

Agenda Date: March 13, 2008  
Item Number: B2

**Docket: TG-080298**  
Island Disposal, G-154

Staff: Layne Demas, Transportation Program Staff  
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Program Staff

### **Recommendation**

Take no action on this filing at this time to allow for customer comments.

### **Discussion**

On February 15, Island Disposal, Inc., (Island), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$828,000 (18.8 percent) in additional revenue per year. The tariff revisions propose to increase rates for solid waste collection. Island serves approximately 10,900 residential and commercial customers on Whidbey Island. Island's last general rate increase became effective January 1, 2002. The proposed rate revisions are prompted by an increase in processing fees at the company's material recycling facility, fuel, labor and benefits, and new investment in trucks, containers and drop boxes.

Today's presentation allows customers or other interested parties to comment to the commission. No action is required by the commission. Staff will make its recommendation to the commission at the open meeting on March 27, 2008.

Island notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail on February 28, 2008. The commission has received eight comments regarding this filing. The commenting customers believe the requested rate increase is: (1) too high and the company should better manage its operations and expenses, (2) too high and should not be based per container, there is no recycling but there should be and the company should be checked as to how it manages its money, (3) unjust in pricing at different service levels and the charges for different services should be proportionate to the difference in service, (4) the mini can is going up as much as a 32 gallon can, (5) this is a new owner and the rates were already increased when they took over, (6) the requested increase is too high, a smaller increase would be more acceptable and fair, customer lives in a low and limited income adult trailer court and recently experienced a rent increase of over \$30 per month, the COLA last year was only 2.3 percent and the requested rates need to be more proportional to the cost of living, the reduced service most seniors use to save money shows a 77 percent increase which is the highest increase proposed in this rate case, the proposed 28% increase is ridiculous, and the increase should be equal to the social security increase over that time, and (7) \$21.03 for one can of trash 4 times a month will cause folks to dump their trash in public areas.

**Rate Comparison**

<b><u>Residential - monthly rates</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
One mini Can per week	\$ 12.32	\$ 17.66
One 32 gallon Can per week	15.50	21.03
Two 32 gallon Cans per week	22.37	28.31

  

<b><u>Commercial - per pickup</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
One Yard Container -1 <sup>st</sup> pick up	\$ 30.12	\$ 32.54
One Yard Container – additional pick ups	17.37	19.02
20 Yard Drop Box	68.17	74.68

Commission staff has not yet completed its review of Island's supporting financial documents, books and records.

**Conclusion**

Take no action on this filing at this time to allow for customer comments.