

Agenda Date: April 27, 2023
Item Number: B5

Docket: TG- 230190
Company Name: Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a SeaTac Disposal

Staff: Mike Young, Senior Regulatory Advisor
John Cupp, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation:

Issue an order, allowing tariff pages filed by Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a SeaTac Disposal Company; Republic Services of Kent on March 16, 2023, in Docket TG-230190 to become effective April 1, 2023, by operation of law, and requiring the Company one year from now to file invoices of actual fuel costs for the previous 12 months and documentation that the Company has sought competitive bids from multiple fuel vendors.

Discussion

On January 13, 2023, Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a SeaTac Disposal Company; Republic Services of Kent (SeaTac Disposal or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that, as originally filed, would have generated approximately \$340,000 (10.8 percent) additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage services. The Company provides service to approximately 22,000 residential, commercial, and recycling customers in King County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on April 1, 2022.

This filing is to recover increased costs for wages and benefits related to the Company's labor agreements, insurance, fuel, and costs to operate the customer service call center. Also included in this filing is an adjustment for Washington's carbon emission fee, which third party fuel providers will start assessing this year. The adjustment in this case amounts to \$0.40 per gallon of diesel fuel. In previous cases containing a similar adjustment, the Commission ordered the Company to file again in one year once actual fuel costs are known, to adjust rates.¹ Commission staff (Staff) proposes that a similar order be issued in this filing.

Staff made no material adjustments. The Company has demonstrated that the costs are required and necessary to provide service and that the rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

¹ Order 01 in Docket TG-230103

Rate Comparison

Service	2021 Rate	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Percentage Difference
32 gal 1x wk.	\$19.25	\$21.86	\$23.68	8.3%
64 gal 1x a wk.	\$28.64	\$32.54	\$35.25	8.3%
EOW Recycling	\$8.79	\$9.87	\$10.73	8.7%
EOW Yard waste	\$12.00	\$13.07	\$13.97	6.9%
2 yard per pickup	42.13	\$45.11	\$48.87	8.3%
25-yard drop box per pickup	172.94	\$185.19	\$200.59	8.3%

Customer Comments

On March 28, 2023, the Company notified its customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff did not receive any comments.

Conclusions

Staff has completed its review of the Company's documentation. Staff's review shows that the tariff pages filed are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations.

Recommendations:

Issue an order, allowing tariff pages filed by Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a SeaTac Disposal Company; Republic Services of Kent on March 16, 2023, in Docket TG-230190 to become effective April 1, 2023, by operation of law, and requiring the Company one year from now to file invoices of actual fuel costs for the previous 12 months and documentation that the Company has sought competitive bids from multiple fuel vendors.