

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. TG-021651
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
Yakima Waste Systems, Inc.)	
G-89)	
)	
Respondent.)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
.....)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 17, 2002, Yakima Waste Systems, Inc. (Yakima Waste or Company) filed with the Commission proposed new Tariff No. 9, with a stated effective date of February 1, 2003. The Company states the new tariff conforms to the requirements of WAC 480-70-281 and is necessitated by increases in Yakima County disposal fees, pay and fringe benefit increases for employees and owners, and increased insurance and rent expenses.

- 2 The filing increases almost all charges and rates for service provided by Yakima Waste. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and the Company has not 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 AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including solid waste collection companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 81.01 RCW; Chapter 81.04 RCW; Chapter 81.28 RCW and Chapter 81.77 RCW.*
- 4 (2) Yakima Waste is a solid waste collection company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 29, 2003.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Yakima Waste on December 17, 2002, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Yakima Waste, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Yakima Waste has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.
- 8 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 81.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Yakima Waste's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Yakima Waste's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Yakima Waste's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 81.04.130, Yakima Waste bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

- 10 (8) Yakima Waste may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 81.20 RCW.

ORDER

- 11 (1) The tariff revision(s) filed on December 17, 2002, are suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Yakima Waste Systems, Inc.'s, books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., shall 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.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 29th day of January, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner