

Agenda Date: August 29, 2024
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG-240484
Company: Mason County Garbage Co., Inc.

Staff: Rachel Stark, Regulatory Services
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

To take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Mason County Garbage Co., Inc. in Docket TG-240484 on June 14, 2024, and as revised on August 26, 2024, to become effective September 1, 2024, by operation of law.

Discussion

On June 14, 2024, Mason County Garbage Co., Inc., (Mason County or Company) a Waste Connections company, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that as originally filed, would generate approximately \$666,600 (6.7 percent) additional revenue. The Company serves approximately 15,470 residential, 1,200 commercial, and 125 roll-off, and 16,000 residential recycling customers in Mason County.

Mason County’s last rate case became effective April 1, 2021. On August 7, 2024, Commission staff (Staff) performed a site visit with the Company. During this visit, Staff discussed and viewed the Company’s current operations, as well as confirmed new equipment and containers. The main driving force for this increase is to recover costs for new capital improvements like fencing, a new backhoe, truck and trailer repairs, and new containers. Additionally, expenses for employee wage increases, recycling costs, and operating expenses.

Commission Staff has completed its review of the Company’s supporting financial documents. Staff confirmed the garbage and recycling services are separate and neither are subsidizing the other. The Company requested approximately \$666,600 in this filing. However, after its review, Staff found that the Company is entitled to a smaller amount than requested. Staff and the Company agreed to a revised revenue requirement of \$592,186 (6 percent) additional revenue. On August 26, 2024, the Company filed revised pages at Staff’s recommended levels.

	Current Rate	Company Proposed Rate	Staff Revised Rate	Percent Increase
Mini can weekly garbage	\$15.00	\$15.32	\$15.24	1.6%
1 35-gal can weekly	\$21.00	\$21.44	\$21.34	1.6%
1 35-gal cart every other week	\$12.32	\$12.58	\$12.52	1.6%
Recycling with garbage	\$9.00	\$11.66	\$11.48	27.5%
1.5 yd 1x weekly	\$99.11	\$101.20	\$100.72	1.6%

Customer Comments

On June 14, 2024, the Company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail. Staff received four consumer comments regarding the proposed rate increase, all opposed. Commenters expressed concerns about being on a fixed income and the concern about the economy.

Customers were notified that they may access relevant documents about this rate increase on the Commission's website, and that they may contact Kris Irelan at (888) 333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov with questions or concerns.

Conclusion

Staff have completed their review of the Company's documentation. Staff's review shows that the tariff pages filed are fair, just, reasonable, sufficient, and required as part of the Company's operations.

Recommendation

To take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Mason County Garbage Co., Inc. in Docket TG-240484 on June 14, 2024, and as revised on August 26, 2024, to become effective September 1, 2024, by operation of law.