

Agenda Date: April 30, 2009
Item Number: B4

Dockets: TG-080913, TG-081089, TG-082129 and TG-090380
Points Recycling and Refuse, LLC, G-155

Staff: Layne Demas, Transportation Program Staff
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

1. Authorize Points Recycling and Refuse, LLC, (“Points” or “company”), to file revisions to tariff pages suspended in Docket TG-080913.
2. Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff revisions filed March 11, 2009, in Docket TG-090380.
3. Authorize the proposed rates filed on March 11, 2009, to become effective May 1, 2009, on a temporary basis, subject to refund, in Docket TG-090380.
4. Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff revisions filed on April 27, 2009, in Docket TG-080913.

Discussion

On May 23, 2008, Points filed tariff revisions with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) that would remove residential curbside recycling from its tariff under Docket TG-080913. The commission by Order 01 issued in Docket TG-080913¹ suspended the proposed tariff revisions, including 8th Revised Page No. 2 and 3rd Revised Page No. 25, and ordered:

Points Recycling and Refuse, LLC, must not change or alter the tariff pages filed in these dockets during the suspension period, unless the Commission authorizes the change in this docket.

On March 11, 2009, Points filed with the commission tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$4,900 (2.36 percent) in additional annual revenue. The proposed effective date is May 1, 2009. The tariff revisions propose to increase rates for garbage collection services. The proposed rate revisions are prompted by increases in disposal fees. The Point Roberts Transfer Station is increasing its disposal fee from \$241.31 per ton to \$250.00 (3.6 percent) per ton. Points serves approximately 388 residential and commercial customers in Point Roberts, located in Whatcom County. Points’ last rate increase was effective May 1, 2006.

¹ On December 31, 2009, the Commission consolidated Dockets TG-080913, TG-081089 and TG-082129. Docket TG-081089 involves a complaint filed by Whatcom County against Points to revoke the Company’s certification as the designated hauler for Point Roberts, Washington. Docket TG-082129 involves a complaint against Points by Complainants Coe, Damewood, and Tomson. These matters are pending before the Commission.

Two of the tariff pages in this filing, 9th Revised Page No. 2 and 4th Revised Page No. 25, affect the tariffs suspended in Docket TG-080913.

On April 27, 2009, Points filed 10th Revised Page No. 2 and 5th Revised Page No. 25. These pages contain the proposed increased rates for garbage collection set forth on 9th Revised Page No. 2 and 4th Revised Page No. 25 and, they remove the residential curbside recycling that was originally published on 8th Revised Page No. 2 and 3rd Revised Page No. 25, suspended in Docket TG-080913.

Rate Comparison

<u>Residential - monthly rates</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
One Mini Can Per Week	\$10.15	\$10.52
One 32 Gallon Can Per Week	\$19.63	\$20.09
Mandatory Curbside Recycling	\$5.21	\$5.21
<u>Commercial - per pickup</u>		
One Yard Container	\$23.35	\$23.90
One and One Half Yard Container	\$33.67	\$34.45

Average Customer Charge Comparison – One 32 Gallon Can Customer

<u>Monthly Service</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Garbage	\$19.63	\$20.09
Mandatory Recycling	<u>\$ 5.21</u>	<u>\$5.21</u>
Total Garbage and Mandatory Recycling	\$24.84	\$25.30
Percentage increase		1.85%

Commission staff has completed its review of the company’s supporting financial documents, books and records. Staff’s review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the company’s operations. The company’s financial information supports the proposed revenue requirement and the proposed rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Conclusion

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