

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	DOCKET TG-070525
	)	
Complainant,	)	ORDER 02
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF WASHINGTON, INC., d/b/a WASTE MANAGEMENT OF GREATER WENATCHEE, G-237	)	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS; GRANTING TARIFF REVISIONS
Respondent	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On March 15, 2007, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Waste Management of Greater Wenatchee (Greater Wenatchee or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a new Tariff No. 12. The filing increases residential, commercial and drop box solid waste rates.
- 2     Greater Wenatchee’s proposed rates were designed to increase revenues by \$ 748,000 (15.4 percent) annually. Commission Staff’s review revealed that some proposed rates were excessive. Staff and the Company negotiated revised rates that would increase annual revenues by approximately \$ 725,500 (13.4 percent). On April 16, 2007, Greater Wenatchee filed lower revised rates on substitute tariff pages to reflect this reduced revenue level.
- 3     Twenty-five customers commented on this filing. Seventeen are opposed, saying the proposed increase is too drastic and rates are already too high. Several of these customers said they are seniors on fixed incomes, and the increase will be hard on them. One customer said she understands the need for an increase. Several customers commented on issues that the Commission does not regulate, such as landfill disposal fees.
- 4     On April 27, 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, subject to refund effective May 1, 2007.

5 On May 7, 2007, a letter was sent to twenty-five 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 April 27, 2007, Commission open meeting, to allow the revised rates on a temporary basis effective May 1, 2007. Customers were also informed that the Commission would decide whether to make the revised rates permanent at the May 23, 2007, open meeting. Only one additional comment was received from a customer who still feels the revised rates are too high.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, affiliated transactions, and transfers of public service companies, including solid waste companies. *RCW 80.01.040; RCW 81.01; RCW 81.04; RCW 81.28; RCW 81.16 and RCW 81.77.*
- 7 (2) Greater Wenatchee is a solid waste company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 8 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 23, 2007.
- 9 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Greater Wenatchee on March 15, 2007, and the substitute pages filed on April 16, 2007, increase solid waste rates.
- 10 (5) The Commission allowed the revised rates filed on April 16, 2007, to become effective May 1, 2007, on a temporary basis subject to refund.
- 11 (6) Greater Wenatchee has demonstrated that it requires additional revenues and the revised rates, now in effect on a temporary basis are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and should become effective permanently

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12* (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-070525 dated April 27, 2007, is dismissed.
- 13* (2) The proposed revised rates the Company filed on April 16, 2007, that reflect Staff-recommended levels are approved to become effective June 1, 2007, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 23, 2007.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner