

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Tariff Revisions to
Increase Rates Filed by

TORRE REFUSE & RECYCLING, d/b/a
SUNSHINE DISPOSAL,

Certificate G-260

DOCKET TG-180523

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING
EXEMPTION FROM RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 13, 2018, Torre Refuse & Recycling, d/b/a Sunshine Disposal (Torre or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its Tariff No. 7 that would generate approximately \$204,000 (6.8 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company stated that the proposed revenue requirement is necessary to recover increased operating costs. The tariff revisions have a proposed effective date of August 1, 2018. Torre provides regulated service to approximately 5,500 residential and commercial customers in Stevens and Spokane Counties. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on November 1, 2013
- 2 WAC 480-07-520 lists the minimum required information the Company must provide in a general rate increase filing. The Company provided information pertinent to the service area for which the rate increase is requested, but did not provide non-regulated pricing information.¹ The Company requested an exemption from certain work paper filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520(4).
- 3 WAC 480-07-110 allows the Commission to grant an exemption from or modify the application of its rules if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.²

¹ Torre has regulated and non-regulated operations, and shares equipment, management, accounting, customer service, and facilities costs with three of its affiliates: Ada-Lin Waste Systems, Inc., Sunshine Recyclers, Inc., and Sunshine Disposal Inc.

² See also WAC 480-70-051.

4 Staff reviewed the proposed tariff revisions and recommends the Commission grant the Company an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), work paper filing requirements, for the following reasons:

- (a) The data for which the exemption is sought is not relevant to this tariff filing.
- (b) The Company's financial information supports the proposed revenue requirement and the proposed rates.
- (c) Staff determines that the proposed rate increase is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

DISCUSSION

5 The Commission concurs with Staff's recommendation. The purpose of the work paper filing requirements in WAC 480-07-520(4) is to provide the Commission with information to determine whether a proposed rate increase is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Here the Company has provided sufficient information to enable the Commission to make that determination, and providing the additional information the rule requires would be unnecessary and unduly burdensome. Accordingly, an exemption from this requirement for purposes of the filing in this docket is consistent with the public interest and the purposes underlying the rule, and should be granted.

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, accounts and affiliated interests of public service companies, including solid waste companies.
- 7 (2) Torre 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) Torre is subject to the filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520, for general rate increase proposals. The Company requested a partial exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4) and did not file certain work papers required by WAC 480-07-520(4).
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-70-051, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-70, if consistent with the public interest, the

purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.

- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 26, 2018.
- 11 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket TG-180523 by Torre on June 13, 2018, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.
- 12 (7) It is in the public interest to allow the revisions to Tariff No. 7, filed on June 13, 2018, to become effective on August 1, 2018, by operation of law.

ORDER

- 13 **THE COMMISSION GRANTS** Torre Refuse & Recycling, d/b/a Sunshine Disposal's request for a partial exemption from WAC 480-70-520(4) for the purposes of the tariff revisions filed in Docket TG-180523 on June 13, 2018.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 26, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner