

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	DOCKET TG-061484
)	
Complainant,)	ORDER 02
)	
v.)	
)	
WASTE CONNECTIONS OF WASHINGTON, INC., d/b/a CLARK COUNTY DISPOSAL COMPANY, G-253)	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS; GRANTING TARIFF
Respondent.)	REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 15, 2006, Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Clark County Disposal Company (Clark County Disposal or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a new Tariff No. 2.
- 2 Clark County Disposal’s proposed rates were designed to increase revenues by \$1,945,600 (12.3%) annually. Commission Staff’s review revealed that some proposed rates were excessive. Staff and the Company negotiated revised rates that would increase annual revenues by approximately \$1,608,000 (10.1%). On October 19, 2006, Clark County Disposal filed revised, lower rates on substitute tariff pages to reflect this reduced revenue level.
- 3 The Commission has received sixty-six customer comments concerning the Company’s original (September 15, 2006) filing. Fifty-two customers objected to the magnitude of the two can weekly rate increase. They were concerned that the two can rate increase was not proportional to the one can weekly rate increase. Four customers support the proposed rate increase. Ten customers are undecided.
- 4 On October 25, 2006, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions to allow customers the opportunity to comment on the revised rates before determining whether the revisions were fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. The Commission allowed the revised rates to go into effect on a temporary basis, subject to refund.

5 On October 26, 2006, Consumer Affairs staff sent every customer who had commented on Clark County's filing a letter advising each respondent of staff's recommended revised rates. No customer has yet responded to staff's letter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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, affiliated transactions, and transfers of public service companies, including solid waste companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 81.01 RCW; Chapter 81.04 RCW; Chapter 81.28 RCW; Chapter 81.16 RCW; and Chapter 81.77 RCW.*
- 7 (2) Clark County Disposal is a solid waste company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 8 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2006.
- 9 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Clark County Disposal on September 15, 2006, and the substitute pages filed on October 19, 2006, increase solid waste rates.
- 10 (5) The Commission allowed the revised rates filed on October 19, 2006, to become effective November 1, 2006, on a temporary basis subject to refund.
- 11 (6) On October 26, 2006, Consumer Affairs staff sent all customers who previously commented on Clark County's proposed tariff changes a letter advising them of the staff revised rate recommendation. Customers have now had an opportunity to comment on the revised rates. No comments have been received.
- 12 (7) Clark County has demonstrated that it requires additional revenues and the revised rates, now in effect on a temporary basis are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and should become effective permanently.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket TG-061484 dated October 25, 2006, is dismissed.
- 14 (2) The proposed revised rates Clark County filed on October 19, 2006, that reflect Staff recommended levels are approved to become effective December 1, 2006, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 29, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner