

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET TG-090086
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 02
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF)	
WASHINGTON, D/B/A WASTE)	
MANAGEMENT - NORTHWEST,)	ORDER DISMISSING
G-237)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS; ALLOWING TARIFF
Respondent.)	REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 14, 2009, Waste Management of Washington, d/b/a Waste Management - Northwest (Northwest or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a new Tariff No. 17, replacing Tariff No. 16. The stated effective date is March 1, 2009.
- 2 Commission Staff's review revealed that the proposed rates were excessive. Northwest's proposed rates were designed to increase revenues by \$6,900,000 (17.5 percent) annually. Staff and Northwest negotiated revised rates that would increase annual revenues by approximately \$6,300,000 (15.4 percent). On February 17, 2009, Northwest filed revised, lower rates on substitute tariff pages to reflect the lower revenue requirement.
- 3 At the open meeting on February 26, 2009, the Commission allowed the revised rates filed on February 17, 2009, to become effective March 1, 2009, on a temporary basis, subject to refund, to allow customers the opportunity to comment on the Staff recommended revised rates.
- 4 The Commission received comments from 149 customers on the original filing. Staff summarized these comments and responded to them in its February 26, 2009,

memorandum. Subsequent to the date of the memorandum, the Commission received comments from fifteen additional customers, however, no new issues were raised.

- 5 On March 9, 2009, Consumer Protection Staff sent all 164 customers who commented on the Company's filing a letter advising them of Staff's recommended revised rates and that customers could file additional comments. The Commission received one additional comment, which did not raise any additional issues.
- 6 Commission Staff has completed its review of the Company's supporting financial documents, book, and records. Staff's review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations. The one additional customer comment does not change Staff's opinion that the Company's financial information supports the revised revenue requirement and the revised rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

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. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.16, RCW 81.28 and RCW 81.77.*
- 8 (2) Northwest is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 26, 2009.
- 10 (4) The tariff revisions presently under suspension are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient because Northwest has demonstrated that it requires additional revenues and has filed revised rates at Staff's recommended levels.

- 11 (5) After reviewing the tariff revisions Northwest filed in Docket TG-090086 and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-090086, dated February 26, 2009, and allow the tariff revisions filed on February 17, 2009, to become effective on March 27, 2009, on a permanent basis.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-090086, entered on February 26, 2009, is dismissed.
- 13 (2) The proposed revised tariff revisions Waste Management of Washington, d/b/a Waste management - Northwest filed in this docket on February 17, 2009, shall become effective on March 27, 2009, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 26, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner