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October 29, 2013

Steven V. King
Acting Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

**Re: Waste Management of Washington, Inc. d/b/a Waste Management –
Northwest – Docket No. TG-130938**

Dear Secretary King:

This letter is to request an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for purposes of meeting with Waste Management of Washington, Inc. (WMW) and Commission Staff (Staff) in an effort to facilitate a mediated settlement in the above-identified general rate case. We have conferred with Staff, and they are in support of this request.

This general rate case was suspended at an Open Meeting, effective October 1, 2013. WMW and Staff have met about potential settlement, with the hopes of achieving agreement by December 1, or prior to official commencement of adjudication through a notice of prehearing conference. We are continuing those efforts, and WMW appreciates Staff's efforts and diligence. Nonetheless, we have not yet agreed on settlement, and we have limited time to do so.

At the work shop on the procedural rules for solid waste company tariff filings (Docket No. A-130355), during discussions about how to make the administrative procedures more efficient for resolving relatively discrete issues that come up, Judge Moss raised the idea of having a pre-adjudication mediation with an ALJ. We believe this matter is ideally suited for testing that concept. WMW and Staff have generally reached concurrence on the outstanding issues. We are in agreement that the "mechanics" of the audit is not in dispute, and the parties do not, at this point, materially disagree about the actual calculations of expenses, revenues and investments. The issues remaining are all related to the implementation of regulatory policies in the context of the specific facts presented by this rate filing. An ALJ experienced in rate proceedings could possibly

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move the parties into alignment by considering in a non-binding setting the issues both sides are grappling with.

Thus, we write to ask if the Administrative Law Division would consider this request, and provide an ALJ for purposes of conducting a pre-adjudication mediation. If the parties are to succeed in settling before adjudication is officially commenced, then we have only limited time. With that in mind, WMW and Staff are both available any time Tuesday, November 12 through Friday, November 15 for a morning or afternoon, and we think a half-day should be sufficient. We are certainly mindful that prior commitments may foreclose this option, and we do not mean to be presumptive about the valuable and limited time that ALJs have.

Thank you for considering this request. Even if schedules preclude our ability to implement it, we commend the Commission for considering new and uncharted procedural mechanisms for resolving disputes, and appreciate having the opportunity to make this request.

Sincerely,

SUMMIT LAW GROUP PLLC



Polly L. McNeill

cc: Gregory J. Kopta
Mike Weinstein
Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski