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

In the Matter of the Petition of

MURREY'S DISPOSAL COMPANY, INC., d/b/a OLYMPIC DISPOSAL,

Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions of WAC 480-07-520(4) relating to workpaper requirements; WAC 480-70-326(2) and (3) relating to tariff filing requirements; and WAC 480-70-271 relating to customer notice requirements. DOCKET TG-230347

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM RULE; ALLOWING TARIFF TO GO INTO EFFECT

# BACKGROUND

- On April 20, 2023, Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., d/b/a Olympic Disposal (Olympic Disposal of Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation
  Commission (Commission) revisions to Tariff No. 24 to correct a ministerial error, as well as a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-07-520(4), WAC 480-70-326(2) and (3), and WAC 480-70-271 (Petition).
- 2 WAC 480-07-520(4) requires solid waste companies to include all work papers that support the company's rate change request.
- 3 WAC 480-70-326(2) and (3) requires solid waste companies to include transmittal letter requirements and additional documents required due to governmental, or other entity action, that supports the company's rate changes request.
- 4 WAC 480-70-271 requires solid waste companies to provide notice to their customers at least once, either before or after final Commission action, depending on the type of filing.
- <sup>5</sup> Olympic Disposal states there was a ministerial error that occurred during the previous submission of revisions to Tariff No. 24 in Docket TG-210912, which was approved and became effective January 28, 2022. The Company's Tariff No. 24, on page 39, listed the incorrect extra mileage rate charge of \$2.35. The correct charge is \$3.84, which was approved and became effective September 1, 2020, in Docket TG-200645. Olympic Disposal seeks an exemption from the rules described above because providing workpapers and other documents, as well as customer notice, is unnecessary to correct this error.

6 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommends granting Olympic Disposal's request for exemption.

#### DISCUSSION

7 The Commission agrees with Staff's recommendation. 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. See also WAC 480-70-051. The purpose of the filing requirements in WAC 480-07-520(4) and WAC 480-70-326(2) are to provide the information to determine whether a proposed rate increase is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The purpose of the notice requirement of WAC 480-70-271 is to provide customers with notice of a change in rates, or opportunity to comment on any such change. Here, because the tariff change requested has already been supported in the record of a previous docket and approved by the Commission with sufficient notice to customers, the requirements for which Olympic Disposal request exemption would be unnecessary and unduly burdensome. Accordingly, an exemption from these requirements for the 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

- 8 (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.
- 9 (2) Olympic Disposal 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.
- (3) Olympic Disposal is subject to WAC 480-07-520 (4), which requires solid waste companies to include all work papers that support the company's rate changes request.
- (4) Olympic Disposal is subject to WAC 480-70-326 (2) and (3), which requires solid waste companies to include a transmittal letter requirements and additional documents required due to governmental, or other entity action that support the company's rate changes request.

- 12 (5) Olympic Disposal is subject to WAC 480-70-271, which requires solid waste companies to provide notice to its customers at least once, either before or after final Commission action, depending on the type of filing.
- (6) 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.
- 14 (7) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 25, 2023.
- (8) After review of the revised tariff and Petition filed in Docket TG-230347 by
  Olympic Disposal on April 20, 2023, 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 statues and should be
  granted. The tariff may go into effect on June 1, 2023.

## ORDER

# THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 16 (1) Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., d/b/a Olympic Disposal's Petition for Exemption from the Provisions of WAC 480-07-520(4) relating to workpaper requirements; WAC 480-70-326(2) and (3) relating to tariff filing requirements; and WAC 480-70-271 relating to customer notice requirements is GRANTED. Revised Tariff No. 24, as filed on April 20, 2023, to correct the mileage rate, may go into effect on June 1, 2023.
- 17 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., d/b/a Olympic Disposal to effectuate the provisions of this Order.
- 18 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective May 25, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL Executive Director and Secretary