

DW 99-051

BEDFORD WASTE SERVICES CORPORATION

Petition for General Rate Increase

Order Authorizing Recovery of Rate Case Expenses

O R D E R N O. 23,405

February 7, 2000

Bedford Waste Services Corporation (Bedford), upon receiving authorization for a rate increase from the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in its Order No. 23,388, issued January 7, 2000, filed for approval for recovery of rate case expenses in the total amount of \$9,181.52. In a letter and supporting documentation on January 24, 2000, the Company indicated that the total rate case expenses were actually \$13,583.02, but it had reduced them by \$4,401.50 in accordance with Order No. 23,388. Specifically, the order stated that recovery of expenses associated with the second hearing held on November 2, 1999, which was necessitated by Bedford's incomplete and evasive responses provided to record requests in the initial September 23, 1999 hearing, would not be permitted.

On February 1, 2000, the Commission received a memorandum from Steven E. Mullen, Utility Analyst III, containing the Staff's recommendation for the amount of rate

case expenses that Bedford should be authorized to recover. The Staff recommends recovery of \$7,644.02. The Staff recommends a reduction of \$1,537.50 in expenses broken down as follows: (1) \$112.50 of costs that were billed to the Company twice; (2) \$750.00 of costs related to a Staff audit of Bedford; and (3) \$675.00 of costs related to the aforementioned responses to record requests as well as the second hearing. Based on the fact that the rate case expenses were much higher than originally anticipated, Staff further recommends a 12 quarter recovery period rather than the 8 quarter period requested by the Company. Under this recommendation for a 12 quarter recovery period from Bedford's 78 customers, the \$7,644.02 would be recovered via an \$8.17 per quarter surcharge to customer bills.

We have reviewed the Staff's recommendation and will approve the total dollar amount of \$7,644.02 and the 12 quarter recovery period recommended by Staff.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Bedford Waste Services Corporation is hereby authorized to recover \$7,644.02 in rate case expenses via a quarterly rate case expense surcharge of \$8.17 per customer for 12 quarters, commencing with bills issued on or after April 1, 2000; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Bedford shall file a properly annotated tariff with the Commission within 14 days of the date of this order in accordance with N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1603.06(o).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of February, 2000.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary