

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET TG-061854
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
	)	ORDER 02
Complainant,)	
	)	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT
v.	)	AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF
	)	REVISIONS; MAKING NEWLY
PULLMAN DISPOSAL, INC., G-42	)	REVISED RESIDENTIAL RATES
	)	PERMANENTLY EFFECTIVE
Respondent.	)	MARCH 1, 2007; AND, GRANTING
	)	THE COMPANY'S REQUEST TO
	)	WITHDRAW THE BALANCE OF ITS
	)	PROPOSAL
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 14, 2006, Pullman Disposal, Inc., G-42, (Pullman or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its Tariff No. 17. The stated effective date was February 1, 2007. The filing increased residential, commercial and drop box solid waste rates; also rates for curbside recycling and yard waste service.
- 2 Pullman's proposed rates were designed to increase revenues by \$747,731 (26.8 percent) annually. The major cause of the proposed revisions was an increase in tipping fees at Whitman County Landfill from \$69 to \$95 per ton. Employee payroll costs and benefits also increased.
- 3 The customer comment presentation was made at the January 10, 2007, Open Meeting. Five customers commented on this filing. Three customers felt existing rates were already too high and that the proposed rates for the different can sizes were not in proportion with the can sizes. One customer was in favor of the increases, and one customer said the Company should get the increase only if it really needed it.
- 4 RCW 81.77.160(2) requires the Commission to pass on immediately the cost impacts of increased disposal fees. On January 19, 2007, the Company filed revised rates generating \$387,646 (13.9 percent) to recover the impact of such fees. The Commission accepted the

revised rates and allowed them to become effective February 1, 2007. The balance of the proposal was suspended at the January 24, 2007, Open Meeting.

- 5 Subsequent Staff investigation revealed that no additional revenue requirement exists in the Company's regulated operations beyond that which has already been addressed. The Company sent a letter requesting permission to withdraw the balance of its original proposals. They also filed a few minor technical corrections to existing residential tariff rates not affecting overall revenue levels and establishing a more uniform rate spread between service levels.

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 rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, affiliated transactions, and transfers of public service companies, including solid waste companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.28, RCW 81.16 and RCW 81.77.*
- 7 (2) Pullman is a solid waste company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 8 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 28, 2007.
- 9 (4) No additional revenue requirement exists on the Company's regulated segments beyond that which has already been addressed. The Commission received a letter requesting permission to withdraw the balance of the original proposals still pending. A few minor technical residential tariff corrections also were proposed not affecting overall revenue levels and establishing a more uniform rate spread between service levels.
- 10 (5) The Commission finds and concludes that the Company should be allowed to withdraw the balance of its currently suspended tariff filing and make the newly revised residential rates permanently effective March 1, 2007.

- 11 (6) After review of the tariff revisions filed in Docket TG-061854 by Pullman and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest that the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-061854, dated January 24, 2007, be dismissed.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-061854, dated January 24, 2007, is dismissed.
- 13 (2) The newly revised residential rates shall be approved permanently to become effective March 1, 2007.
- 14 (3) Pullman Disposal, Inc., G-42, request to withdraw the balance of its proposed tariff revisions, filed in Docket No. TG-061854 on December 14, 2006, is granted.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 28, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner