

Agenda Date: September 26, 2024
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG- 240628
Company Name: Yakima Waste Systems, Inc.

Staff: Scott Sevall, Regulatory Services
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., on August 16, 2024, and revised on September 24, 2024, to become effective October 1, 2024, by operation of law.

Discussion

On August 16, 2024, Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., (Yakima or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission), tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$966,000 (5.8 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company serves approximately 17,000 residential, 7,200 commercial, 490 industrial, 3,150 residential recycling, and 720 yard waste customers in Yakima County. The Company's last general rate case became effective October 1, 2023.

This case was filed to recover increased operating costs and investment, and to comply with Docket TG-230661 Order 01. Order 01 required a filing of fuel costs and invoices to make sure to accurately reflect fuel expenses as the fuel lock was ending, and to make sure customers were not harmed by this action. Commission staff (Staff) received sufficient financial records to review this case including fuel costs. Specific to fuel, Staff does not believe customers have been harmed as the per-customer fuel cost remained steady. There were proposed adjustments which changed the revenue requirement. The Company and Staff have agreed to a revised revenue requirement which would generate approximately \$934,000 (5.7 percent) of additional annual revenue.

Staff has completed its review of the Company's books and records and believes the Company has demonstrated the rate increase is necessary to provide service. Staff believes the revised rates agreed upon by the Company are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Rate Comparison

Service	Current Rate	Company Proposed	Revised Rate	Increase
<u>Residential</u>				
64 gal. weekly	\$14.96	\$16.01	\$15.99	\$1.01
Recycling	\$11.43	\$12.36	\$12.34	\$0.91
Yard Waste	\$11.38	\$11.59	\$11.57	\$0.19
<u>Commercial</u>				
1.5 Yard Per Pick-up	\$10.40	\$11.13	\$11.11	\$0.70
<u>Industrial</u>				
30 Yard Per Pick-up	\$119.56	\$127.93	\$127.76	\$8.10

Customer Comments

On August 16, 2024, the Company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail. Staff received nine consumer comments regarding the proposed rate increase; six opposed to the rate increase and three customers were in favor. Customers opposed to the rate increase state they are being “nickel and dimed” to death. Others share concerns over having to choose between paying for food or garbage service. Customers in favor of the proposed rate increase state that the services provided are a bargain.

Customers were notified that they may access relevant documents about this rate increase on the Commission's website, and that they may contact Kris Irelan at 1-888-333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov with questions or concerns.

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., on August 16, 2024, and revised on September 24, 2024, to become effective October 1, 2024, by operation of law.