

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET TG-081518
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 02
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	ORDER DISMISSING
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
WASHINGTON, INC., G-253)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS; ALLOWING TARIFF
Respondent.)	REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 15, 2008, Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., (Waste Connections or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff No. 2. The tariff revisions proposed to increase rates for solid waste collection. The stated effective date was October 1, 2008.
- 2 On September 25, 2008, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions pending an investigation to determine whether the revisions are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 3 Staff’s review of Waste Connections’ filing revealed the proposed rates were excessive. The Company’s proposed rates were designed to increase revenues by approximately \$959,800 (5.4 percent) annually. Staff and Waste Connections negotiated revised rates that would increase annual revenues by approximately \$772,000 (4.4 percent). On September 16, 2008, Waste Connections filed revised lower rates on substitute tariff pages to reflect the lower revenue requirement.
- 4 At the open meeting on September 25, 2008, the Commission allowed the revised rates filed on September 16, 2008, to become effective October 1, 2008, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.
- 5 Eight customers commented on the original filing. Staff summarized six comments and responded to them in its September 25, 2008, memorandum. The Commission received two additional comments that raised new issues. Both customers stated that they did not

receive the customer notice in a timely manner before the public comment open meeting. One customer would also like to have every-other-week service available.

6 Consumer Protection Staff contacted the two customers and explained why the Company notice complied with the Commission customer notice requirements. Staff also advised the customer who wants every-other-week service to contact the Company.

7 On September 25, 2008, Commission Protection Staff sent all customers who previously commented on the Company's filing a letter advising them of the Staff's recommended revised rates. No customers commented on the revised rates.

8 The additional customer comments do not provide any new information that causes Staff to change its opinion that the Company's books and records support the revised revenue requirement and the revised, temporary rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts and affiliated interests of public service companies, including solid waste companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.16, RCW 81.28 and RCW 81.77.*

10 (2) Waste Connections is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

11 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 30, 2008.

12 (4) The tariff revisions presently under suspension are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient because Waste Connections has demonstrated that it requires additional revenues and has filed revised rates at Staff's recommended levels.

13 (5) After reviewing the tariff revisions Waste Connections filed in Docket TG-081518 and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent

with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-081518, dated September 25, 2008, and allow the tariff revisions filed on September 16, 2008, to Tariff 2 to become effective on November 1, 2008, on a permanent basis.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-081518, entered on September 25, 2008, is dismissed.
- 15 (2) The proposed revised tariff revisions Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., filed in this docket on September 16, 2008, shall become effective on November 1, 2008, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 30, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner