

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

SOUND DISPOSAL HOLDINGS, INC.,
d/b/a SOUND DISPOSAL,

Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions of
WAC 480-70-351 (2) Relating to
Recycling Credits or charges

DOCKET TG-230085

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM
RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 10, 2023, Sound Disposal Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Sound Disposal (Sound Disposal) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-70-351(2) (Petition).
- 2 WAC 480-70-351(2) requires solid waste companies that estimate the revenue from the sale of recyclable materials collected in residential curbside programs as part of a deferred accounting program to return recycling revenues or charges to customers to use the most recent 12-month historical period to estimate the revenue for the next 12 months.
- 3 In its Petition, Sound Disposal explains that due to increased processing costs it requests an exemption from WAC 480-70-351(2) to use the most recent six-month historical period to estimate the recycling commodity processing expense/commodity price adjustment for the next six months.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the request and found evidence that the processing costs have increased significantly with the closure of the Cascade Recycling Center (CRC) on November 15, 2022. Since CRC is scheduled to reopen in September 2023, Staff recommends granting Sound Disposal's request for exemption, subject to the condition that Sound Disposal must file another commodity price adjustment with an effective date of September 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION

5 We agree with Staff that because the Company has experienced higher processing costs
due to the CRC closure, an exemption from WAC 480-70-315(2) to allow the Company
to recover the increased processing costs during the six-month CRC closure is in the
public interest. Granting the exemption will help keep the commodity price adjustment
less volatile from year to year. Accordingly, we grant Sound Disposal's Petition.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The 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.
- 7 (2) Sound Disposal 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.
- 8 (3) Sound Disposal is subject to WAC 480-70-351(2), which requires solid waste
companies that estimate the revenue from the sale of recyclable materials
collected in residential curbside programs as part of a deferred accounting
program to return recycling revenues or charges to customers must use the most
recent 12-month historical period to estimate the revenue for the next 12 months.
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-70-051, the Commission may grant an exemption from the
provisions of any rule in WAC 480-70 if doing so is consistent with the public
interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. See also
WAC 480-07-110.
- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on
February 23, 2023.
- 11 (6) After reviewing the Petition filed in Docket TG-230085 by Sound Disposal on
February 10, 2023, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the
exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying
the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) Sound Disposal Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Sound Disposal's Petition for exemption from WAC 480-70-351(2) is granted. For the purpose of the revised tariff filed in Docket TG-230085 on February 9, 2023, Sound Disposal Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Sound Disposal may use six-month historical period to estimate the revenue for the next six months. This exemption expires on August 31, 2023.
- 13 (2) This exemption is subject to the condition that Sound Disposal Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Sound Disposal must file another commodity price adjustment with an effective date of September 1, 2023.
- 14 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Sound Disposal Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Sound Disposal to effectuate the provisions of this Order.
- 15 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective February 23, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary