

January 11, 2006

Jim Whitbread
Stevens County Public Works
185 E. Hawthorne
Colville, WA 99114

RE: Stevens County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan TG-051842

Dear Mr. Whitbread:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Stevens County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update – 2004 (Plan).

Commission staff's analysis of the Cost Assessment portion of the plan shows no financial impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Stevens County. In March 2005, Stevens County Council increased the tipping fees at the four transfer stations from \$65 a ton to \$68 and increased the fees at the landfill from \$42 a ton to \$45. Current regulated solid waste collection rates reflect those increases. Disposal fees will not increase during the six-year (2004 - 2009) planning period.

Commission staff has two comments for consideration:

- 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.

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- Currently, the plan calls for a study of the curbside collection program. If the county implements minimum standards for curbside recycling, there will be a cost impact to regulated haulers and their ratepayers.

We hope that you find our review and suggestions helpful. Please direct questions or comments about the commission's plan review process to Ms. Penny Hansen at (360) 664-1242 or by email at phansen@wutc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary

cc: James Wavada, Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office
Cullen Stephenson, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program Manager