

Agenda Date: October 10, 2007
Item Numbers: B2, B3 and B4

Dockets: **TG-071877, TG-071878 and TG-071879**
Company Names: Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., G-98
d/b/a Pacific Disposal and Butlers Cove Refuse Service
d/b/a Joe's Refuse
d/b/a Rural Garbage Service

Staff: Nicki Johnson, Regulatory Analyst
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Program Staff

Recommendation

Take no action on these filings at this time.

Discussion

Today's presentation allows customers or other interested parties to comment on the proposed rates in Dockets TG-071877, TG-071878, and TG-071879. No action is required by the commission. Staff will make its recommendation to the commission at the open meeting on October 24.

On December 4, 2006, the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners approved Ordinance No. 13696, which amended the county code and established modified single-stream residential recycling collection service as the new standard. The county's ordinance applies to both single-family and multi-family customers. The company implemented the single-family program in the spring of this year.

On September 17, Harold Lemay Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Pacific Disposal and Butlers Cove Refuse Service, Joe's Refuse, and Rural Garbage Service (LeMay or company), filed rates to implement a new multi-family recycling program in all of its Thurston County service areas. The company proposes a monthly charge of \$4.32 per dwelling unit. The recycling charge is mandatory whether a customer participates. The proposed effective date of the tariff change is November 1; however, the proposed tariff contains an implementation period that runs until April 1, 2008. Rates will be charged only within 15 days of either the customers receiving containers or being offered service.

Ordinance No. 13696 defines a multi-family residence as any residential structure containing two or more dwelling units where the structure is billed for solid waste service as a whole and not by individual dwelling units. Multi-family recycling under this definition includes dwellings ranging from duplexes to apartment buildings or mobile home parks. These proposed filings represent the first time the county has requested that the commission regulate and set rates for multi-family recycling. The ordinance directs the company to begin implementation of the multi-family program in the fall of 2007.

Prior to the adoption of the new ordinance, dwellings of four or less units were defined as single-family recycling and subject to commission regulation. Changing the definition of multi-family

to two or more units meant that many customers already receiving recycling service were no longer single-family customers. In order for these customers to receive uninterrupted recycling service, last spring in Docket TG-070374, LeMay filed a multi-family recycling rate for two or more units at the single-family rate of \$6.22 per month. Only those customers who chose to continue receiving curbside recycling would be charged for recycling. The proposed tariff filings implement the mandatory pay system required by the county ordinance and supersede the current voluntary rate.

The commission has received three comments from customers. A count of issues from these customers is as follows:

Issue	Count of Issues Out of 3 Comments Received
Insufficient customer notice	1
In favor of mandatory recycling	1
Against charging by the unit	1

Rate Comparison

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Multifamily		
Voluntary rate	\$6.22	N/A
Mandatory-pay rate		4.32
Present commodity credit	(\$1.86)	(\$1.30)
Net rate	\$4.36	\$3.02

Commission staff has not yet completed its review of LeMay's supporting financial documents, books and records.

Conclusion

Take no action on these filings at this time.