



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 21, 2010

Ms. Wendy Mifflin, Manager
Solid Waste Division
Yakima County Public Services
7151 Roza Hill Drive
Yakima, WA 98901

RE: Final Approval of the *Yakima County Solid and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan*
- June 2010, WUTC Docket TG-091750

Dear Ms. Mifflin:

I am pleased to inform you that the *Yakima County Solid and Moderate Risk Waste Plan, June 2010* is hereby approved by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). All planning requirements prescribed in chapters 70.95 RCW, 70.95I RCW, and 70.105 RCW have been met, and this document can now be implemented as the guiding document for local solid and hazardous waste programs in Yakima County.

Planning efforts by their very nature force a hard look at difficult issues. Plans are documents that draw roadmaps that set direction for future activities. The recommendations in the Yakima County Plan, from Ecology's viewpoint, support three important activities: (1) guidelines for the orderly development of programs, policy and operating plans; (2) the basis for permitting decisions, and, (3) the support to obtain grants for future actions.

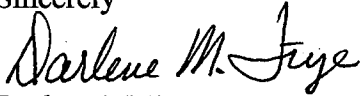
This plan promotes an integrated system that supports the state's solid waste handling priorities and the state's *Beyond Waste Plan*, while protecting both the environment and the ratepayers at the same time. We believe this Plan will allow you the flexibility you need to respond to changing conditions, yet gives clear enough direction that you should not stray too far from the appointed path. Some of the recommended actions made in the plan will be of particular interest to Ecology in the coming five years: Recommendation O1 – banning yard debris from county landfills by 2012; Recommendation AR1 – Establish an illegal dumping task force; and Recommendation AR2 Consider adopting minimum service levels. Each of these recommendations would benefit the overall health of the solid waste system, the county's waste diversion potential, and the environment.

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The interlocal agreements included in the plan and full adoption by participating jurisdictions are evidence of the strength of county-wide support. We truly appreciate the work this plan represents: the efforts of staff, SWAC, consultants, private industry, the haulers and disposal firms, government officials and the public.

We look forward to the successful implementation of the plan and Yakima County's continued progress with environmentally sound waste handling practices and waste reduction and recycling activities.

Sincerely



Darlene M. Frye
Section Manager, Central Regional Office
W2R Program

DMF:cmp

cc: Christopher M. Piercy, Ecology
David W. Danner, WUTC