

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. TG-021516
)	
WASTE CONTROL, INC., D/B/A)	
WASTE CONTROL)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Exemption from the)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
Provisions of WAC 480-70-396.)	FOR EXEMPTION FROM BILLING
.....)	RULES IN WAC 480-70-396

BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 14, 2002, Waste Control, Inc. d/b/a Waste Control filed a petition requesting an exemption from the billing rules in WAC 480-70-396. The purpose of the exemption is to allow Waste Control to continue to bill its customers two months in advance for two months of service.

- 2 The last solid waste rule revisions did not include the option of two months advanced monthly billing for garbage service. The company has filed a new tariff in Docket TG-021517 to comply with the new solid waste tariff format and all other rule revisions.

- 3 Petitioner asserts that it has billed customers two months in advance in the Cowlitz and Castle Rock area since 1949. To change the billing procedure at this point would cause an extreme financial hardship on the company. The company's annual revenues were \$2,383,000 in 2001. A change in the billing procedures now would defer collection of up to \$200,000 of revenue in 2002. Customers would also be confused by the change.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including solid waste companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 81.04 RCW; Chapter 81.28 RCW and Chapter 81.77 RCW.*
- 5 (2) Waste Control, Inc. is a solid waste company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (3) Waste Control, Inc. is subject to the provisions of RCW 81.04.080 and WAC 480-70-396 requiring solid waste companies to bill customers no more than one month in advance for two months of service.
- 7 (4) WAC 480-70-051 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-70 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 8 (5) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket TG-021516 and recommended the exemption requested by Waste Control, Inc. be granted and the company be allowed to bill customers two months in advance for two months of service.
- 9 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 11, 2002.
- 10 (7) After review of the petition filed in Docket TG-021516 by Waste Control, Inc., on December 11, 2002, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable and should be granted.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The exemption sought by Waste Control, Inc. to bill its customers two months in advance for two months service is granted.
- 12 (2) The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 11th day of December 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary