

April 1, 2003

Lawrence J. Berg, Administrative Law Judge
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: *Empire Disposal*, Docket No. TG-021359

Dear Judge Berg:

Commission Staff has received the March 28, 2003, letter from Mr. Sells, on behalf of Empire Disposal, requesting at least a 45 day continuance in this docket. The continuance is to enable Empire Disposal and Waste Management to file appropriate applications pursuant to an agreement in principle reached between them.

Staff has no objection to Empire Disposal's request for continuance.

Staff has been assisting Empire Disposal and Waste Management in analyzing maps and certificate language, in an effort to understand the territory covered under various forms of certificate language.

However, please understand that Commission Staff is not a party to the agreement in principle between Empire Disposal and Waste Management. Commission Staff will review whatever applications are filed, and conduct an independent assessment of them under applicable legal standards, all subject to Commission review and approval.

Very truly yours,

DONALD T. TROTTER
Senior Counsel

DTT:kl

Enclosures

cc: Jim Sells
Polly McNeill
Bonnie Allen