**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON**

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  Complainant,  v.  RABANCO, LTD., dba TRI-COUNTY DISPOSAL,  Respondent.  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )  )  ) | DOCKET TG-140086  ORDER 03  ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION, DISMISSING COMPLAINT, ALLOWING REVISED TARIFF SHEETS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE |

## **BACKGROUND**

1. On January 15, 2014, Rabanco, Ltd. dba Tri-County Disposal (Tri-County or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to Tariff No. 8 that would generate approximately $229,000 (19.1 percent) additional annual revenue. The proposed increase was prompted by the Company taking over collection service to 905 residential and commercial customers in the City of White Salmon (City) and the Company’s increased costs for labor, fuel, maintenance, healthcare, pension, and other general operating expenses. The Company’s last general rate increase became effective December 1, 2011.
2. Prior to this filing, Tri-County served approximately 4,800 residential and commercial customers in Klickitat, Skamania, and Yakima Counties. As of January 2014, Tri-County had no rates established for customers in the City of White Salmon.
3. Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the Company’s filing and determined that the proposed rates would result in excessive revenue. Staff also questioned the timing of the Company placing collection equipment, not yet purchased from the City, into its rate base. Staff raised other issues, but due to Tri-County’s requirement to assume responsibility for waste collection services in the City on March 1, 2014, some of these issues were deferred for later resolution.
4. On February 25, 2014, the Company filed revised tariff pages reflecting revised rates at Staff-recommended levels, subject to refund. The revenue impact of the revised rates was approximately $82,000 (5.8 percent) additional annual revenue.
5. On February 27, 2014, the Commission entered Order 01, Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions, suspending the Company’s proposed tariff revisions, and allowing the revised rates to become effective on March 1, 2014, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.
6. The Company and Staff now agree on a revised revenue requirement of approximately $158,000 (11 percent) additional annual revenue and on revised rates. All of the revised rates are greater than the temporary rates that were allowed to become effective March 1, 2014, subject to refund, but less than the Company’s original proposed rates. On July 2, 2014, the Company filed revised tariff sheets with rates at Staff-recommended levels.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Based on Staff’s recommendation following its investigation of Tri-County’s books and records, and related matters, we determine that Tri-County’s revised tariff sheets filed on July 2, 2014, are reasonable and required by its extended operations into the City of White Salmon. In addition, Tri-County has documented to Staff’s satisfaction cost increases incurred since the Company’s last general rate increase and shown that its revised rates and charges would generate the Company’s increased revenue requirement. Tri-County has shown to the Commission’s satisfaction that its revised rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient and should be allowed to become effective.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

1. (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 wastecompanies.
2. (2) Rabanco, Ltd. dba Tri-County Disposal is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
3. (3) On July 2, 2014, Rabanco, Ltd. dba Tri-County Disposal filed revised rates and a revised tariff to replace the tariff sheets allowed by Order 01 in this proceeding to become effective on March 1, 2014, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.
4. (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 10, 2014.
5. (5) Rabanco, Ltd. dba Tri-County Disposal has demonstrated that the revised tariff revisions will result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

## **O R D E R**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

1. (1) The complaint in this matter is dismissed and the suspension in Order 01 is lifted.
2. (2) The revised tariff sheets Rabanco, Ltd. dba Tri-County Disposal filed in this docket on July 2, 2014, shall become effective, as filed, on July 11, 2014.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 10, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Commissioner