

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

vs.

Waste Management of Washington,
Inc., G-237

Respondent.

DOCKET TG-021009

COMPLAINT AND ORDER
SUSPENDING TARIFF
REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 5, 2002, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., G-237 (Waste Management) filed with the Commission a new Tariff No. 20 replacing its currently effective Tariff 19 (Waste Management-Rainier), Tariff 18 (Nicki Raffo Garbage Co., Inc.) and Tariff 4 (R.S.T. Disposal Co., Inc.) The stated effective date is October 1, 2002.
- 2 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Waste Management. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Waste Management has not yet demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.

FINDINGS

- 3 (1) Waste Management is a solid waste company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 4 (2) The tariff revisions filed by Waste Management on August 5, 2002, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Waste Management, and might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.

- 5 (3) Waste Management has not yet demonstrated that the increased rates and charges in its tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 6 (4) As required by RCW 81.04.130, Waste Management bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 7 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 81.20.020, the Commission believes it necessary to investigate Waste Management's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Waste Management's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Waste Management's operations. Waste Management may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are consistent or authorized by chapter 81.20 RCW.

ORDER

8 THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 9 (1) The tariff revisions filed on August 5, 2002, are suspended.
- 10 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 11 (3) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., must not change or alter the tariff revisions filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 12 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Waste Management of Washington, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations, as described above.
- 13 (5) Waste Management of Washington, Inc., may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of chapter 81.20 RCW.
- 14 (6) As required by WAC 480-70-271, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., must supply a notice to all affected customers in the form and manner specified in RCW 81.28.050.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 25th day of September, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner