



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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August 22, 2016

**NOTICE OF CHANGE IN POLICY REGARDING COSTS RELATED TO
THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS BY CUSTOMERS**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

It has been the policy of the commission to not allow the recovery in general rates of the costs incurred by solid waste collection companies for processing credit cards for those individual customers that desired to pay their bills by credit card. The position of the commission was in that only a limited number of customers used credit cards for payment, it should be those customers that shoulder the related costs.

However, with the passage of time and growing use of credit and debit card payments, in April of 2015, the commission opened Docket A-150561 to investigate current utility and transportation industry practices regarding credit and debit card payments by customers, and to reevaluate the regulatory framework surrounding those payments.

After reviewing the practice, the commission found allowing a company to incur the payment costs, rather than its individual customers, was in the public interest. For example, moving to a fee-free program may provide the company the opportunity to reduce its per-transaction costs by using special programs offered by credit card service organizations.

Therefore, the commission publicly notices that those regulated solid waste collection companies that currently charge individual customers for credit card payment that desire to adopt a fee-free program may do so by removing any stated charge for the use of a credit card to pay outstanding amounts due the company from its tariff if a

provision exists. Those companies already providing fee-free programs need to take no action.

Questions regarding the fee-free plan may be addressed to Mike Young by e-mail at myoung@utc.wa.gov or by calling (360) 664-1255.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.V. King'.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary