

Zippy Disposal Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 1717
Chelan, Washington 98816
(509) 682-5464

February 12, 2021

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Executive Secretary,

This filing is submitted by Zippy Disposal Service, Inc., G-121.

The purpose of this filing is to comply with Docket TG-180267 Order 04 requiring a rate review of our Chelan County commingled recycling program and corresponding tariff revisions.

To facilitate staff examination of this review, we have enclosed the following information:

1. Updated Tariff pages.
2. Rates were discussed with staff; work papers are included.
3. Since the Company is proposing no rate change, no customer notice was sent.

The participation rates for the commingled program ranged between a low of 202 customers in January to a high of 259 customers in September. Counts at the end of the year were 235 customers. While this represents over 10% of our customer base, it is still about half of the customers estimated by Staff for our initial projections.

We believe three factors have influenced participation. First, the City of Chelan offered a free drop off center for years prior to closing it in 2018. They switched to a mandatory commingled collection and told their customers it would be free, even though their customers were already paying for the majority of the costs at the drop off center. County residents, our customers, thought their recycling should be free as well. Second, since our program was established post China Sword, we only included recyclables that processors said they could still market. Many customers still believe everything is recyclable somewhere somehow and anything less is not worth it. And third is the cost of the program. A rural by subscription only program is always going to be more expensive than a mandated city program, and cost reductions will be difficult to achieve without substantial improvements in commodity pricing.

The more promising part of the program is that as more people become aware of the current state of recycling and as we gain more permanent residents from outside the area, we are seeing more interest in the program. In addition, processors are becoming more familiar with our uncontaminated product and we are beginning to see better pricing.

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There is no revenue impact associated with this filing.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (509) 682-5464; our fax number is (509) 682-5379; and our email address is zippydisposal@hotmail.com.

Respectfully,

Glen A. Austin, Controller
Zippy Disposal Service, Inc.

CC: Chelan County Commissioners