

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Tariff Revisions to	)	DOCKET TG-131951
Increase Rates Due to a Disposal Fee	)	
Increase Filed by	)	ORDER 01
	)	
	)	
	)	
STANLEY'S SANITARY SERVICE, LLC	)	
DBA STANLEY'S SANITARY	)	
SERVICE,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
Certificate G-86	)	FROM RULE
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On October 16, 2013, Stanley's Sanitary Service, LLC dba Stanley's Sanitary Service (Stanley's or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) Tariff No. 3 replacing Tariff No. 2 to recover the increased cost of disposal fees. On November 14, 2013, and November 19, 2013, the Company filed revised tariff sheets. The Company serves approximately 738 customers in Wahkiakum County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on September 1, 2013.
  
- 2 On December 1, 2013, Cowlitz County Department of Public Works will increase disposal fees from \$37.30 per ton to \$49.00 per ton at the Cowlitz County Transfer Station. The Company's proposed rate increase to recover this increase in disposal fees would generate approximately \$11,700 (3.2 percent) additional annual revenue and become effective December 1, 2013.
  
- 3 A disposal fee increase falls within the definition of a general rate increase pursuant to WAC 480-07-505. WAC 480-07-520 lists the minimum required information the Company must provide in a general rate increase filing. The Company provided information pertinent to the disposal fee increase but did not provide the remainder of the information required by the rule and requested an exemption from the work paper filing requirements in WAC 480-07-520(4).
  
- 4 WAC 480-07-110 allows the Commission to grant an exemption from or modify the application of its rules if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. *See also* WAC 480-70-051.

5 Commission Staff reviewed the proposed tariff request together with other factors and recommends the Commission allow the tariff to become effective by operation of law, and grant the Company an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), work paper filing requirements for this filing for the following reasons:

- (a) There have not been any significant changes since the last rate case that became effective on September 1, 2013. Reviewing the rate case documents, customer numbers are relatively unchanged, inflation has been low, and the Company has not changed its collection methods.
- (b) The increased disposal fees are set by Cowlitz County Department of Public Works and are required as a part of the Company's operations.
- (c) The Company's financial information supports the proposed revenue requirement and the proposed rates.
- (d) Staff concluded the proposed rate increase, by reason of the increase in disposal fees, is fair, just, and reasonable.

### **DISCUSSION**

6 The Commission concurs with Commission Staff's analysis. The work papers filed by the Company are sufficient to demonstrate the need for a rate increase resulting from the pass-through of county disposal fee increases. Accordingly, granting Stanley's an exemption from the work paper filing requirements in WAC 480-07-520(4) is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 7 (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.
- 8 (2) Stanley's 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 (3) Stanley's is subject to the filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520 for general rate increase proposals. The Company requested an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4) and did not file the work papers required by WAC 480-07-520(4).
- 10 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 27, 2013.
- 11 (5) An exemption from general rate increase filing requirements set forth in WAC 480-07-520(4) is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.
- 12 (6) It is in the public interest to allow the revisions to Tariff No. 3 filed on October 16, 2013, and revised November 14, 2013, and November 19, 2013, to become effective on December 1, 2013, by operation of law.

**ORDER**

- 13 THE COMMISSION GRANTS Stanley's Sanitary Service, LLC dba Stanley's Sanitary Service's, request for an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), for Tariff No. 3 filed in Docket TG-131951 on October 16, 2013, and revised on November 14, 2013, and November 19, 2013.

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 November 27, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary