

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION,

Complainant, v.

MASON COUNTY GARBAGE CO.,
INC.
G-88

Respondent.

DOCKET TG-210038

ORDER 01

ALLOWING RATES TO GO INTO
EFFECT APRIL 1, 2021, SUBJECT
TO CONDITION

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 15, 2021, Mason County Garbage Co., Inc., (Mason or Company) filed proposed revisions to Tariff No. 14 with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) that would generate approximately \$541,000 (8.4 percent) in additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling, and yard waste. The Company operates in Mason County. Mason serves approximately 13,800 residential garbage and recycling customers, 1,000 commercial customers, and 100 roll-off customers. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on April 1, 2013.
- 2 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the filing and supporting documentation and determined that the Company demonstrated a need for \$447,000 (6.9 percent) additional annual revenue. Based on adjustments to the salvage value of several assets that have been amortized over a three-year period, Staff recommends that the Commission direct Mason to make a compliance filing with an effective date of April 1, 2024, to remove those costs from rates. The Company agreed to Staff's proposed revenue requirement and filed revised pages on March 18, 2021. Staff finds the revised rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 3 On January 26, 2021, the Company notified customers by mail of the proposed rate increase. Staff received four consumer comments opposed to the proposed rate increase and one in favor. The customer comments do not change Staff's opinion that the Company's financial information supports the revised revenue requirement, and that the revised rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Staff's review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations.

DISCUSSION

4 The Commission agrees with Staff's recommendation and finds that Mason's proposed
Tariff revisions, as revised on March 18, 2021, are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
We approve the proposed revisions subject to the condition that Mason makes a
compliance filing to remove asset salvage values from rates with an effective date of
April 1, 2024, once those values have been recovered from customers to ensure that
rates remain fair, just, and reasonable.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute
with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts and
affiliated interests of public service companies, including solid waste
companies.
- 6 (2) Mason is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to
Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting
on March 25, 2021.
- 8 (4) Mason has demonstrated that the increase revenue requirement and rates are fair,
just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 9 (5) The increased revenue requirement and rates should be allowed to go into effect
by operation of law on April 1, 2021, subject to the condition that Mason makes
a compliance filing to remove asset salvage values from rates with an effective
date of April 1, 2024.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) The tariff revision filed by Mason County Garbage Co., Inc., in this docket on
March 18, 2021, shall become effective by operation of law on April 1, 2021.

- 11 (2) Mason County Garbage Co., Inc., is required to make a compliance filing in three years with an effective date of April 1, 2024, to remove from rates certain asset salvage values.
- 12 (3) This Order shall not affect the Commission's authority over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may come before it.

DATED at Lacey Washington, and effective March 25, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner