

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal,  
d/b/a Republic Services

Respondent.

DOCKET TG-250171

ORDER 01

COMPLAINT AND ORDER  
ALLOWING RATES SUBJECT TO  
LATER REVIEW AND REFUND;  
SETTING MATTER FOR  
ADJUDICATION

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On March 13, 2025, Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services (Eastside or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) Tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$413,404 (6.5 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company serves approximately 11,000 residential and commercial garbage customers in King County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on May 1, 2024.
- 2 The Company indicated that this filing was caused by operational cost increases during the last year with labor contracts for drivers and mechanics contributing as the main cost. The Company also experienced incremental increases in the cost of assets and materials to provide service. During review Commission staff (Staff) made minor adjustments correcting the alternative fuel tax credit and internal reference links. This resulted in a revised revenue of approximately \$321,000 (4.9 percent). The Company and Staff reached an agreement, and the Company has filed revised tariff pages, as reflected in the chart below:

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Revised Rate	Percent Increase
<b>Garbage</b>				
<b>Appendix A&amp;B:</b>				
32 gal 1x wk.	\$19.31	\$19.66	\$19.44	0.6%
64 gal 1x a wk.	\$31.91	\$32.50	\$32.14	0.7%
MF 4 yard	\$120.72	\$123.20	\$121.77	0.9%
MF 30 yard	\$399.62	\$408.89	\$403.88	1.01%
<b>Appendix A: Recycling and Yard Waste</b>				
96 gal RC	\$10.67	\$12.91	\$12.64	18.46%
96 gal YW	\$12.44	\$13.91	\$13.61	9.41%
<b>Appendix B: Recycling and Yard Waste</b>				
96 gal RC	\$13.25	\$16.04	\$15.70	18.49%
96 gal YW	\$16.32	\$18.25	\$17.85	9.38%

3 On March 14, 2025, the Company notified its customers by mail about the proposed rate increase. Staff received six comments, all opposed. Customers commented that the dramatic cost increase to recycling makes the service more expensive than garbage service and discourages recycling. Many customers wondered why every-other-week recycling service costs more than weekly solid waste service. The King County Solid Waste Division shared concerns about the proposed rate increase and stated that the County will discuss their concerns directly with the Company.

4 On April 24, 2025, this matter came before the Commission on its regularly scheduled Open Meeting. Staff recommended that the Commission take no action and allow the tariff to go into effect. The Company was in agreement with Staff's recommendation. However, a representative of King County appeared at the Open Meeting via Zoom and requested more time to review the proposed tariff revision and communicate with the Company regarding the proposed tariff revision, indicating that communication between King County and the Company had not been effective. The Company opposed King County's request on the basis that King County had received proper service and notice of the proposed tariff revision.

## DISCUSSION AND DECISION

5 After discussion with the Staff and Company during the Open Meeting, and having reviewed the Company's filing, the Commission supports Staff's recommendation to allow the Tariff filed March 13, 2025, and revised on April 15, 2025, to take effect May 1, 2025. However, we take into consideration that King County has an obligation to

conduct its own analysis of the requested tariff revision pursuant to King County Code. While King County indicated a lack of communication between itself and the Company as the basis of its request, we are concerned about setting a precedent of regularly suspending matters where the Company has followed procedures set forth in state law, administrative code and other relevant county code provisions. However, because communication issues appear to have occurred on the part of both King County and the Company, we understand King County's request that it be afforded the opportunity to continue to assess the proposed tariff rates and have an opportunity to share any additional concerns with the Commission.

- 6 We encourage the Company and King County to work together to remedy any communication issues that may exist. We believe that it is appropriate to set this matter for adjudication and allow the increased rates in this Docket to become effective subject to refund. This will allow King County the opportunity to participate in this matter without causing the Company to forgo a portion of the revenue requirement on which Staff and the Company agreed. The Commission's action in this matter is not a final resolution of any matter raised in this Docket, nor will it impact the rates subject to refund in this Docket.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, and practices of public service companies, including electric companies and gas companies.
- 8 (2) Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a Republic Services is a solid waste disposal company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), the Company bears the burden to prove that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, equitable, and sufficient.
- 10 (4) The Company may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.020.
- 11 (5) After considering the Company's filing, Staff's recommendation, and for good cause shown, the Commission directs the Company to work with King County on communication to prevent further delays in this matter. The Commission sets this

matter for adjudication and allows the tariff revision to become effective May 1, 2025, subject to refund.

- 12 (6) So as to conserve administrative resources, the Administrative Law Division will not schedule a pre-hearing conference matter until after May 30, 2025.
- 13 (7) Staff are directed to file a letter to the docket by May 30, 2025, expressing whether there is sufficient evidence to continue the matter; if there is not an evidentiary basis to continue investigating the matter, Staff should request the Commission enter a final order approving the rates and dismissing the suspension of the docket.
- 14 (8) If King County wishes to challenge the proposed rates, then they must file a petition to intervene by May 30, 2025, and state a cause based in law for challenging the tariff.

### **ORDER**

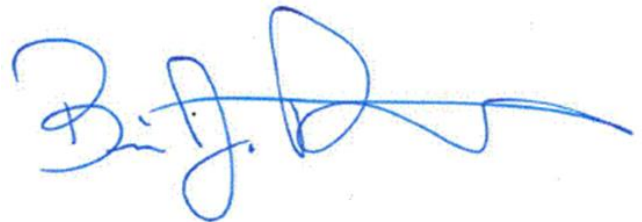
#### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 15 (1) The Commission orders that Tariff pages filed by Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a/ Republic Services, on March 13, 2025, and revised on April 15, 2025, will become effective May 1, 2025, by operation of law, subject later review and refund, and the Commission sets this matter for adjudication.
- 16 (2) The Company and King County shall make best efforts to communicate regarding the matters in this Docket.
- 17 (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required. So as to conserve administrative resources, the Administrative Law Division will not schedule a pre-hearing conference in this matter until after May 30, 2025. Staff is directed to file a letter to the docket by May 30, 2025, expressing whether there is sufficient evidence to continue the matter; if there is not an evidentiary basis to continue investigating the matter, Staff should request the Commission enter a final order approving the rates and dismissing the suspension of the docket.
- 18 (4) If King County wishes to challenge the proposed rates, then they must file a petition to intervene in this docket by May 30, 2025, and state a cause based in law for challenging the tariff.

- 19 (5) Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a/ Republic Services must not change or alter the tariffs filed in these Dockets during the suspension period unless authorized by the Commission.
- 20 (6) The Commission will institute an investigation of Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a/ Republic Services books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 21 (7) The parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400-425.
- 22 (8) Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a/ Republic Services shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation consistent with RCW 80.20.020.
- 23 (9) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Rabanco Ltd., d/b/a Eastside Disposal, d/b/a/ Republic Services to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 30, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



BRIAN RYBARIK, Chair



ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Milt H. Doumit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Milt" being more prominent than the last name "Doumit".

MILTON H. DOUMIT, Commissioner