

December 10, 2009

Yakima County Public Works
Ms. Wendy Mifflin, Manager
Solid Waste Division
7151 Roza Hill Drive
Yakima, WA 98901

RE: Comments on the Preliminary Draft of Yakima County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (TG-091750)

Dear Ms. Mifflin:

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

Commission staff's analysis of the Cost Assessment portion of the Plan shows financial impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Yakima County. The Plan calls for tip fee increases during the five years the Plan is in effect. Residential customers could see increases of up to \$.24 per month between the years 2013-2020. Commercial customers could see an increase of up to \$.60, per yard, based on the projected tip fee increases.

Please see staff's comments on the Plan, which are attached. Questions or comments should be directed to Penny Ingram at (360) 664-1242 or pingram@wutc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

David W. Danner
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: James Wavada, Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office

Attachment

**ATTACHMENT: COMMISSION STAFF'S COMMENTS ON YAKIMA COUNTY'S
COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

General comments:

Throughout the Plan, solid waste collection companies are referred to as "franchise haulers." The commission issues Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to regulated solid waste collection companies. The word "franchise" has a different meaning within the regulatory environment and can cause confusion when it is used to refer to a solid waste collection company regulated by the commission.

In the context of solid waste regulation in the State, the term "franchise" refers to when a city, town or municipality contracts for solid waste collection service within its jurisdiction and therefore is exempt from commission regulation (see RCW 81.77.020) or when a city issues a "franchise" for large trucks to drive on the roads. Please change all references from "franchise" to "certificate" or "certificated", as applicable, respective to solid waste collection companies regulated by the UTC.