

April 11, 2007

Mr. David Baker, Solid Waste Manager
Mason County Utilities & Waste Management
Mason County Building II
410 N. 4th Street, PO Box 578
Shelton, WA 98584

RE: Mason County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan TG-070488

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Mason 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 Mason County. The Plan calls for tip fee increases from \$72.40 in 2007 to \$77.97 in 2010 per ton. Residential customers would see increases up to \$.34 per month and commercial customers would see an increase, per yard up to \$1.69 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: Tami Ramsey, Department of Ecology, Regional Planner
Cullen Stephenson, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program Manager
Tom Moore, Mason Public Works

Attachment: Mason County Solid Waste Management Plan Update TG-070488

Commission staff comments for consideration:

- Chapter 4, section 4.1: Replace the paragraph that begins with “[t]he Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission”with:
 - a. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates solid waste collection haulers rates and services pursuant to Chapter 81.77 RCW. Cities have the option to provide solid waste service or by contract with a collection company. The city of Shelton provides its own solid waste collection and is not subject to regulation by the WUTC.
- Chapter 4, page 3: please replace the header “*Franchise Holders*” with “Certificated Companies.” In general, the plan describes solid waste collection companies as “franchise haulers.” The Commission issues Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity. Please change all references from “franchise” to “certificate” or “certificated” as it relates to regulated haulers.
- Chapter 4, page 4 (Table 4.2): Waste Management’s certificate number is G-237.
- Chapter 4, page 5 (Table 4.3): Please update the rates for Mason County Garbage, Inc., (see attached tariff pages).
- Chapter 4, Section 2.2, page 7: “the county could draft and adopt its own rate structure or guidelines as part of the SWMP...” The WUTC sets rates (RCW 81.77.030). The county can draft and adopt a solid waste management plan and implementing ordinances, as well as, establish minimum levels of service. However, the WUTC will establish the rates necessary to implement the plan and any implementing ordinances for certificated companies.
- Chapter 5.1, page 3, Disadvantages: the word “loose” should be “lose.”
- WUTC Cost Assessment, page 4: Waste Management’s G number is G-237.