

Agenda Date: November 29, 2006
Item Number: B2

Docket: **TG-061484**
Company Name: Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Clark County Disposal Company, G-253

Staff: Layne Demas, Regulatory Analyst
Dennis Shutler, Consumer Program Specialist

Recommendation

1. Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Clark County Disposal Company.
2. Allow the staff recommended revised temporary rates to become effective December 1, 2006, on a permanent basis.

Background

On September 15, 2006, Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Clark County Disposal Company (Clark County or company) filed proposed rates that would have increased its revenue by approximately \$1,945,600 (12.3%). Staff's review of the company's books and records found the proposed rates were excessive. On October 19, 2006, the company filed revised rates at the staff recommended level. The revised rates generate approximately \$1,608,000 (10.1%).

The commission has received sixty-six customer comments concerning Clark County Disposal'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.

On October 25, 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 November 1.

Discussion

The filing increases solid waste rates. The company serves approximately 53,000 residential and 4,700 commercial customers in unincorporated Clark County.

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. No additional comments from customers supports staff's opinion that the temporary revised rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

The table below provides a sample of present, proposed and revised rates:

	Present Rates	Rates	Revised Rates
<u>Residential - monthly rate</u>			
Mini can	\$9.05	\$9.55	\$9.55
One 32 gal. can per week	\$11.13	\$12.08	\$12.08
Two 32 gal. cans per week	\$15.41	\$19.41	\$17.52
Three 32 gal. cans per week	\$21.97	\$27.10	\$25.90
 <u>Commercial - per pickup</u>			
One yard container one pickup per week	\$14.49	\$15.72	\$15.72
20 Dropbox per haul	\$85.00	\$96.00	\$96.00

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the commission Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Waste Connections of Washington, Inc., d/b/a Clark County Disposal Company and allow revised temporary rates at staff recommended levels, to become effective December 1, 2006, on a permanent basis.

Attachment