

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

WEST WASTE AND RECYCLING,
INC., G-251

Respondent.

DOCKET TG-181036

ORDER 02

ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT
AND ORDER SUSPENDING
TARIFF; ALLOWING RATES AND
TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 17, 2018, West Waste and Recycling, Inc., (West Waste or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that would generate approximately \$138,800 (11.9 percent) in additional annual revenue. The Company provides service to approximately 1,000 residential and commercial garbage customers in Jefferson and Clallam Counties.
- 2 The proposed rate increase is prompted by increases in disposal fees and operating expenses, including wages, postage, and insurance. Accordingly to Commission staff's (Staff) analysis, the increased disposal rate generates approximately \$54,000 (4 percent) additional annual revenue, and the remainder of the Company's requested rate increase is attributable to an \$84,800 increase in operating expenses. The Company's last general rate case happened more than 20 years ago.
- 3 West Waste notified its customers of the rate increase by mail on December 31, 2018. The Commission received no comments on the filing.
- 4 On January 31, 2019, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff; Allowing Rates on an Interim Basis, Subject to Refund. The Commission allowed the portion of the requested increase attributable to pass-through disposal fees to go into effect, but suspended the remainder pending an investigation to determine whether the revisions are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

5 On March 22, 2019, following discussions with Staff, the Company filed revised rates reflecting a total annual revenue increase of approximately \$93,000 (8 percent), including the increase in disposal fees. Staff recommends the Commission dismiss the complaint and order suspending the tariff filing and allow the revised tariff pages to go into effect by operation of law.

DISCUSSION

6 Staff confirms that it has completed its review of the Company's books and financial records and states that the Company's revised rates filed on March 22, 2019, are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Staff explains that it has determined an allocation factor based on man-hours to allocate shared expenses among the companies. The allocator was applied to expenses and shared assets, and non-regulated costs were removed. After making these adjustment, the Company and Staff came to agreement on a total annual revenue increase of approximately \$93,000 (8 percent) in additional annual revenue, including the increase in disposal fees.

7 The Commission finds that the rates filed by West Waste on March 22, 2019, are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Accordingly, we allow the rates filed on March 22, 2019, to become effective April 1, 2019.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, and affiliated interests of public service companies, including solid waste collection companies.
- 9 (2) West Waste is a solid waste collection company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 10 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meetings on January 31, 2019, and March 28, 2019.
- 11 (4) West Waste has demonstrated that it requires additional revenue, and Staff and the Company have agreed on revised rates, filed by the Company on March 22, 2019, that Staff believes are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

- 12 (5) After reviewing the revised rates and tariff revisions that West Waste filed on December 17, 2018, as revised March 22, 2019, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff in Docket TG-181036, dated January 31, 2019, and allow the revised rates and tariff revisions filed on December 17, 2018, as revised March 22, 2019, to become effective April 1, 2019.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff in Docket TG-181036, entered January 31, 2019, is dismissed.
- 14 (2) The tariff revisions that West Waste and Recycling, Inc., filed on December 17, 2018, as revised March 22, 2019, shall become effective on April 1, 2019.
- 15 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and West Waste and Recycling, Inc., to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 28, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner