

Agenda Date: June 26, 2025
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG- 250342

Company Name: Rabanco Ltd. d/b/a Tri-County Disposal, Allied Waste Services of Klickitat County and Rabanco Recycling

Staff: Kelsey Hanson, Regulatory Analyst
Mike Young, Senior Regulatory Advisor
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing Tariff pages filed by Rabanco Ltd. d/b/a Tri-County Disposal, Allied Waste Services of Klickitat County and Rabanco Recycling on May 12, 2025, and revised on June 18, 2025, to become effective July 1, 2025, by operation of law.

Background

On April 9, 2025, Rabanco Ltd. d/b/a Tri-County Disposal (Rabanco or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) Tariff revisions that, as originally filed, would have generated approximately \$183,000 (5.7 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company provides regulated solid waste collection service to approximately 4,850 customers in Klickitat County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on June 1, 2023.

The Company only charges customers for solid waste collection and disposal. The recycling provided by the Company is a non-regulated service because it is provided through an agreement with Klickitat County and the Company's affiliate transfer station operator. Because recycling is established by the County it does not fall under Commission jurisdiction for rate regulation. The cost of recycling service is included in the disposal fees passed on to solid waste customers.

Discussion

This filing is to recover increased costs for wages and benefits related to the Company's labor agreements, fuel, and maintenance costs. The Company also bought additional assets and materials to provide service.

During the review Commission staff (Staff) made adjustments to various accounts. Staff removed expenses related to employee appreciation and engagement. The Company used revenue as an allocator on many accounts and Staff changed to a more direct allocator which decreased the revenue requirement. Staff also updated fuel costs to the most recent 12 months' expenses.

In addition, Staff discovered that the Company had developed an on-site repair program causing rent, parts, and labor expenses to increase significantly but with an off set in decreased outside repair expenses. The program has resulted in improved vehicle function and availability leading to an improvement in customer satisfaction scores and a reduction in missed customer pickups. However, there were a few customer comments on missed pickup, so Staff made a referral to the Commission's Consumer Investigation section for further review.

The Company agreed with Staff's proposed rate design and decrease in additional annual revenue to \$118,223 (3.7 percent). Staff have completed their review of the Company's books and records and believe that the Company has demonstrated that the rate increase is necessary to provide service. Staff believe that the revised rates agreed upon by the Company are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Rate Comparison

Service	Current rate	Proposed Rate	Revised Rate	Percentage Difference
1 Can	\$ 19.58	\$ 20.59	\$ 20.30	3.7%
3 Yard Pick-Up	\$ 44.40	\$ 46.69	\$ 46.04	3.7%
40 Yard Pick-Up	\$ 212.43	\$ 223.39	\$ 220.27	3.7%

NOTE: Recycling is provided by the county.

Customer Comments

On May 12, 2025, the Company informed its customers via mail about a proposed rate increase. Staff received six comments opposing the proposed rate increase. Customers state the Company frequently misses the trash and recycling pick up. While reducing recycling pick-up service to one time per month is not a part of this filing, many of the commenters included in their comments concerns about this recent change.

Staff provided commenters with information on how they can file an informal consumer complaint with the Commission about a missed garbage pick-up. Staff also informed customers that state law mandates rates to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient to allow the Company to recover the necessary operating expenses and to earn a reasonable return on its investment. Commission staff conducts a thorough review of rate filings to ensure that all rates and fees are appropriate.

Customers were also notified that they could access relevant documents about the rate increase on the Commission's website. For any questions or concerns, they were directed to contact Kris Irelan at 1-888-333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov.

Conclusion

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