

Agenda Date: March 27, 2025
Item Number: B2

Docket: TG- 250083
Company Name: Torre Refuse & Recycling, LLC d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling
Staff: Scott Sevall, Regulatory Services
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing Tariff pages filed by Torre Refuse & Recycling, LLC d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling, on February 10, 2025 and revised on March 18, 2025, to become effective April 1, 2025, by operation of law.

Discussion

On February 10, 2025, Torre Refuse & Recycling, LLC d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling, (Sunshine or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$70,000 (17.8 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company serves approximately 500 residential, commercial, and roll-off customers in Ferry and Okanogan Counties. The Company’s last general rate case became effective on May 1, 2017.

This is the first case filed by Sunshine for some time. Sunshine initially requested \$70,000 of additional annual revenue, however, the supporting workpapers would have justified an additional annual revenue of \$80,000 due to operational costs and additional investment. Staff confirmed with the Company that this was intentional, and it is. During the review Staff received all reports and records requested and determined an additional annual revenue of approximately \$78,000. Sunshine does not wish to revise the rates which were originally submitted. Staff is in agreement with the request for \$70,000 of additional annual revenue.

Staff has completed its review of the Company’s books and records and believes the Company has demonstrated the rate increase is necessary to provide service. Staff believes the revised rates agreed upon by the Company are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Rate Comparison

Service	Current Rate	Revised Rate	Percentage Increase
Residential			
64 gal. weekly	\$42.26	\$50.22	18.8%
Commercial			
1 yard per pickup	\$32.41	\$38.27	18.1%
Industrial			
20 yard drop box	\$139.00	\$173.75	25.0%

Customer Comments

On February 12, 2025, the Company notified its customers by mail about the proposed rate increase. Two comments were received. One customer commented that the increase is twice the inflation rate. The other customer shared that while rates go up her social security does not. In response, Staff explained that there are currently no subsidies for 60 plus or low-income customers. Staff provided information on how to contact the county and the Department of Ecology for further details.

Staff informed customers that state law mandates rates to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient to allow the Company to recover necessary operating expenses and to earn a reasonable return on its investment. Commission Staff conduct a thorough review of rate filings to ensure that all rates and fees are appropriate.

Customers were also notified that they could access relevant documents about the rate increase on the Commission's website. For any questions or concerns, they were directed to contact Kris Irelan at (888) 333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov.

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Torre Refuse & Recycling, LLC d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling, on February 10, 2025, and revised on March 18, 2025, to become effective April 1, 2025, by operation of law.