

From: Gordy Nielson [mailto:wired@pointroberts.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 11:40 PM
To: Ingram, Penny (UTC)
Subject: Re' Point Roberts Transfer Station

[Nielson's Point Roberts Electric Inc](#) EST 1980

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Penny Ingram, WUTC

Re' Point Roberts transfer station:

We fully support Arthur Wilkowski's, as operator of the Point Roberts Transfer Station for the following reasons.

From our personal experience, and as owner of Nielson's Electric Inc. for the past 29 years in Point Roberts, when you operate in a niche type community as Point Roberts is, your method of operation and success of the business depends on how you tailor your methods of operation. This is only achieved by actually operating and surviving the losses from a business in the community for a time, thus learning from "real life" experience, what works and what doesn't. If, at start, we ran our business re' the normal method of operation, as one would do on the mainland, we would have possibly lasted just a year or two, or until our saving were exhausted. We simple do not have the high volume of customers as there are on the mainland. We are, in fact, a small isolated community with two US borders that restrict our freedom of movement from one US community to another. Our US customs restrictions adds to the cost of retail goods, shopping, appliances, etc. as well as add extra costs via border bonds and duties. There is no place else on the Canadian/US border that this situation exists. All other Washington island communities are either served with a bridge or a ferry system – we are the ONLY ISOLATED community that is not.

Point Roberts has only 1,308 people, 607 households, and 373 families residing in the [CDP](#). There were 1,820 housing units. Only 34% of the housing units are occupied by residents of Point Roberts; in the summertime the majority of people staying in Point Roberts are Canadians who use it as a cottage or holiday spot. Therefore, during the Spring, Fall and Winter months, there is practically no recycling, due to the small permanent population to warrant the commercial cost of a formal recycling process.

Arthur has, in our opinion, been operating in good faith and in a manner that makes most economic sense to the health of the garbage business, as well as the general public and local businesses. His past performance has proven that he possesses the expertise and understands the pitfalls of operating a small business in an isolated area, where others have failed. Arthur has a proven track record – does anyone else have?

We urge you not to disrupt a service that is presently both functional and economically viable in this tiny US enclave of Point Roberts. In the future, when a disagreement or a problem arises, a method of arbitration must be established between Mr. Wilkowski and the County, so as to solve problems when they occur. It is unfortunate that this dispute between Arthur and the County has gone as far as it has and is totally out of proportion. It has mushroomed totally out of proportion and was the creation of just "three individuals", who, in our opinion, have nothing better to do than to disrupt a good service that the majority of us have been satisfied with for many years.

Thank you,
Kathy & Gordon Nielson (Owner's of Nielson's Electric, INC).