

STATE OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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May 29, 2025

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Jeff Killip, Executive Director/Secretary

Subject: Kent Meridian Disposal Company,

d/b/a Republic Services of Kent; Allied Waste Services of Kent

22010 76th Ave S., Kent, WA 98032

TG-250164 Order Recommendation

Via E-mail

Dear Mr. Killip:

On March 11, 2025, Kent Meridian Disposal Company (Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that, as originally filed, would have generated approximately \$1,074,310 (7.25 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company provides regulated solid waste collection service to approximately 22,000 residential and commercial customers in King County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on April 1, 2023.

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 by operation of law. The Company supported Staff's recommendation. However, a representative of King County appeared at the Open Meeting via Zoom raising a concern that King County had not been properly served documents in this docket in compliance with the Commission's rules and under the King County Code. King County requested that the Commission suspend the tariff to give the County an opportunity to further analyze the Company's proposal and to meaningfully participate in this matter. King County acknowledged receiving notification letters for the Company's other concurrent filings but claimed not to have received notice of this docket and to have only learned of the filing when it was published on the open meeting agenda. The Company opposed King County's request and informed the Commission that if the tariff revisions' effective date were to be delayed, it risked losing approximately \$90,000 of the requested rate increase. Further the Company assured the Commission that it had properly served King County, noting that other records had been received pursuant to the same process.

The Commission ordered the tariff pages filed by the Company on March 11, 2025, and revised on April 15, 2025, to become effective May 1, 2025, by operation of law, subject to later review

and refund. It ordered Staff to file a letter to the docket by May 30, 2025, to inform the Commission whether there is sufficient evidence to continue investigating the matter. If not, the Commission ordered Staff to request that the Commission issue a final order approving the rates and dismissing the suspension of the tariff revisions.

Staff investigated the Company's filing further after the Commission's order and found an additional adjustment was overlooked. The Company removed the federal CNG-LNG Tax Credit and should have been included in the case as in the Company's other concurrent filings. After making this adjustment Staff found the Company's previous request for approximately \$1,074,310 (7.25 percent) of additional annual revenue would decrease to \$1,041,142 (6.86 Percent) of additional annual revenue, a decrease of \$33,168 or a decrease of an additional \$0.13 per customer per month.

Staff talked with the Company, which agreed to the adjustment described above. Accordingly, Staff does not believe that continued investigation is warranted. Because Staff's recommendation involves actions not contemplated by the Commission in its final order, Staff has asked the company to file updated tariff pages that reflect the incorporation of the CNG-LNG credit, and Staff intends to bring those tariff revisions to the June 26, 2025, Open Meeting, where the Commission will have the opportunity to address the new rates, the required refunds, and the order of suspension.

Thank you,

Jeanine Leggett Regulatory Analyst