

Agenda Date: October 24, 2007
Item Number: B1

Docket: TG-071785

Company Name: Waste Management of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Brem-Air Disposal, G-237

Staff: Layne Demas, Regulatory Analyst
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Program Staff

Recommendation

1. Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Waste Management of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Brem-Air Disposal.
2. Make the temporary rates permanent effective November 1, 2007.

Discussion

On August 31, 2007, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Brem-Air Disposal (Brem-Air or company), filed a general rate increase for solid waste service. The overall impact of the filing was approximately \$861,700 (6.56 percent). Staff's review of Brem-Air's operations revealed that some proposed rates were excessive. On October 8, 2007, the company filed revised rates at the staff recommended level. The revised rates generate approximately \$769,200 (5.89 percent). The company serves approximately 42,000 customers in Kitsap county.

The commission has received 18 comments in response to the filing. A count of issues from these customers is as follows:

Issue	Total	Open complaint
Service quality comments		
Inconsistent pickups	1	No
Garbage falls to the ground and is left after pickup	1	No
Rates increase but service does not improve	1	No
Service is poor (no details)	1	No
Proposed rate increase comments		
Objects to increase	16 ¹	
Undecided	1	
Supports increase	1	
Total customers responding	18	

¹. Service quality comments were included with comments objecting to the increase.

On October 10, 2007, the commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions to allow customers the opportunity to comment on the revised rates before determining whether the revisions were fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. The commission allowed the revised rates to go

into effect on a temporary basis October 15, 2007.

On October 11, 2007, a letter was sent to eighteen customers who expressed an interest in this filing. The letter showed current, proposed and revised rates. It also made customers aware of a decision at the October 10, 2007, commission open meeting, to allow the revised rates on a temporary basis effective October 15, 2007. Customers were also informed that the commission would decide whether to make the revised rates permanent at the October 24, 2007, open meeting.

Rate Comparison

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<u>Residential - monthly rates</u>			
Mini can	\$ 9.15	\$ 9.20	n/a
One 32 gal. can per week	\$11.45	\$12.00	\$11.90
One 35 gal. cart per week	\$12.80	\$13.40	\$13.30
One 64 gal. cart per week	\$16.10	\$16.90	\$16.70
One 96 gal. cart per week	\$20.75	\$21.80	\$21.60
Curbside Recycling	\$ 3.65	\$ 4.05	n/a
Commodity Credit	\$ 1.38	\$ 1.38	n/a
Yardwaste (optional)	\$ 6.75	\$8.15	n/a
<u>Commercial - per pickup</u>			
One yard container	\$ 9.12	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.40
Two yard container	\$17.13	\$17.80	\$17.60
20 yard Drop box	\$104.10	\$124.50	\$124.20
Monthly rent	\$ 70.15	\$ 62.30	n/a

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the commission dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Brem-Air and make the temporary rates permanent effective November 1, 2007.