

February 10, 2016

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE**

To Our Valued Customers:

Thank you for your support of our solid waste services. We work hard to provide superior service at the lowest possible price. Cowlitz County has informed us that beginning April 1, 2016 the solid waste disposal rate will increase 1.6% from \$49.00 to \$49.78 per ton. This increase has caused us to file a request with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the commission) to increase our rates as related to disposal fees only.

This rate increase will become effective for services rendered on or after April 1, 2016. Billing for the rate increase will correspond with your normal billing cycle. Hence, customers billed in the month of April for May and June will see the new rates on the April billing. Similarly, customers billed in May for May and June or for June and July will see the new rates on the May billing.

Our last general rate increase took effect on November 1, 2015. We are not seeking another general rate increase and have only asked the Commission to approve the rate increase directly related to disposal fees charged by Cowlitz County. On December 8, 2015, the Commission granted a temporary rate increase to cover the 1.6% increase in Cowlitz County's per ton disposal fees at the Third Avenue Transfer Station. This rate increase is a direct pass-through to the County and does not cover any of the Company's expenses.

Our proposed rates are reflected on the following pages. For questions about how this increase affects you, please feel free to contact Rick or Rolly at 360-425-4302 (360-225-7808 for Woodland customers).

The Commission has the authority to set final rates that may vary from our Company's request, depending on the results of its investigation. Commission staff will make a recommendation to the Commissioners at an open meeting in Olympia.

You will have an opportunity to comment in person at this meeting. If you are unable to attend the open meeting, the commission has a bridge line which enables you to participate or listen by telephone. Call 360-664-1234 the day before the open meeting for instructions and to sign in. You can also comment by using the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's Web-site at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov), or by using the contact information below.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO BOX 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
Email: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov) Phone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

Thank you for your continued trust in us.