

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Tariff Revisions to  
Increase Rates Filed by

WASTE CONTROL, INC.,

Certificate No. G-101

DOCKET TG-180636

ORDER 01

ALLOWING REVISED TARIFF  
REVISIONS TO GO INTO EFFECT  
BY OPERATION OF LAW;  
REQUIRING COMPLIANCE FILING

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On July 24, 2018, Waste Control, Inc. (WCI or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its Tariff No. 19 that would generate approximately \$411,000 (9.8 percent) additional revenue. WCI serves approximately 9,500 residential and commercial customers in Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania counties. The filing was prompted by increases in wages, benefits, medical insurance, new assets, and other general operating expenses. WCI's last general rate increase became effective on November 1, 2015.
- 2 Commission Staff (Staff) has completed its review of the Company's supporting financial documents, books, and records. Staff's review found that the Company's proposed rates would result in excess revenue. Staff and the Company agreed to a revised revenue requirement of approximately \$407,000 (9.8 percent) additional annual revenue. The revenue adjustment results in no changes to the proposed rate design. On September 18, 2018, WCI filed revised tariff pages that incorporates Staff's recommended revenue requirement. Staff recommends the Commission allow the revised tariff pages to become effective on October 1, 2018, by operation of law.
- 3 Staff further recommends that the Commission order the Company to file tariff revisions, effective November 1, 2021, to remove fully-amortized rate case costs from rates. In Order 13 issued in Docket TG-140560, the Commission allowed the Company to amortize rate case costs over a five-year period ending November 1, 2020. In this filing, the Company requests to extend the recovery period for amortized rate case costs by one year, to November 1, 2021, and Staff agrees with the revised annual amount and recovery period. However, Staff recommends the Commission order the Company to make a

compliance filing, effective November 1, 2021, to remove those amortized costs from rates to prevent over recovery.

### DISCUSSION

- 4 We concur with Staff's recommendation. We find that the proposed rate increase, which captures increases in various operating costs, is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The Company has also demonstrated that extending the amortization period for one year will lower the monthly charge to ratepayers. Accordingly, we conclude that the revised tariff pages should be allowed to go into effect on October 1, 2018, by operation of law.
- 5 We also agree with Staff that the Company should be required to make a compliance filing at the conclusion of the amortization period. We find that granting the Company an additional year to recover its prior unamortized rate case costs, which allows the Company to recover costs associated with the instant filing, is reasonable. To ensure rate case costs are not over recovered, we require the Company to file tariff revisions, effective November 1, 2021, to remove those costs from rates.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, and accounts of public service companies, including solid waste companies.
- 7 (2) WCI is engaged in the business of providing solid waste services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 27, 2018.
- 9 (4) The tariff revisions presently under consideration are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient because the Company has demonstrated the need for additional annual revenue.
- 10 (5) It is in the public interest to allow the revisions to Tariff 19, filed on July 24, 2018, and revised on September 18, 2018, to become effective on October 1, 2018, by operation of law.

- 11 (6) The Company must make a compliance filing revising its rates, effective November 1, 2021, to remove from its rates the fully-amortized rate case costs authorized by this Order and by Order 13 in Docket TG-140560.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Waste Control, Inc. filed on July 24, 2018, as revised on September 18, 2018, will become effective on October 1, 2018, by operation of law.
- 13 (2) Waste Control, Inc. must file revised tariff pages, effective November 1, 2021, to remove from its rates the fully-amortized rate case costs authorized by this Order and by Order 13 in Docket TG-140560.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 27, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner