

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET TG-091467
	)	
AMERICAN DISPOSAL	)	ORDER 01
COMPANY, INC. G-87,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
Requesting Authority to Retain Thirty	)	
Percent of the Revenue Received From	)	
the Sale of Recyclable Materials	)	
Collected in the Residential and Multi-	)	ORDER AUTHORIZING
Family Recycling Program	)	REVENUE SHARING
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On September 14, 2009, American Disposal Company, Inc., (American or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff No. 25, designated as tariff pages 1, 12, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50.
  
- 2 The filing proposes to decrease the current recycling credits from \$3.39 to \$.14 per residential customer per month and from \$.72 to \$.24 per yard per pickup for multi-family customers. American filed revised tariff pages 1, 12, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50 on October 5, 2009.
  
- 3 RCW 81.77.185 provides: “The commission shall allow solid waste collection companies collecting recyclable materials to retain up to thirty percent of the revenue paid to the companies for the material if the companies submit a plan to the commission that is certified by the appropriate local government authority as being consistent with the local government solid waste plan and that demonstrates how the revenues will be used to increase recycling. The remaining revenue shall be passed to residential customers.”
  
- 4 The Company submitted a revenue sharing plan along with its initial filing. The Pierce County (County) solid waste administrator certified that American’s revenue sharing plan is consistent with the Pierce County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. In

its letter to the Commission, the County recommended that the Company retain thirty percent of the estimated commodity revenue. To retain thirty percent of the revenue, the Company must:

- Promote waste reduction by encouraging new and existing customers to utilize the 96-gallon recycling cart;
- Provide annual information, as a bill insert, regarding garbage, recycling and yard waste collection and stress the importance of waste reduction;
- Work with Management of Multi-family establishments to increase recycling and reduce contaminants;
- Follow-up with complexes, using compactors for garbage, that currently do not recycle or do not have adequate space allocated for recycling equipment to encourage recycling;
- Participate in regional meetings, city councils, Washington Refuse and Recycling Association (WRRRA), etc. to discuss strategies for increasing recycling in our state; and
- Continue monthly reporting of recycling, yard waste and garbage tonnage to Pierce County.

5 Staff recommends that the Commission accept the County's recommendation that American retain thirty percent of the revenue it will receive from the sale of recyclable materials and require the Company to report to the Commission the amount of revenue it retained, the amount of money it spent on the activities identified in American's recycling and commodity revenue sharing plan and the effect the activities had on increasing recycling.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

6 (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.*

- 7 (2) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 29, 2009.
- 8 (3) American is engaged in the business of providing solid waste services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (4) RCW 81.77.185 provides: “The commission shall allow solid waste collection companies collecting recyclable materials to retain up to thirty percent of the revenue paid to the companies for the material if the companies submit a plan to the commission that is certified by the appropriate local government authority as being consistent with the local government solid waste plan and that demonstrates how the revenues will be used to increase recycling. The remaining revenue shall be passed to residential customers.”
- 10 (5) Pierce County is responsible for managing waste through its Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The solid waste administrator of Pierce County’s Department of Public Works and Utilities certified that American’s recycling plan is consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and the Commission accepts his recommendation to allow American to retain thirty percent of the revenue the Company receives from the sale of recyclable materials.
- 11 (6) After reviewing American’s request to retain thirty percent of the revenue received from the sale of recyclable materials, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that American’s request is reasonable and should be granted.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12 (1) American Disposal Company, Inc., is authorized to retain thirty percent of the revenue it receives from the sale of recyclable materials until its next deferred accounting commodity filing, which would become effective on November 1, 2010. American Disposal Company, Inc., will report to the Commission no later than September 15, 2010, the amount of revenue it retained, the amount of money

it spent on the activities identified in American Disposal Company, Inc.'s recycling plan, and the effect the activities had on increasing recycling.

- 13 (2) The Commission delegates to the Secretary the authority to approve by letter all compliance filings required by this Order.
- 14 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and American Disposal Company, 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 October 29, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary