

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET TG-130938
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 01
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF)	
WASHINGTON, INC., DBA WASTE)	
MANAGEMENT - NORTHWEST,)	
)	GRANTING PARTIAL
Respondent.)	EXEMPTION FROM RULE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 23, 2013, Waste Management of Washington, Inc. (WMW or Company), dba Waste Management - Northwest (WM Northwest) and Waste Management Sno-King (WM Sno-King), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a general rate increase for solid waste collection service in Snohomish and King Counties. WMW is currently operating the two business units of WM Northwest and WM Sno-King as a combined entity. This filing requests a single tariff for WM Northwest to reflect the combined operations. The stated effective date is July 12, 2013.
- 2 WMW also filed a petition asking for a partial exemption from the following sections of WAC 480-07-520(4) to limit the work paper filing requirements to WM Northwest, the business unit providing services under the tariff that WMW proposes to amend:
 - (a) Detailed pro forma income statement.
 - (b) Revenue impact calculation for proposed tariff revisions.
 - (c) Income Statement.
 - (f) Detailed price-out information.
 - (h) Detailed depreciation schedule.
 - (i) Computed average investment.

WMW also requests a partial exemption from:

- (d) Detailed separation of all revenue and expenses between regulated and nonregulated operations, except for the following, which has been filed:

A detailed separation of all revenue and expenses between (1) WM Northwest, the previous two business units combined, that provide services under the tariffs that WMW is seeking to amend and combine in this filing, and (2) other business units within WMW with which WM Northwest has intra-company transactions or arrangements that, but for the fact that the business units are not separate corporations, would be affiliated interest transactions. The filing also includes a detailed separation of all revenues and expenses for each of the other WMW business units performing collection operations, with expenses allocated proportionately on the basis of regulated and unregulated revenues, and a combined statement of detailed revenues and expenses for all of WMW's unregulated, non-collection operations added together.

- 3 Staff agrees that because the data for which the exemption in paragraph two is sought is not relevant to the tariff filing, granting the exemption is not inconsistent with the underlying purposes of the general rate filing rule stated in WAC 480-07-520(4). WMW's request is consistent with previous filings in which the Commission has found the requested exemption to be in the public interest and consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes. Staff recommends that the Commission grant the requested exemption.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts and affiliated interests of public service companies, including solid waste companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.16, RCW 81.28 and RCW 81.77.
- 5 (2) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) On May 23, 2013, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., dba Waste Management - Northwest and Waste Management Sno-King, filed with the Commission a general rate increase for solid waste collection service in Snohomish and King Counties.

- 7 (4) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., is subject to WAC 480-07-520(4), which requires the Company to file work papers that contain detailed financial data for the Company, its affiliated interests, and its business units. The plain language of the rule requires these work papers to address Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s finances as a whole, not a limited subset of one or more business units.
- 8 (5) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., dba Waste Management - Northwest and Waste Management Sno-King are business units of Waste Management of Washington, Inc., and currently collect solid waste under two of Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s nine tariffs.
- 9 (6) In support of its proposed revisions under a single tariff reflecting the combined operations of the two business units, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., filed work papers containing financial information only for its Waste Management - Northwest and Waste Management Sno-King business units on a combined basis, but not for the entirety of Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s operations.
- 10 (7) Under WAC 480-70-051, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-70, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 11 (8) On May 23, 2013, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., also filed a petition asking for an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4) to limit the work paper filing requirements as set forth in paragraph two. The data for which this exemption is sought is not relevant to the tariff filing for Waste Management - Northwest, and granting the exemption is not inconsistent with the underlying purposes of the general rate filing rule stated in WAC 480-07-520(4). Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s request is consistent with previous filings in which the Commission has found the exemption to be in the public interest and consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes.
- 12 (9) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 27, 2013.

- 13 (10) After review of the petition filed in Docket TG-130938 by Waste Management of Washington, Inc., on May 23, 2013, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s petition for partial exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4) is granted, as set forth in paragraph two.
- 15 (2) The exemption granted to Waste Management of Washington, Inc., in this Order applies only to the general rate proceeding in Docket TG-130938.
- 16 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Waste Management of Washington, Inc., to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 27, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Acting Executive Director and Secretary