

Agenda Date: December 19, 2024
Item Number: B1

Docket: TG-240906
Company Name: Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Pierce County Refuse

Staff: Tiffany Van Meter, Regulatory Analyst
Scott Sevall, Regulatory Analyst
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing the Tariff pages filed on November 15, 2024, as revised on December 12, 2024, to take effect January 1, 2024, by operation of law.

Discussion

On November 15, 2024, Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Pierce County Refuse (Pierce County or Company), filed for rate increases as Tariff No. 12 replacing Tariff No.11, with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) that would generate approximately \$1.23 Million (2.7 percent) in additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling, and yard waste. The Company serves approximately 57,000 residential customers off base in Pierce County and 4,300 residential customers on Joint Base Lewis McChord. The Company's last general rate case took effect October 1, 2022.

The proposed increase is the result of new asset purchases the Company would like to begin recovery for and payroll increases that have happened since the Company's last general rate case.

After review, Commission staff (Staff) found the proposed rates would result in slightly excessive revenue and made adjustments mainly to management fees.

Staff and the Company agreed on a new additional annual revenue of approximately \$1.1 million (2.4 percent). On December 12, 2024, the Company filed revised rates at Staff recommended levels. Staff believes the revised rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Staff would like to point out the reason behind the different rates in garbage between Joint Base Lewis McChord and other regulated customers is due to the different disposal rate the federal installation is charged.

Rate Comparison

Residential Rates (Per Month)	Current Rates	Proposed Rates	Revised Rates	Increase/Decrease
65 Gal. Can Weekly Garbage w/recycling	29.20	29.42	29.37	0.6%
95 Gal. Can Weekly Garbage w/recycling	38.79	39.09	39.01	0.6%
Every-Other-Week Recycling w/garbage	7.60	8.44	8.41	10.6%
95 Gal. Every-Other-Week Yard waste	6.81	7.70	7.68	12.7%

JBLM Residential Rates (Per Month)	Current Rates	Proposed Rates	Revised Rates	Increase/Decrease
65 Gal. Can Weekly Garbage	25.02	25.21	25.16	0.6%
95 Gal. Can Weekly Garbage	32.91	33.16	33.10	0.6%
Every-Other-Week Recycling w/garbage	7.60	8.44	8.41	10.6%
95 Gal. Every-Other-Week Yard waste	6.80	7.70	7.67	12.7%

Customer Comments

On November 15, 2024, the Company notified its customers of the proposed 2.71 percent rate increase by mail. Staff received one consumer comment opposed to the proposed rate increase. The commenter is concerned because they feel they already pay exorbitant fees for residential garbage, recycling, and yard waste.

Customers may access relevant documents about this rate increase on the Commission's website, and 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 the Tariff pages filed on November 15, 2024, as revised on December 12, 2024, to take effect January 1, 2025, by operation of law.