

Agenda Date: May 31, 2018
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG-180230
Company Name: Waste Management of Washington, Inc. dba WM – Healthcare Solutions of Washington G-237

Staff: Scott Sevall, Regulatory Analyst
John Cupp, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

Grant the company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), and allow the rates, as filed by the company on March 15, 2018, and revised on May 24, 2018 to become effective on June 1, 2018 by operation of law.

Discussion

On March 15, 2018, Waste Management of Washington, Inc. dba WM – Healthcare Solutions of Washington (Healthcare Solutions or company) filed tariff revisions with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission). The tariff revisions would generate approximately \$188,000 (9.7 percent) in additional annual revenue. The proposed increases are prompted by increases in labor and processing costs. The company provides regulated medical waste collection service to approximately 1,600 customers in Washington State. This is the company's first general rate case since being granted certificate G-237 on February 2, 2011.

The company requests an exemption from Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-07-520(4), work papers, exempting the company from having to file the required work papers for Waste Management of Washington, Inc., and limiting the work papers to just the work papers for Healthcare Solutions. The company has provided all the required work papers for WM – Healthcare Solutions of Washington.

Commission staff (staff) has reviewed the company's work papers and financial records. Staff's three primary adjustments were both positive and negative and offset each other. Staff removed bonuses that were deemed inappropriate, and corrected errors in the disposal cost calculation and payroll, which offset the removal of the bonuses. The resulting difference in rates is immaterial and therefore staff recommends no changes to the tariff revisions filed on March 15, 2018.

Rate Comparison

Per Gallon Per Pickup Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Percent Increase
0-50 Gallons	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.56	7.60%
51-100 Gallons	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.18	7.29%
101-200 Gallons	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.86	6.25%

Customer Comments

The company notified its customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff received no comments on this case.

Conclusion

Commission staff has completed its review of the company's supporting financial documents, books and records. Staff's review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the company's operation. The company's financial information supports the revised revenue requirement and the revised rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Therefore, staff recommends the following:

Grant the company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), and allow the rates, as filed by the company on March 15, 2018, and revised on May 24, 2018 to become effective on June 1, 2018 by operation of law.