

March 27, 2008

Ms. Anita Largent
Solid Waste Manager
Clark County Public Works
P.O. Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

RE: Clark County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan – Docket TG-080373

Dear Ms. Largent:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) staff has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Clark County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update (Plan).

Commission staff's analysis of the Cost Assessment portion of the Plan shows minimal financial impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Clark County. The Plan calls for tip fee increases from the current rate of \$81.23 per ton to \$87.28 per ton in year 2011. Residential customers would see increases in their bills of up to \$.37 per month and commercial customers would see increases in their bills of up to \$1.83 per yard based on the projected tip fee increases.

Please see the attached commission staff comments for consideration. We hope that you find our review and suggestions helpful. Please direct questions or comments about the commission's Plan review process to Penny Ingram at (360) 664-1242 or by email at pingram@wutc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary

Attachment

cc: Mike Drumright, Department of Ecology, Regional Planner
Laurie Davies, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program Manager

Commission staff comments for consideration:

1. Chapter 6, page 6-5: The last sentence in the last paragraph states, “The materials might be currently recyclable, but are not necessarily appropriate to include as designated recyclable at this time. How will UTC staff know if the County changes its list of designated recyclable materials?”

It is important for the commission to understand the County’s intent because the commission has statutory requirements to ensure regulated solid waste collection companies comply with local solid waste management plans and related implementation ordinances.

RCW 81.77.030 Supervision and regulation by commission

- “(5) by requiring *compliance with local solid waste management plans and related implementation ordinances.*”
 - “(6) By requiring certificate holders under chapter 81.77 RCW to use rate structures and billing systems consistent with the solid waste management priorities set forth under RCW 70.95.101 and *the minimum levels of solid waste collection and recycling service pursuant to local comprehensive solid waste management plans.* The commission may order consolidating billing and provide for reasonable and necessary expenses to be paid to the administering company if more than one certificate is granted in an area.”
2. Chapter 12 Construction & Demolition Wastes, page 12-1: Staff recommends the County use definitions of “Construction & Demolition Wastes” that are codified in rule. The Plan does not cite the definition of construction and demolition waste it intends to use. As a result, the Plan conflicts with Recommendation 9 (page 12-8) that states “*Strengthen education and enforcement of construction and demolition waste hauling regulations for compliance with WUTC regulations.*” However, the Plan does not use the following UTC definitions:
 - a. WAC 480-70-041 Definitions, general defines:
 - i. **"Construction debris"** or **"construction waste"** means solid waste resulting from the building or renovation of buildings, roads and other man-made structures. Construction debris includes, but is not limited to, materials such as plasterboard, cement, dirt, wood, and brush.
 - ii. **"Demolition waste"** or **"demolition debris"** means solid waste resulting from the demolition or razing of buildings, roads and other man-made structures. Demolition waste includes, but is not limited to, concrete, brick, bituminous concrete, wood and masonry, composition roofing and roofing paper, steel, and minor amounts of other metals like copper.