# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In re the Matter of:

Case No. TG-091292

The Penalty Assessment Against Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Allied Waste Services of Klickitat County SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

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This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by the undersigned parties for the purpose of resolving all issues raised in the above docket. This settlement is submitted to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") for consideration and approval prior to a current brief adjudicative proceeding hearing set for July 9, 2010, in this matter, which the parties now request be stricken or otherwise continued pending action on this proposed Agreement by the Commission.

#### I. PARTIES

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The parties to this Agreement are Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Allied Waste Services of Klickitat County ("Klickitat Allied Waste" or "KAW"), and the Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission Staff"), collectively "the Settling Parties."

### II. BACKGROUND

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On May 12, 2010, after investigation, the Commission issued a penalty assessment against Klickitat Allied Waste in the amount of \$44,400, alleging 444 separate violations of WAC 480-70-236(2), which prohibits a company from assessing rates and charges for solid waste collection services that are higher, lower, or different from those contained in its tariff.

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On May 19 and May 26, 2010, KAW responded to the penalty assessment. KAW admitted the violations but sought mitigation of the penalty, pursuant to RCW 81.04.405.

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As noted, the Commission entered a notice setting a brief adjudication and time for oral statements for July 9, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. before Administrative Law Judge Dennis Moss.

### III. AGREEMENT

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The Settling Parties have reached agreement on the issues raised in the above docket and present their Agreement for the Commission's consideration and approval. The Settling Parties therefore adopt the following Agreement which they enter into voluntarily and which seeks to resolve the matter in dispute between them and to expedite the orderly and efficient disposition of the proceeding.

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If approved, the Settlement Agreement proposes that the Respondent company, Allied Waste Services of Klickitat County, pay a penalty in the amount of \$4,440, which represents a fine of \$10 per violation for a total of 444 violations of WAC 480-70-236(ii) to resolve this matter. KAW and Commission Staff believe the proposed settlement fully resolves the dispute, as the attached Settlement Narrative explains. In summary, once Commission Staff brought the tariff application issue to KAW's attention in February, 2009, through a single customer complaint and inquiry from Commission Staff, KAW promptly notified its customers in the affected portion of the county of the provisions of its tariff, which requires the offering of weekly, as opposed to every other week, service and promptly repositioned its equipment, routes, and personnel to offer the weekly service required by the company's tariff. The company has implemented the new service and currently is providing weekly service to all affected customers within Klickitat County.

## IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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The Settling Parties agree that this Agreement reflects the settlement of all remaining contested issues between them in this proceeding. The Settling Parties understand that this Agreement—including the admissions contained herein—is not binding unless and until

accepted by the Commission. If the Commission does not accept this Agreement, including all of its terms and conditions without change, then the Settling Parties shall be free to assert their pre-settlement positions and agree that neither this Agreement nor any statements or admissions contained herein shall be admissible or used for any purpose in this docket or any other proceeding for any purpose.

9

The Settling Parties agree to cooperate in submitting this Agreement promptly to the Commission for acceptance. The Settling Parties agree to support adoption of this Agreement in proceedings before the Commission. No party to this Agreement or its agents, employees, consultants, or attorneys will engage in advocacy contrary to the Commission's adoption of this Agreement.

10

The Settling Parties agree: (1) to provide each other the right to review in advance of publication any and all announcements or news releases that the other party intends to make about the Agreement (with the right of review to include a reasonable opportunity to request changes to the text of such announcements) and (2) to include in any news release or announcement a statement that the Staff's recommendation to approve the settlement is not binding on the Commission itself.

11

The Settling Parties have entered into this Agreement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, uncertainty, and delay. The Settling Parties recognize that this Agreement represents a compromise of the Settling Parties' positions. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed during negotiations of this Agreement shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding, except in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Agreement or any Commission order fully adopting those terms. This Agreement shall not be construed against either party because it was a drafter of this Agreement.

12

The Settling Parties have negotiated this Agreement as an integrated document to be effective upon execution, subject to Commission approval. This Agreement supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on issues addressed herein. Accordingly, the Settling Parties recommend that the Commission adopt this Agreement in its entirety.

13

The Settling Parties may execute this Agreement in counterparts and as executed shall constitute one agreement. Copies sent by facsimile are as effective as original documents.

14

The Settling Parties shall take all actions necessary as appropriate to carry out this Agreement.

15

In the event that the Commission rejects all or any portion of this Agreement, each party reserves the right to withdraw from this Agreement by written notice to the other party and the Commission. Written notice must be served within 10 business days of the Order rejecting part or all of this Agreement. In such event, neither party will be bound or prejudiced by the terms of this Agreement, and neither party shall be entitled to seek reconsideration of the Order.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RABANCO, LTD. D/B/A ALLIED WASTE SERVICES OF KLICKITAT COUNTY

ROBERT M. MCKENNA,

Attorney General

SALLY BROWN

Senior Assistant Attorney General Counsel for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Dated: July <u>b</u>, 2010

DAVID W. WILEY

Counsel for Respondent Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Allied Waste Services of Klickitat County

Dated: July \_\_, 2010

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ROBERT M. MCKENNA, Attorney General

SALLY BROWN

Senior Assistant Attorney General Counsel for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Dated: July \_\_, 2010

RABANCO, LTD. D/B/A ALLIED WASTE SERVICES OF KLICKITAT COUNTY

Counsel for Respondent Rabanco, Ltd. d/b/a Allied Waste Services of Klickitat

County

Dated: July <u>4</u>, 2010