



City of Tacoma  
Public Works Department

October 10, 2013

Mr. Steven King, Executive Director  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Docket UG-131589

Dear Mr. King:

I am writing to express my hope that the compressed natural gas service proposed by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is approved to help advance the use of alternative fuels for fleet vehicles operating in Washington state.

The City of Tacoma is currently converting its solid waste fleet from bio-diesel (B20) to compressed natural gas. The City operates a fleet of more than 80 solid waste collection and transfer trucks. Converting these trucks to natural gas will provide a significant reduction in fuel costs. These savings will benefit the utility's ratepayers by reducing operating costs. In addition, compressed natural gas is a cleaner burning fuel than the bio diesel currently being used. Therefore, this conversion will not only save money but also improve air quality and benefit the environment. The combination of reduced costs and improved air quality is truly a sustainable solution to fueling the City of Tacoma's solid waste fleet.

One of the challenges in making a change to natural gas for fleet use is refueling infrastructure. Currently there are only a few publicly available fueling stations. The capital investment for refueling equipment is significant. PSE's proposed service would provide another option for on-site refueling that would help us deliver turn-key sourcing for our operations, while spreading the capital costs over time.

Because PSE is a regulated utility, I am confident that the pricing for the proposed compressed natural gas service will be coordinated, open and transparent, enabling Tacoma to make a significant investment in natural gas fleet vehicles.

As the private sector and local and state governments share the responsibility to operate alternative-fueled vehicles, we support the implementation of innovative mechanisms, like PSE's compressed natural gas proposal, to spur further development toward greater use of natural gas in the transportation sector.

I encourage you to approve Puget Sound Energy's proposed service.

Very truly yours,

James G. Parvey, P.E., LEED AP  
Senior Principal Engineer

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION