

Agenda Date: May 20, 2021  
Item Number: B3

**Docket:** TG-210258  
**Company Name:** Rabanco Ltd, d/b/a Eastside Disposal

**Staff:** Greg Hammond, Regulatory Analyst  
John Cupp, Consumer Protection

**Recommendation:**

Take no action, thereby allowing the tariff pages filed on April 16, 2021, by Rabanco Ltd, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, as revised on May 14, 2021, to take effect June 1, 2021, by operation of law.

**Discussion**

On April 16, 2021, Rabanco Ltd, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, (Eastside Disposal or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a proposed general rate increase that would generate approximately \$490,941 (7.2 percent) in additional annual revenue, to become effective June 1, 2021. The proposed increases are prompted by increased employee wages and benefits, recovery of newly purchased operating assets and other general operating expenses. The Company provides service to approximately 29,000 garbage and recycling customers in King County. The Company's last general rate filing was approved for \$284,000 (3.9 percent) additional annual revenue and became effective September 1, 2019.

Commission staff (Staff) has completed its review of the filing and found that the proposed rates were slightly excessive. Staff made adjustments to the Company's truck hour allocation factor, which had included non-regulated commercial recycling in its calculation, and also made adjustments to payroll expenses, among other minor adjustments. These adjustments resulted in a revised revenue requirement of \$277,840 (4.1 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company agreed with Staff's changes and filed revised tariff pages on May 14, 2021, at the agreed upon rates. Based on Staff's review of the Company's financial books and records, Staff finds the revised rates to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

**Residential Rate Comparison**

<b>Monthly Rate</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Rate</b>	<b>Revised Rate</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>64 Gallon Toter Weekly Garbage</b>	\$22.80	\$24.02	\$23.42	2.7%
<b>Recycling – Every Other Week</b>	\$11.27	\$15.21	\$11.68	3.6%
<b>Yard waste – Every Other Week</b>	\$10.97	\$14.51	\$12.02	9.6%

**Commercial Rate Comparison**

<b>Per Pickup Rate</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Rate</b>	<b>Revised Rate</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>2-Yard per Pick-up</b>	\$33.93	\$35.57	\$34.86	2.7%
<b>6-Yard per Pick-up</b>	\$95.28	\$99.88	\$97.88	2.7%

**Customer Comments**

On April 26, 2021, the Company notified its customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff received five consumer comments opposed to the rate increase.

**General Comments**

Customers are concerned that the increase exceeds the rate of inflation. Two customers believe rates should be designed so that people who produce less garbage see smaller increases in rates. One customer mentioned customer service issues.

**Staff Response**

State law requires rates to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient to allow the Company to recover reasonable operating expenses and the opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its investment. Commission Staff performs a thorough review of rate filings to ensure that all rates and fees are appropriate. Staff also explained that Consumer Protection may be able to help customers who cannot resolve service issues with the Company and provided contact information.

**Recommendations:**

Take no action, thereby allowing the tariff pages filed on April 16, 2021, by Rabanco Ltd, d/b/a Eastside Disposal, as revised on May 14, 2021, to take effect June 1, 2021, by operation of law.