

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET TG-091764
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 03
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
BASIN DISPOSAL OF)	
WASHINGTON, LLC d/b/a BASIN)	
DISPOSAL OF WALLA WALLA,)	ORDER DISMISSING
G-165)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS; ALLOWING TARIFF
Respondent.)	REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 On November 10, 2009, Basin Disposal of Washington, LLC d/b/a Basin Disposal of Walla Walla (Basin or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff No. 13, designated as 37th revised page 1, 8th revised page 15, 9th revised page 20, 8th revised page 20A, 3rd revised page 21, 8th revised page 25, 9th revised page 27, 9th revised page 28, 9th revised page 29 and 9th revised page 29A. On December 11, 2009, Basin filed substitute pages designated as 8th revised page 15, 9th revised page 20, 8th revised page 20A, 3rd revised page 21, 8th revised page 25, 9th revised page 27, 9th revised page 28, 9th revised page 29 and 9th revised page 29A. The purpose of the filing was to increase rates to recover an increase in disposal fees. The stated effective date was January 1, 2010.

2 On December 23, 2009, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions pending an investigation to determine whether the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. The Commission allowed the proposed rates to go into effect on January 1, 2010, on a temporary basis, subject to refund. The order also required the Company to file all documents required for a general rate case as provided in WAC 480-07-520 by March 1, 2010, and directed the Company to not change or alter the tariffs filed in this Docket during the suspension period unless authorized by Commission.

- 3 Basin filed the documents required for a general rate case on February 24, 2010. Commission Staff has completed its review of Basin's supporting financial documents, books and records. Staff's review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations. Staff's analysis shows the current, temporary rates are too low. The current, temporary rates generate approximately \$84,000 (6.1 percent) in additional annual revenue. Staff and Company agreed to a revised revenue requirement of approximately \$217,000 (15.9 percent). Staff and the Company have also agreed on revised rates.
- 4 Order 02 in this Docket authorized Basin to file revised tariff pages reflecting the revised rates agreed to by Staff and the Company, and granted Basin's request for an exemption from WAC 480-70-266, Tariffs, to allow it to file the revised tariff pages on less than statutory notice to become effective on June 1, 2010. Basin filed the revised tariff pages on April 29, 2010.
- 5 On April 30, 2010, the Company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail. The Commission received five customer comments on this filing; all customers oppose the proposed increase because of current economic conditions, too many rate increases, or not being able to afford the increase due to fixed income.
- 6 Commission Staff has completed its review of the Company's supporting financial documents, books and records. Staff's review shows that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the company's operations, that the financial information supports the revised revenue requirement, and that the revised rates and charges, are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The customers' comments do not change Staff's opinion that the Company's financial information supports the revised revenue requirement and the revised rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the revised rates to become effective on June 1, 2010.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation 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. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 81.01, RCW 81.04, RCW 81.16, RCW 81.28 and RCW81.77.*

- 8 (2) Basin is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 27, 2010.
- 10 (4) Order 02 issued in this Docket authorized Basin to file tariffs reflecting the revised rates agreed to by Staff and the Company. The Commission also granted Basin's request for an exemption from WAC 480-70-266, Tariffs, requiring forty-five days notice to the Commission, to allow Basin to file revised tariff pages on less than statutory notice, with a June 1, 2010, effective date. Basin filed the revised tariff pages on April 29, 2010.
- 11 (5) The revised tariff pages filed on April 29, 2010, are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient because Basin has demonstrated that it requires additional revenues and has filed the revised tariff pages at revised rates agreed upon by the Company and Staff.
- 12 (6) After reviewing the revised tariff pages Basin filed in Docket TG-091764 and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-091764, dated April 29, 2010, and allow the revised tariff pages filed on April 29, 2010, to become effective on June 1, 2010.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-091764, entered on December 23, 2009, is dismissed.
- 14 (2) The revised tariff pages Basin Disposal of Washington, LLC d/b/a Basin Disposal of Walla Walla filed in this docket on April 29, 2010, shall become effective on June 1, 2010, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 27, 2010.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner