

# Yakima Waste Services, Inc.

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July 16, 2021

Mr. Mark L. Johnson  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Attn: Records Section  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Received  
Records Management  
07/16/21 13:41  
State Of WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

RE: Tariff Revision to Recover Incremental COVID 19 Costs – Yakima Waste Systems, Inc. G-89,  
Revised Tariff No. 11

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We respectfully ask that the Commission accept this filing to recover incremental COVID 19 costs, as explained below.

## Overview

The Company proposes recovering \$136,000 of incremental COVID-19 costs, over a two-year period, beginning September 1, 2021. The two-year period is requested to minimize the monthly impact to customers. These costs include supplemental payments to all hourly employees, sanitary cleaning, and building and property expenses needed to maintain a safe work environment. The Company proposes the costs be recovered via an increase to each tariff rate, similar to a dump fee filing.

The increase is proposed as follows: Residential garbage service \$13,000, 0.60%; residential recycling service \$2,000, 0.60%; residential yard waste \$500, 0.60%; commercial service \$39,000, 0.60%; and roll-off service \$15,000, 0.60%. There are approximately 12,700 residential; 8,600 commercial; 400 roll-off; 3,000 residential recycling; and 600 yard waste customers affected by this change.

## Rate Calculation

The Company tracks COVID-19 expenses in dedicated general ledger accounts. The regulated portion of those accounts for the period of February 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 is \$136,000, or 1% of regulated revenue for the same period. Half of that percentage, as to allow for a two-year recovery, is \$69,600 or 0.60% of revenue. Each tariff rate will be increased by 0.60%. The Company has provided work papers with this filing, including a Price Out, to support the calculation and prove appropriate recovery of incremental COVID-19 costs.

## Tariff Pages

The Company is submitting a new set of “COVID-19 cost recovery” tariff pages, separate from existing tariff pages, in order to clearly state the expiration date of the COVID-19 recovery rates. If subsequent rate increases occur, such as a dump fee increase, the Company will update both sets of tariff pages for the approved increase. When the two-year recovery period ends, the Company will start billing the rates on the current “non-COVID-19 cost recovery” tariff pages.

## Filing Considerations

A rate increase notification letter will be mailed to all customers affected by these proposed changes no later than August 1, 2021. A notice letter will also be delivered on or before August 1, 2021 to the office of the Yakima County Council Chair.

## CONCLUSION

The company respectfully requests the Commission issue an order authorizing the Company to recover \$136,000 of COVID-19 incremental costs over a two-year period. The requested two year period begins September 1, 2021 and ends August 31, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (360) 695-4923, or via email at [Heather.Garland@WasteConnections.com](mailto:Heather.Garland@WasteConnections.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Garland", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Garland  
Pricing Manager