



King County

Solid Waste Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 701
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-296-6542 Fax 206-296-0197
TTY Relay: 711

June 15, 2009

Dave Danner, Secretary and Executive Director
Attention: Gene Eckhardt, Assistant Director
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket TG-090737

Dear Mr. Danner:

The purpose of this letter is twofold: to provide King County's comments regarding the effectiveness of Kent-Meridian Disposal's 2008 – 2009 Recycling and Commodity Revenue Sharing Plan, which ends on June 30, 2009; and to offer support for a plan for extending revenue sharing through June 30, 2010.

2008 – 2009 Plan

We are satisfied that Kent-Meridian met the requirements of the 2008-2009 recycling plan, and do not recommend that Kent-Meridian be required to return any of the revenues that they were allowed to retain during the plan period. A comparison of the July – December periods in 2007 and 2008 shows that pounds recycled per household (excluding organics) in the areas regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) decreased by seven percent. Pounds disposed per household (including recycling residuals) decreased by about the same percentage. These decreases are consistent with the regional decline in waste generation caused by the decline in the economy. However, pounds per household collected in organics programs increased by 17 percent. We believe that this increase is largely due to Kent-Meridian's implementation of new food waste collection programs.

2009 – 2010 Plan

Kent-Meridian and King County have come to an agreement on a recycling plan for the period beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010. A copy of the plan signed by both parties will be transmitted to the WUTC separately.

We recommend that WUTC allow Kent-Meridian to retain 30 percent of the revenues from sale of commodities during this period. If Kent-Meridian does not meet the conditions of the Plan, King County may later request that the WUTC consider returning some of these revenues to customers. Another agreement with Kent-Meridian will be required for King County to support extending revenue sharing beyond June 30, 2010.

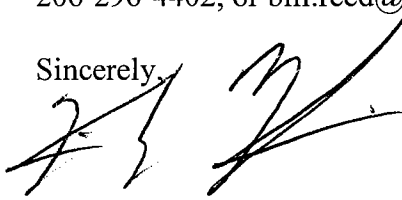
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In my position as the King County Solid Waste Division Director, I have been delegated the authority to make the certification of this plan required in RCW 81.77.185. I hereby certify that the plan submitted to you by Kent-Meridian and King County is consistent with the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Statements in the solid waste plan that support this certification include the following:

- “The cities and County will maintain and enhance the current residential collection service levels for recyclables.” (page 4-31)
- “(T)he County and the cities will continue to research the benefits of using a commingled collection system, changing the frequency of collection and adding materials for collection.” (page 5-18)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of certification and comments on Kent - Meridian's recycling plan. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Reed, Program Analyst, Recycling and Environmental Services Section, Solid Waste Division at 206-296-4402, or bill.reed@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kiernan
Division Director

KK:BR:mw
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cc: Joe Garza, Senior Market Analyst, Allied Waste Services
Chris Guimond, General Manager, Allied Waste Services of Kent
Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager, Solid Waste Division (SWD)
Bill Reed, Program Analyst, Recycling and Environmental Services Section, SWD