LTD, d/b/a Lynnwood Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services, on April 30, 2024, to become effective July 1, 2024, by operation of law.