

Agenda Date: January 31, 2019
Item Number: B1

Docket: TG-181036
Company: West Waste and Recycling, Inc.

Staff: Cristina Steward, Regulatory Analyst
John Cupp, Consumer Protection Staff

Recommendation

1. Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by West Waste and Recycling, Inc. December 17, 2018, and amended on January 18, 2019.
2. Allow the disposal fee only rates to become effective February 1, 2019, in accordance with RCW 81.77.160 and WAC 480-70-341, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.

Discussion

On December 17, 2018, West Waste and Recycling, Inc. filed tariff revisions with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) that would generate approximately \$138,800 (10.7 percent) in additional annual revenue. The company serves approximately 1,000 residential and commercial customers in Jefferson and Clallam Counties.

The proposed increase was prompted by increases in disposal fees, wages, postage, insurance, and other operating expenses. It has been over 20 years since the company's last general rate case.

The company's rate filing includes a pass-through disposal fee increase set by Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc. increasing the disposal rate from \$69.71 per ton to \$80.00 per ton on January 1, 2019, at the LeMay transfer station. Staff's analysis shows the increased disposal rate would generate approximately \$54,000 (4 percent) additional annual revenue. The remainder of the requested rate increase is attributable to an \$84,800 increase in operating expenses.

RCW 81.77.160(2) requires the commission to allow the portion of the rate increase related to disposal fees to go into effect, subject to refund, pending a final commission order. The company has submitted revised tariff pages, on January 18, 2019, reflecting disposal fee only increase in rates.

Staff continues to review the company's filing and has issued data requests for additional information. Both the company and staff require additional time to fully analyze the data requests responses and the company's books and records.

Customer Comments

The company notified its customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff received no comments.

Conclusion

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