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November 4, 2003

Carole J. Washburn, Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

**Re: Settlement of *Empire Disposal v. Waste Management of Washington, Inc.* (GA-79114/TG-021359)**

Dear Secretary Washburn:

Pursuant to an understanding between Waste Management of Washington, Inc. (WM) and Empire Disposal (Empire), and with the cooperation of WUTC staff, the parties have fully resolved the territorial issues related to the above-numbered application for an extension of Empire's authority.

During implementation of the Commission's mapping project, it was discovered solid waste collection in an area of Eastern Washington was not correctly reflected in the operating certificates of either WM or Empire. Empire filed for the above-numbered extension, and that proceeding provided a vehicle for the two companies to reconcile their respective certificate territory with actual operations. The corrections were implemented in concurrent applications for: 1) an extension of solid waste collection authority for WM; 2) a transfer of a portion of solid waste collection authority from Empire to WM; and 3) a transfer of a portion of solid waste collection authority from WM to Empire. Final orders in those applications have been issued.

On October 21, then, Empire's counsel submitted a letter amending the extension territory sought in the above-identified application to comport with the reconciliations. WM is in agreement with that description of territory, and therefore is now withdrawing its protest.

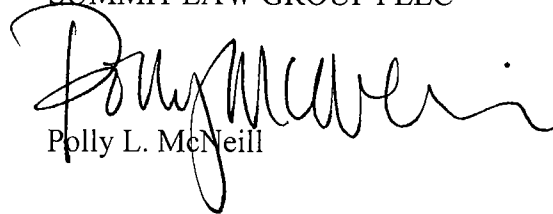
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Please do not hesitate to let me know if there are any further questions in this matter. Thank you again to the staff for their able assistance in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

SUMMIT LAW GROUP PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Polly L. McNeill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping tail.

Polly L. McNeill

cc: Bob Schille  
James K. Sells  
Donald T. Trotter  
Ann Rendahl  
Bonnie Allen  
Deb Reynolds