

Point Recycling and Refuse

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket TG-091687 Point Recycling - Response to Point Roberts Marina Letter

Dear Commission,

I would like to clarify some misleading statements about my company made by the Point Roberts Marina. When the Marina pulled out of the system, they sent me a letter that very clearly stated they had no complaints about the service provided by Point Recycling. Their decision was in response to the chronic and excessive dumping of garbage by households into their containers. This problem was caused by Whatcom County's refusal to enforce their existing Universal Service Ordinance.

Point Recycling always operated within our tariff and service requirements when providing service to the Marina. We did not overcharge them and often provided as needed on-call pickups at no additional cost.

The Marina used to self-haul their recycling to the Point Roberts Transfer Station. When they pulled out of the system, they started hauling recyclables with their garbage loads to RDS where free recycling was offered. When Point Recycling offered free self-haul recycling to this community, the Marina was happy to bring their recycling to the Point Roberts Station. When Point Recycling started charging for recycling, the Marina continues to bring in their cardboard to the station while hauling other recyclables to RDS. The Marina had no problem using a free service from Point Recycling while contributing no garbage to the system.

Several months after pulling out of the system, the Marina owner called me and asked for a meeting outside of Point Roberts. I met with him in a coffee shop in Canada. The owner declared to me that, he would bring his garbage back into the system if I would give him a discount rate on his garbage. I explained that, as a regulated utility, it was illegal for me to provide him with the discount he demanded. We discussed how the best way to reduce his cost for garbage service would be for the County to enforce Universal Service. This would benefit him by reducing the illegal dumping on him and by lowering the regulated rates due to more households contributing to the system. I assured him, that Point Recycling was obligated to provide service to him if requested. If they ever had a problem, then we would help at the same rates and services provided to any other customer. In fact, just last Tuesday, the Marina called the Station needing to dump their garbage truck and bring in a large volume of recyclables. We are normally closed on that day, but we opened up and provided them with service.

The Point Roberts Marina has stayed outside of the local system not because of unsatisfactory service from Point Recycling, but because I would not provide them with special rates. I believe that the Marina has commented on Point Recycling because someone else has promised them the special discount services that they have been denied by Point Recycling.

Sincerely,

Arthur Wilkowski
Point Recycling and Refuse