

June 12, 2009

David Danner, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Blaine-Refuse, Inc., G-145 – General rate increase request

Dear Mr. Danner:

With this transmittal letter, in accordance with WAC 480-07-520 we are pleased to submit a general rate increase request for Blaine-Bay Refuse, Inc., operating under authority of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity number G-145

We are requesting a general rate increase with an Effective Date of August 1, 2009. Enclosed is our hard copy showing the proposed revisions for Solid Waste Tariff Number 3 for Certificate G-145 in legislative format. Please note that our filing to pass-through an increase in disposal fees scheduled for July 1 is being processed under a separate docket number and the new rates shown in the enclosed tariff pages have been calculated to include that increased cost, too. If approved by the Commission as filed, residential rates will increase approximately \$112,000 (20.30%) and commercial can and container rates will increase approximately \$83,000 (9.10%). Drop box rates are not proposed to increase. With drop box revenue included in the calculation, this filing would result in a general rate increase of approximately 13.1% based on total revenue.

The principal reasons for the large increase is because the company was operating at a loss prior to the stock being acquired by Sanitary Service Company, Inc., and the employees have gone from non-union with limited benefits to a union operation with the associated benefits.

Customer notices have been reviewed by Commission staff and will be mailed to customers prior to June 30 in order to provide at least thirty-days notice as required by WAC 480-70-271. Per the regulation, copies of the customer notice will also be mailed

to the members of the Whatcom County Council, the Mayor of Blaine and the public affairs office of the Commission. We are also sending it to the Whatcom County Executive and the Blaine City Council. Also a copy of this letter has been mailed to the Whatcom County Council and the Bellingham Herald.

If you have any questions about this letter please call me at (360) 734-3490 or contact me at ed@ssc-inc.com.

Sincerely,

Edward Nikula
Vice President

Enclosures: Revised tariff pages

cc: Whatcom County Council
Penni Lempere
Bonnie Onyon, Mayor of Blaine
Blaine City Council
Bellingham Herald