

Agenda Date: March 23, 2023
Item Number: B4

Docket: TG- 230124
Company Name: Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc.

Staff: Rachel Stark, Regulatory Services
Tiffany Van Meter, Regulatory Services
John Cupp, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action allowing tariff pages filed by Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., on February 15, 2023, and revised on March 14, 2023, to become effective April 1, 2023, by operation of law.

Background

On February 15, 2023, Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., (Murrey's or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$32,000 (19.23 percent) in additional annual revenue for the collection of medical waste. The Company provides medical waste services to approximately 350 customers in Pierce County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective March 1, 2023. The Company's last medical waste filing became effective September 1, 2019.

The rate increase is prompted by several issues including wages, benefits, fuel, and general operating costs. The Company also included pay raises for 2022 and 2023 for all employees. The Company also is requesting to update utility taxes charged in the cities of Puyallup (6 percent), Ruston (10 percent), and Buckley (10 percent).

Discussion

The Company's last medical waste filing became effective September 1, 2019. Murrey's Disposal Company Inc. had a recent general rate case effective February 1, 2023; however, the medical waste tariff was not increased as part of that filing. The Company was waiting for outstanding bills. The Company included updated utility taxes for the cities of Puyallup, Ruston, and Buckley with this filing. Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed the books and records of Murrey's and found the costs support and are necessary to provide service.

Rate Comparison

Quantity (Gallons)	Current Rate	Proposed Increase	New Rate
0-50	\$2.36	\$0.47	\$2.83
51-100	\$2.08	\$0.41	\$2.49
101-150	\$1.67	\$0.33	\$2.00
151-200	\$1.40	\$0.28	\$1.68
201-250	\$1.27	\$0.25	\$1.52
251-300	\$1.18	\$0.23	\$1.41
301-350	\$1.10	\$0.22	\$1.32
351-400	\$1.01	\$0.20	\$1.21
401-500	\$0.95	\$0.19	\$1.14
500+	\$0.89	\$0.18	\$1.07
Minimum Monthly charge	\$15.00	\$2.96	\$17.96

Other medical waste services not listed will increase an average of 19.73 percent.

Customer Comments

On February 27, 2023, the Company notified its customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff have received no comments.

Conclusions

Staff has completed its review of the Company's documentation. Staff review shows that the revised tariff pages filed are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations.

Recommendation

Take no action allowing tariff pages filed by Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., on February 15, 2023, and revised on March 14, 2023, to become effective April 1, 2023, by operation of law.