BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,Complainant,v.WASTE CONTROL, INC.,Respondent. | DOCKET TG-140560WASTE CONTROL, INC.’S RESPONSE TO MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND CLARIFY THE SCOPE OF WAC 480-07-520(4) |

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Waste Control, Inc. (hereinafter “the Company” or “Waste Control”), by counsel, pursuant to WAC 480-07-375(4), and the Administrative Law Judge’s letter of June 13, 2014, now files the following Response to two sections of the Staff’s omnibus Motion to Clarify et al. filed and served on June 12, 2014 in this matter.
2. In answering this Motion to Compel Discovery, the Company is not hereby waiving its prevailing assertion that the Staff Motion to Compel is inherently premature due to the Staff’s consistent failure to “resolve informally all discovery disputes,” WAC 480-07-425(1), as previously argued in its Opposition to Staff’s Expedited Motion for Continuance.

**II. OVERVIEW OF STAFF MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY**

1. Staff’s Motion to Compel Discovery, in addressing WAC 480-07-405(3)’s requirements, points to three Data Request “DR” responses by the Company that it now claims are incomplete and for which it asserts it requires answers. It also claims to still be reviewing Data Requests Responses 3-6 and 9-10 “provided on June 3, 2014” (this date was erroneous and corrected by the Staff in its Amended Motion for an Expedited Continuance to **May 23, 2014**, the actual service date),[[1]](#footnote-2) and DRs 12 and 13, timely answered on June 5, 2014.

A. Motion to Compel Referencing Responses to DRs 3 and 4.

1. Also, almost as an aside as part of its Motion to Compel, Commission Staff announces it “…moves to compel Waste Control to provide narrative with spreadsheet locations, that describe and locate all changes the Company has made to spreadsheet DR 3 and DR 4-TG-140560 WCI Operations 052214xls.”[[2]](#footnote-3) This request is the initial time that the Commission Staff has sought additional narrative and explanation of the changes provided May 23in the indicated spreadsheet.
2. In its DR responses 3 and 4, based upon identification of a Kalama front loader route issue, the Company acknowledged a need for “Results of Operations” adjustments on the basis of the inquiry from Staff in those Data Requests. The Company provided the Data Request Response narrative attached by Staff to assist it and would have had no objection to providing more detail on this request. A Motion to Compel, however, is not the appropriate mechanism to obtain this information.
3. By way of background on this issue, the Company provided a revised Operations spreadsheet in its DR 3 and 4 responses illustration to assist the Staff in interpreting the Company’s narrative response and disclosed those changes to the spreadsheet in specific narrative form as reflected in Data Request Responses 3-4. The pertinent workpapers were then updated simply to be helpful to the Staff as reflective of the revenue change in May and to quantify the lower revenue requirement occasioned by the recognition of the Kalama front loader route. The revised spreadsheet, however, was clearly not provided to trigger the hardcode-external link formatting mantra, described below, nor to deflect or delay any further progress on the substantive review of the case. The Company would logically always reserve the right to update and fine-tune its Statement of Operations in Data Request responses[[3]](#footnote-4) and/or in its rebuttal case if any other revenue expense items impacting that pro forma are identified during the course of discovery.
4. Again, a phone call or email or any other informal “good faith” effort to resolve informally all discovery disputes,[[4]](#footnote-5) as specified in WAC 480-07-425, is obviously a preferable course here to an adversarial, time-consuming and expensive Motion and Response seeking information that could potentially quickly be provided.

**III. MOTION TO COMPEL’S IDENTIFIED DATA REQUEST RESPONSE OBJECTIONS AND DISCOVERY RULE PRECEPTS**

1. The Staff’s Motion to Compel is also the first opportunity the Company has had since its initial emails on May 8 to counsel (see, Motion for Appointment of Discovery Master et al., Attachments 7 and 8) and, importantly, in response to the formal letter of May 13, 2014, for any “discussion,” let alone dialogue, on the hard code and linked external source rule interpretation. Again, the Company believes that the Commission’s procedural rule, WAC 480-07-425(1) and CR 26(i) require this “meet and confer” or “informal” interchange occur before bringing any Motion to Compel and alludes to this request as an example of the prematurity of this adversarial Motion.

A. The Staff Unilaterally and Inappropriately Limited the Technical Conference Agenda.

1. In first bringing its Motion, the Staff has failed to respond to or justify why it eliminated the opportunity of using the technical conference for anything other than a forum to resolve the technical differences between the two filings, TG-131794 and TG-140560.[[5]](#footnote-6) As the Company has asserted, that also appears to have been an ideal opportunity for resolving and/or walking through the various spreadsheet formula and external link issues the Commission Staff has questioned and which the Company raised as early as May 8. The Staff rejected that opportunity by refusing once again “good faith efforts to resolve informally all discovery disputes” in utilizing the technical conference forum.
2. Moreover, the Staff’s indication in its May 13 email that “to be clear the transcripts of the prehearing conference define the purpose of the technical conference is to figure out what the discrepancies are and the reasons for the discrepancies” is not the Company’s rendition of the judge’s characterization of the technical conference mission at the prehearing conference. While TR25 of that proceeding references, at lines 6-10, the administrative law judge alluding to the technical conference addressing… “what are these discrepancies, why they are there, and then you will be able to do more in the way of discovery and such” that reference did not appear to be intended as a limitation on the technical conference, simply a description of its original purpose. The Staff’s actions in unilaterally limiting the objective of the technical conference frustrated the purpose of resolving the questions posited at that technical conference which, by definition, would appear to have been the optimal forum to initially address the hard code and linked-source spreadsheet issues.

B. In Addition to Foreclosing Resolution of the Technical Filing Issues at the Technical Conference, the Staff Approach to Discovery Disputes to Date Fails to Consider the Countervailing Precepts of the Commission’s Broad Discovery Rule.

As a backdrop to Staff’s Motion to Compel Discovery, the Company would point out that in its characterization of the broad discovery rule and in its partial citation to WAC 480-07-400(3), the Staff omits any emphasis on other key passages of the important rule subpart:

… Parties must not seek discovery that is unreasonably cumulative or duplicative, or is attainable from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome or less expensive. A discovery request is inappropriate when the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity to obtain the information sought or the discovery is unduly burdensome or expensive, taking into account the needs of the adjudicative proceeding, limitations on the parties’ resources … Discovery through data requests or otherwise must not be used for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the costs of litigation.

1. The admonition in the rule as a background to the present discovery dispute here should be closely considered. The Staff not only has successfully moved to dismiss the prior rate case, and successfully moved in part to delay this current case based on technical objections to discovery, but has also propounded over 19 new data requests and subparts in this case with responses totaling into the thousands of pages of documents supplied by the Company and, in the previous rate case over upon which this case is based, 80 or so data requests subparts and many multiple thousand page Company document responses. Technical objections to proceeding forward in responding to the Company’s case have protracted resolution and clearly resulted in cumulative, burdensome and expensive delays for the Company which has only exacerbated its present financial circumstances in a growing revenue deficiency interval. Engaging in informal discovery discussions, whether or not Staff might prejudge their particular usefulness and outcomes, was and is an alternative to written data response statements and the Commission’s discovery rule admonitions to the parties clearly anticipate this.

C. Even Broad Discovery Principles Do Not Justify Expansion of the Solid Waste General Rate Case Workpaper Rule and the Electronic Document Format Provision in the Overbroad Fashion Contended by the Staff Here – Data Request 11.

1. The general discovery rule at WAC 480-07-400 simply does not buttress the attempt by the Staff to engraft additional rule provisions it seeks in WAC 480-07-520(4) and WAC 480-07-140, in Data Request 11. The latter rules, for instance, do not create any broad requirement to provide externally-linked documents. The respective regulations only require formulas for specific calculations. Staff here misinterprets the rules to create a blanket requirement for external linked spreadsheets and formulas for all given values, not just for spreadsheet-based formula.
2. The Staff’s Motion to Compel arguments about the DR 11 response now provided for the first time actually further underscore why technical or discovery conferences could be beneficial. For one thing, Staff makes a series of quite technical rule and electronic document interpretative argument references that are obviously better evaluated firsthand either in a discovery master setting or likely a discovery conference forum. The Company also unsurprisingly does not agree with Staff’s characterization of WAC 480-07-520 and WAC 480-07-140(6)’s convergence in its assertion that the Company has confused “format” and “formula” or that in providing formulas it has included any “locked, hidden or password protected cells.”
3. Recall, the focus here in the Motion to Compel is on hard codes[[6]](#footnote-7) and external linked sources. There is no allegation that locked, password protected or linked cells exist in the Company’s workpapers. The quotation at page 9 of Staff’s Motion to Compel to both WAC 480-07-140(6) and the Bench Requests from the Commission issued by the current administrative law judge in *WUTC v. Avista Corporation*, Docket Nos. UE-140188 and 140189, precluding “locked, password protected or hidden cells,” is not the issue. The *Avista* general rate case workpapers are also not based on WAC 480-07-520, but on WAC 480-07-510 and WAC 480-07-510(3)(c), which contains an express requirement to include “…. linked spreadsheet files.” As previously noted, there is no analogous requirement in WAC 480-07-520 or in WAC 480-07-140.
4. While the Staff consciously skips over any focus on the express language of the cited rules in recognition of their lack of explicit reference to any requirement for hard code removal or external linked sources for solid waste collection companies rate cases, it nevertheless speaks of “… the Company’s solution to place itself in compliance [by removing] cell references to linked files in the belief that it would not have to provide the linked files…”[[7]](#footnote-8)
5. The inference the Staff suggests be drawn from Company intent here is inappropriate. Instead, the Company, in repeatedly attempting to work with the Staff analyst, provided a number of documents that attempted to address her persistent format concerns without initiating “a vicious circle” of revised spreadsheets begetting revised spreadsheets which might contain unlinked sources or hard codes many of which were derived from Staff audits in 2009 and 2013 and/or which were not created by the Company.
6. Aside from the pivotal issue of failing to establish how the rule’s requirements for “the provision of spreadsheets displaying results of calculations based on formulas include all formulas” is synonymous with a provision of missing external links,[[8]](#footnote-9) the Staff’s analysis of the electronic file format requirement rule also overlooks the exception in the same WAC 480-07-140(6)(b)(i) subpart which would erode its position here on 2009 and 2013 prior rate case spreadsheets. In that exception, documents “not created by, for or on behalf of a party to or a witness in *the* proceeding for which no version of the required format is available” [emphasis added] are not subject to the rule. As the Company has argued, this appears to mean that spreadsheets produced in another proceeding, particularly those not created by or for the Company such as the much contested 2009 rate case results of operations spreadsheet which is noted in Exhibits JD-7 and 8 and has been the source of seemingly endless data requests by Staff insisting on hard code removal and external linked sources, should be resolved.

**IV. RESPONSE TO THE STAFF’S THREE TECHNICAL EXAMPLES ON “VALUES AND LINKED SPREADSHEETS”**

1. To support its premise that WAC 480-07-520(4) and WAC 480-07-140(6) together require removal of all hard codes from data and mandate the provision of linked spreadsheets, the Staff cites to three isolated examples from Data Request 11: a spreadsheet data and cell for the priceout/rate design of the proposed rates, an alleged undemonstrated land rent expense and another alleged “undemonstrated” rate design for the Castle Rock rates.

A. Alleged Missing Cell Formula and Hard Code in Priceout

1. This is a classic example of the benefit of a technical/discovery conference geared to addressing specific and narrow technical issues. First of all, cost studies are not required as part of workpapers for solid waste collection companies’ general rate cases. (*Compare*, WAC 480-07-520(4) to WAC 480-07-510(6), where Title 80 companies are so required. Again, the Staff seeks to impose Title 80 industry requirements upon the Company without any express provision in the corresponding solid waste rate case rule. The result of this lack of cost of service study requirement is that Staff and solid waste companies typically jointly develop cost studies and rate designs during the course of an audit and most critically after a revenue requirement is established. Here, because of the lack of express rule requirement, the Company omitted submitting the worksheet from the workbook in this re-filed case despite its use in developing a proposed priceout which the Company accountants developed and explained on a supplemental spreadsheet submitted as a rate design proposal. Revised tariff pages and priceout provisions in both negotiated or adjudicated cases are subject to substantial revision and analysis by both Staff and Company before final submission to the Commission for review and adoption. There is no cost of service study requirement pertinent here. For the Staff to now insist that a five decimal formula in an isolated cell on a proposed priceout of a particular service level that will obviously change in response to revised revenue requirements during discovery is impeding its ability to respond to the Company’s case in chief is a transparent “form over substance” objection.

B. Undemonstrated Land Rent Expense.

1. Here, the Staff isolates yet another cell, 21, in workpaper 13, “Land Rents Expense,” (JD-33), which it asserts is a result of a calculation based on a formula that is not included and contains an unreferenced hard code not readily identified. In responding to informal inquiries, particularly in the prior rate case TG-131794, the Company previously provided information to the Staff about how this value was calculated. Previous spreadsheet versions of this formula contained links to external spreadsheets. When those external spreadsheet links were previously provided, they in turn were identified as containing hard codes which were sourced to financial data prepared for nonregulated affiliates whose financial reporting is not keyed to the Uniform System of Accounts. Thus, here the Company provided the formula calculation to the Staff but affirmatively removed the linked spreadsheets to avoid the pyramiding hard code and external link problem. Because linked spreadsheets are not expressly required by WAC 480-07-520(4) or WAC 480-07-140, the Company believed that was the most efficient, expeditious and compliant path to avoid the now familiar spiral of document production limbo that has unfortunately characterized the discovery process to date, an effect which has also severely burdened the Company’s accountants and caused substantial cost increases in defending its case.
2. This inquiry is another example of why a mediated discovery conference would be so useful, at least to the Company. If the Staff refuses to budge on its “strict constructionist” portrayal of hard code and external link rule requirements even in the absence of explicit verbiage in the cited rules, follow-up data request for written responses will never break the cycle.[[9]](#footnote-10) Why isn’t there any room for compromise here? The Company is willing to work in good faith to resolve this type of technical issue dispute if it can gain some relief from being required to remove hard codes and provide external links on all documents it furnishes in an attempt to satisfy Staff’s inquiries on the sources of calculation and cell values.

C. The Castle Rock Priceout Formula.

1. Here again, the Staff claims there is an indicated formula with no calculation shown or rationale provided in the cell. The Company has now formally answered questions on the Castle Rock “formula” at least twice in data request responses and also in the telephonic technical conference on May 15, 2014. As in responses to DR 12-4 on June 5, 2014 and, most recently, in responses to DR 14 served June 12, 2014, the Company explained the background to this “formula.” Perhaps the Staff’s ongoing review of those answers will now suffice. But barring that acknowledgement, the “formula” here is simply an unaltered 25 cent Castle Rock residential customer service rate reduction that has been consistently applied and published in approved Commission tariff pages for almost three decades. There is no “link” to provide. Any such attempt would fail under the Staff’s perspective since the “formula” is not subject to any existing source document and is apparently the result of a negotiation between the Company’s deceased founder and Castle Rock officials in approximately 1985. Finally, if the Company were to create a spreadsheet to reflect the 25 cent reduction “formula,” a hard code would undoubtedly be created since that number is not derived from a formula per se.

**V. THE STAFF’S OVERBROAD INTERPRETATION OF WAC 480-07-520 AND WAC 480-07-140’S CONVERGENCE REACHES ITS ZENITH ON ITS “ANY VALUE” CONCLUSION**

1. There is another fundamental assertion by the Staff on the interpretation issue in WAC 480-07-140(6)(b) in its Motion to Compel, where it announces “…. [u]nder a plain reading of the rule, the Company must generally provide all supporting formulas for any value included with its filing.”[[10]](#footnote-11) [Emphasis added]. Here is really the crux of the dispute and the demonstrative merit of both discovery conferences and initial informal discussions of the general rate case workpaper rule application advocated by the Company. No one contests that the Company, in conforming to with WAC 480-07-520(4)(a)’s mandate that all workpapers include a “detailed pro forma income statement with restating actual and pro forma adjustments, including all supporting calculations and documentation for all adjustments” must support those calculations and adjustments. The dispute arises, however, when, in discovery requests, the Staff insists upon imposing WAC 480-07-140’s electronic formatting requirements on every electronic document “value” subsequently furnished in response to its request and then insists that its interpretation of WAC 480-07-140(6) supports an across-the-board requirement that no hard codes or unlinked sources be contained in those supporting documents.
2. Here it appears that the Staff mistakenly assumes that because values within a prior workbook may be linked, values must also be linked in all future workbooks. This reasoning is not reflected in or extrapolated by WAC 480-07-140(6). A spreadsheet value can be linked to another workbook without being the result of a calculation. Some expenses are not subject to any calculations. Fixed expenses are often not derived from formulas or calculations and can be verified by expense report line entries or simple journal entries. Therefore, it would not make sense to create a link to an external spreadsheet when those expenses can be more easily sourced, for instance, from an invoice. No supporting calculation or spreadsheet is required to establish such a line item, nor is its reference in an income statement dependent upon a formula, or other derivative calculation.
3. In less technical accounting terms, a spreadsheet may contain a data point that is just that – a finite number such as a rental expense which is not verifiable through spreadsheet calculation formulae but, as above, by a lease, invoice or journal entry. That entry again may also not be separately linked to any external source document either or even a calculation. The Staff’s DR 11 argument not only conflates WAC 480-07-520(4) and WAC 480-07-140(6) to engraft unparalleled rule requirements, but in accusing the Company of confusing “format” and “formulas,” it, ironically equates spreadsheet “values” and spreadsheet “results” so synonymously that it assumes absolutely every data point on a spreadsheet is based on a formula and/or calculation. This causes a cascading, unending trail of supporting spreadsheets and external linked source production requests. And once an unwary respondent embarks on that slippery slope of trying to satisfy such a line of inquiry, there literally is no conclusion to discovery and propounded data requests.
4. Indeed, the absurdity of this premise is further illustrated by the Staff’s insistence and analysis in DR 11 that documents provided in response to informal DR1 in which the Staff identified at least 21 external links in the previously-supplied paperwork be further refined and formatted. Now it requests every spreadsheet which contained a link to the approximate seven new spreadsheets supplied, some of which spreadsheets were actually originally created by the Staff, not the Company. This is “vicious circle” personified and is neither defensible in WAC 480-07-140(6)(b), nor, more importantly, in the general rate case workpaper rule of WAC 480-07-520(4). “Including all supporting calculations and documentation for all adjustments” does not mean that data and documents provided to Staff in response to data requests include calculations not expressly required by rule. No better example of data requests unnecessarily delaying or needlessly increasing the costs of litigation and burdens on a class B Solid Waste Carrier like Waste Control, Inc. is better posed then by this overbroad, highly burdensome Staff rule interpretation of the requisite form for documents provided in response to data requests.

**Vi. The Staff argument about Data Request Response 7 shows exactly why informal attempts to resolve discovery disputes is required in Commission rule WAC 480-07-425.**

1. At pages 13 through 16 of the Staff’s Motion of June 12, it focuses upon the Company’s responses to Data Request 7 for which chronological correction initially is again necessary. The 206 pages and four workbooks that are referred to at the top of page 14 of the Motion were in fact electronically served May 23 not June 3 and, again, the Company had previously informed Staff of a 4-day response deadline pursuant to rule on May 15 due to the technical conference.[[11]](#footnote-12)
2. The problem with the Staff’s entire premise on DR 7 here is that this was the first time the Company had ever been informed the Staff found the DR 7 Responses in any way deficient. That’s why the above Commission rule features a requirement to work out discovery disputes “informally” and “in good faith.” Similarly, that’s why Civil Rule 26(i) includes a certification requirement that the parties have “met and conferred” before bringing any discovery challenge to a judge. There was no such effort here and indeed, in learning of the Staff’s dissatisfaction with the DR 7 Response in its Motion, the Company accountants have expanded the scope of their previous answers and without waiving its position that the original response was complete, the Company provides the supplemental additional *written* response which the Staff insists it needs. Yet again, while it may not be possible in every imaginable discovery situation, it is certainly preferable by rule and practice to initiate some informal contact to garner such additional information prior to resorting to an adversarial procedural motion.

**VIi. DATA REQUEST RESPONSE #8 INVOLVES A SINGLE ADJUSTMENT OF LESS THAN $1,800 DUE TO CONCRETE STORMWATER RUNOFF CONSTRUCTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH DOE MANDATES THAT WAS ALREADY THOROUGHLY ADDRESSED IN DISCOVERY.**

1. As with its response to DR 7, the Motion to Compel was the first time the Company learned since serving its responses 20 days prior that the Staff had any objection to its response to DR 8. Again, WAC 480-07-425(1) would appear to presuppose some effort, perhaps a telephonic or email request, for written follow-up to the Response before a Motion to Compel is filed.
2. This particular data request inquires about an isolated adjustment of, as noted, less than $1,800, hardly proportional to the six figure dispute about affiliated rents that is at the heart of the case to which the Staff has yet to formally respond. As can be seen in the attached response, considerable information about reconciling this small amount, to what the adjustment was attributable and a general ledger summary of the item were all provided for “parcel 1068.” The Company had also previously provided, as shown in the attached, an informal detailed summary of the properties and approximate values through email on November 5, 2013, just before the Staff site visit. This approximate $1,800 adjustment, as the general ledger description reflects, was for stormwater runoff compliance. Is more written response required before the burden, expense and delay factors highlighted by WAC 480-07-405(3) are relevant? The Company timely and appropriately objected to additional narrative under WAC 480-07-405(6), provided additional financial data and was never asked formally, upon answering, to provide any other explanation.

**VIii. STAFF MOTION TO CONSTRUE WAC 480-07-520(4)**

1. The Company is not opposed to the Staff’s additional Motion request for the Commission to construe WAC 480-07-520, here, with two caveats. First, it believes the Commission should be cautious in interpreting the workpaper rule in this circumstance so as not to broadly apply it to impose formatting requirements on discovery documents that are not part of the current workpaper pro forma presentation requirements in WAC 480-07-520(4)(a), or that would otherwise conflate WAC 480-07-140(b) requirements into the workpaper rule for existing documents produced in response to discovery requests. The Company is significantly concerned that the broad rule interpretation advocated by the Staff in its Motion would require the recreation of voluminous spreadsheets and backup data under the premise of providing formulas for calculations for any “values,” when there simply is no limit to that pattern. It also believes that in order to so broadly construe WAC 480-07-520, there must be a case-by-case interpretive application of the rule to each individual spreadsheet and formula in the data request responses cited by the Staff. And, moreover, that that is obviously far better addressed in a discovery or technical conference with a discovery master or the administrative law judge ruling on each individual challenge and hearing the alternative approaches in addressing follow-up from both the analyst and the Company accountants.[[12]](#footnote-13)
2. Secondly, the Commission should recognize that a current rulemaking, Docket No. A-130355, is considering changes to the very workpaper rules for solid waste collection company general rate cases at the present time. Any construction here of that current rule, WAC 480-07-520, should not import new provisions into existing requirements which act to expand upon or otherwise modify application of that rule while a general rulemaking is pending, which is the more appropriate forum and process for weighing changes to the featured procedural rule. While there appears to be a bona fide dispute on the boundaries of WAC 480-07-520 and its intersection with WAC 480-07-140(6)(b), the interpretation sought by Staff does not exist in a regulatory vacuum nor can it necessarily be isolated to this proceeding while a broader general rulemaking including this fundamental rule for the industry is pending.

**IX. CONCLUSION/PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

1. For all of the foregoing reasons above, the Company asks that the Staff’s Motion to Compel Discovery either be denied outright, or that the technical objections raised to the various Data Request Responses be examined in a discovery forum with both sides responding to either the Administrative Law Judge or an appointed discovery master’s questions in resolving electronic data composition issues on a case-by-case basis. As to the Staff’s Motion to Construe WAC 480-07-520(4), while the Company agrees there is a genuine dispute as to the solid waste case workpaper rule interpretation, it asks that any construction by the Commission of that rule here be narrowly confined to the specifics of the individual data request responses posed in recognition that an omnibus procedural rulemaking is currently pending before it which will undoubtedly address any revisions, expansions or restrictions of the scope of that rule.

DATED this 23rd day of June, 2014.

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|  | RESPECTFULLY sUBMITTED,Williams, Kastner & Gibbs PLLCBy David W. Wiley, WSBA #08614dwiley@williamskastner.com Attorneys for Waste Control, Inc. |

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on June 23, 2014, I caused to be served the original and two (2) copies of the foregoing document to the following address via first class mail, postage prepaid to:

 Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Attn.: Records Center

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I certify I have also provided to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission’s Secretary an official electronic file containing the foregoing document via email to:

records@utc.wa.gov

and an electronic copy via email and first class mail, postage prepaid, to:

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1. The Staff also misspoke at ¶¶ 29 and 30 of its Motion to Compel on the same Response date reference which was, again, May 23 not June 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Commission Staff’s Motion to Compel at ¶ 3 page 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. WAC 480-07-405(8) also requires that supplementation. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Which, of course, presupposes that there even is a discovery dispute on this specific matter. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. It did so twice: once, in an email from Melissa Cheesman to Jackie Davis dated May 13, 2014 at 3:57 p.m. (item attachment 11 in Attachments in Waste Control Motion for Appointment of the Discovery Master, et al. of June 9, 2013) and secondly, apparently during the start of the technical conference between the Staff analyst and the Company’s accountants. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Wikipedia defines “hard coding” as “the software development practice of imbedding what may, perhaps only in retrospect, be regarded as input or configuration data directly into the source code of a program or other executable object, or fixed formatting of the data, instead of obtaining that data from external sources or generating data or formatting in the program itself with the given input.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_coding>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Staff Motion to Compel ¶ 15 at 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. If that were so, for example, why would WAC 480-07-510(3) even need to reference “linked spreadsheet files?” [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. WAC 480-07-415 specifically features “reduct[ion] or avoid[ing] the need for written data requests and time for their preparation” as a goal of discovery conferences. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Staff Motion to Compel, ¶ 15, lines 7-9, page 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Ironically, at ¶ 34, line 1 of its Motion, the Staff correctly notes the cover letter date which attached those DR Responses of May 23 but somehow failed to connect the dots that May 23 was the actual date of service. And, as of June 12, they were apparently still reviewing these Responses served approximately three weeks previously. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. An approach that now even the Staff would appear not “adamantly opposed to” as noted in its Response to the Company’s “Motion for Appointment of a Discovery Master et al.” at ¶ 10, p. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)