

March 27, 2008

Steve Wamback
Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
9850 64th St. West
University Place, WA 98467-1078

RE: Pierce County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan - Docket TG-080372

Dear Mr. Wamback:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Pierce 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 Pierce County. The Plan calls for tip fee increases from \$101.95 per ton up to \$118.59 per ton in year 2013. Residential customers would see increases in their bills of up to \$.61 per month and commercial customers would see increases in their bills of up to \$3.06 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's comments for consideration:

1. Chapter 2, page 20, "Multi-family recycling" and on page 21 "Yardwaste Collection" –
 - a. Pierce County adopted a Minimum Service Level Ordinance (Chapter 8.29) in the year 2004. In that ordinance, 8.29.050 Multi-family recycling and 8.29.040 Yardwaste Collection were "Reserved" for future use.
 - b. Sally Sharrard, from Pierce County, informed staff that there are two old ordinances that established Minimum Service Levels for:
 - i. Multi-Family Recycling (Ordinance No. 91-86); and
 - ii. Yardwaste (Ordinance No. 92-22).Ms. Sharrard said the "two old ordinances" are still on the books, but just not codified.

The current Minimum Local Service Level Ordinance contained in Chapter 8.29 and the "older" Ordinances (Ordinance No. 91.86 and Ordinance No. 92.22) currently conflict. Staff recommends the County clarify its Minimum Local Service Level Ordinance to include multi-family recycling and yard waste collection or to clarify and cite the "older" Ordinances in the Plan. If the County chooses to cite the "older" Ordinances, please include copies in the Appendix of the Plan.