

Agenda Date: August 29, 2024
Item Number: B3

Docket: TG- 240494
Company Name: Waste Connections of Washington, Inc.

Staff: Scott Sevall, Regulatory Services
Kris Irelan, Consumer Protection

Recommendation

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., on June 14, 2024, and revised on August 20, 2024, to become effective September 1, 2024, by operation of law.

Discussion

On June 14, 2024, Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., (Waste Connections or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions that, would generate approximately \$2.4 million (8 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company serves approximately 82,000 residential, commercial, and roll-off customers in Clark County. The Company's last general rate case became effective on July 1, 2022.

This case was filed to recover increased operating such as labor costs. Waste Connections just finished negotiating new labor contracts with their union employees. There are also costs associated with some new assets to provide service. During the Commission staff's (Staff) review there were proposed adjustments which changed the revenue requirement. The Company and Staff have agreed to a revised revenue requirement which would generate approximately \$2.2 (7.1 percent) million of additional annual revenue.

Staff has completed its review of the Company's books and records and believes the Company has demonstrated the rate increase is necessary to provide service. Staff believes the revised rates agreed upon by the Company are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

Rate Comparison

Service	Current Rate	Company Proposed	Revised Rate	Percentage Increase
<u>Residential</u>				
32 gal. weekly	\$16.13	\$17.38	\$17.23	6.8%
64 gal. weekly	\$23.52	\$25.34	\$25.12	6.8%
<u>Commercial</u>				
1.5 yard per pick-up	\$28.12	\$30.29	\$30.04	6.8%
<u>Industrial</u>				
30 yard per pick-up	\$127.21	\$137.58	\$135.89	6.8%

Customer Comments

On June 17, 2024, the Company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail. Staff received 43 consumer comments regarding the proposed rate increase; 41 opposed the rate increase, one in favor, and one undecided. Customers state that higher costs could lead to increased financial strain on lower-income households and may force some to choose between essential services and other necessities. Customers ask why there is no senior or low-income discount program. Customers state that they are on fixed incomes and believe that the Company needs to manage or budget its money better and not force increases on customers. Many customers feel that yard waste and recycling services have been reduced while rates have been increased.

Customers were notified that they may access relevant documents about this rate increase on the Commission's website, and that they may contact Kris Irelan at (888) 333-9882 or kris.irelan@utc.wa.gov with questions or concerns.

Conclusion

Take no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., on June 14, 2024, and revised on August 20, 2024, to become effective September 1, 2024, by operation of law.