BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Tariff to Increase Rates) DOCKET TG-120072
Due to a Disposal Fee Increase Filed By)
	ORDER 01
)
)
) ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
ADA-LIN WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.,) FROM RULE AND ALLOWING
D/B/A SUNSHINE DISPOSAL &) TARIFF TO BECOME EFFECTIVE
RECYCLING, G-104) BY OPERATION OF LAW
)

BACKGROUND

- On January 13, 2012, Ada-Lin Waste Systems, Inc., d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling (Ada-Lin or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) Tariff No. 5.1 canceling its current effective Tariff No. 5 to increase rates due to a disposal fee increase. A disposal fee increase falls within the definition of a general rate increase pursuant to WAC 480-07-505.
- 2 Effective February 1, 2012, the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System has increased disposal fees from \$103 per ton to \$109 per ton at the Sullivan Road Transfer Station and from \$98 per ton to \$104 per ton at the Spokane Waste to Energy Facility and the Sunshine Recycler's Transfer Station. The proposed rate increase would generate approximately \$1,681 (1.6 percent) additional annual revenue and become effective March 1, 2012. The Company serves approximately 400 customers in Spokane County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on September 1, 2009.
- WAC 480-07-520 lists the minimum required information the Company must provide in a general rate increase filing. The Company provided information pertinent to the disposal fee increase but did not provide the remainder of the information required by the rule.
- 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*.
- Commission Staff reviewed the tariff request together with other factors and recommended the Commission allow the tariff to become effective by operation of law,

and on its own motion, grant an exemption from the rule for this filing for the following reason(s):

- (a) There have not been any significant changes since the last rate case that became effective September 1, 2009. Reviewing the rate case documents, customer numbers are relatively unchanged, inflation has been low, and the Company has not changed its collection methods.
- (b) The increased disposal fees are set by the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System and are required as a part of the Company's operations.
- (c) The Company's financial information supports the proposed revenue requirement and the proposed rates.
- (d) Staff concluded the proposed rate increase, by reason of the increase in disposal fees, is fair, just, and reasonable.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The Washington Utilities and Transportation 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. *RCW* 80.01.040, *RCW* 81.01, *RCW* 81.04, *RCW* 81.16, *RCW* 81.28 and *RCW* 81.77.
- 7 (2) Ada-Lin 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.
- 8 (3) Ada-Lin is subject to the filing requirements of WAC 480-07-520, for general rate increase proposals.
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-07-110, 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 480-70-051*.
- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 23, 2012.

- 11 (6) After reviewing the tariff revisions Ada-Lin filed in Docket TG-120072 on January 13, 2012, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds:
 - (a) An exemption from the general rate increase filing requirements set forth in WAC 480-07-520 is in the public interest and consistent with the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes and should be granted; and
 - (b) It is in the public interest to allow Tariff No. 5.1 filed on January 13, 2012, to become effective on March 1, 2012, by operation of law.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Ada-Lin Waste Systems, Inc., d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling to effectuate the provisions of this Order.
- On the effective date of this Order, Ada-Lin Waste Systems, Inc., d/b/a Sunshine Disposal & Recycling is granted an exemption from WAC 480-07-520 for purposes of the tariff filed in Docket TG-120072 on January 13, 2012.
- 14 (3) The Commission takes no action on the tariff implementing the disposal fee increase and allows it to become effective on March 1, 2012, by operation of law.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 23, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION