

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET TG-091933
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF)	
WASHINGTON, INC., G-237)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 17, 2009, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., (WMW or Company) filed with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions, designated as Tariff No. 15, for the operations it conducts under the registered trade name Waste Management Sno-King (Sno-King). The purpose of the filing is to increase rates due to an increase in fuel, labor, health care, insurance, and other general operating expenses. The stated effective date is February 1, 2010.
- 2 In this filing WMW proposes to increase charges and rates for service it provides by approximately \$475,301 or 4.4 percent. Staff has not yet completed its review of WMW’s supporting financial documents, books and records. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and WMW has not demonstrated that the increases would ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing, and will hold public hearings if necessary.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (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, 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.*

- 4 (2) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2010.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions Waste Management of Washington, Inc., filed on December 17, 2009, would increase charges and rates for service provided under its registered trade name Waste Management Sno-King, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 8 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 81.04.130 and RCW 81.04.220, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices and activities, and to investigate and appraise various phases of Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 81.04.130, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are just, reasonable and sufficient. Nothing in this Order is intended to limit the issues as to the fairness, justness, reasonableness and sufficiency of the proposed increases.
- 10 (8) In addition, the Commission invokes the rights, remedies and procedures contained in the reparations statute, RCW 81.04.220, to the extent the Commission finds that any rate subject to this investigation is excessive or exorbitant.
- 11 (9) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation consistent with the provisions of RCW 81.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Waste Management of Washington, Inc., filed on
December 17, 2009, are suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed
in this Docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the
Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Waste Management of
Washington, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities and operations as
described above.
- 16 (5) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably
attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation consistent with RCW
81.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 14, 2010.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner