

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET TG-111970
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	ORDER 01
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
CONSOLIDATED DISPOSAL	)	
SERVICE, INC.,	)	
G-190	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On November 14, 2011, Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc. (Consolidated or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff No. 6 to increase rates due to increases in wages and benefits, postage, fuel, utility taxes, medical insurance and other operating expenses. The stated effective date is January 1, 2012.
  
- 2 Consolidated's proposed rates would generate \$202,111 (2.7 percent) additional annual revenue. Commission Staff has not yet completed its review of the Company's books and records.
  
- 3 The Commission received comments from two customers concerning Consolidated's original November 14, 2011, filing. Both customers opposed the increase. The first customer stated his concerns with the level of service his business received and with general economic conditions. The second customer opposed the increase because he is a senior citizen living on a fixed income who felt he should be exempt from any increase.
  
- 4 Because the proposed increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Consolidated has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, Staff recommends the Commission suspend the tariff filing and, if necessary, hold public hearings to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5 (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 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 RCW 81.77.*
- 6 (2) Consolidated is a solid waste company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 29, 2011.
- 8 (4) The tariff revisions Consolidated filed on November 14, 2011, would increase rates for solid waste collection and generate \$202,111 (2.7 percent) in additional annual revenue.
- 9 (5) Consolidated has not yet demonstrated that the provisions for the rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (6) In addition, the Commission invokes the rights, remedies and procedures contained in the reparations statute, RCW 81.04.220, to the extent the Commission finds that any rate subject to this investigation is excessive or exorbitant.
- 11 (7) Consolidated may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation consistent with RCW 81.20.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc., filed on November 14, 2011, are suspended.

- 13 (2) The Commission may hold hearings if needed at such times and places as required.
- 14 (3) Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc., must not change or alter the tariff pages filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless the Commission authorizes the change in this docket.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as necessary and as described above.
- 16 (5) Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 81.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 29, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner