

[Service Date August 5, 2004]

August 5, 2004

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Wednesday, August 25, 2004)**

RE: Rulemaking to Review WAC 480-70-401, Payment Options, and
WAC 480-70-396, Billing, of Chapter 480-70 WAC
Docket No. TG-041349

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

On August 4, 2004, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed with the Code Reviser a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to consider the amendment of rules relating to payment options and electronic billing procedures to allow solid waste/refuse collection companies and their customers more options for billing and payments. The CR-101, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/041349. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the CR-101 mailed to you, please contact the Records Center at (360) 664-1234.

The Commission recently granted exemptions from WAC 480-70-401, Payment options, to five solid waste companies. The effect of the exemption is to allow the companies to accept customer payments in electronic form and, with the customer's consent, to send bills to customers in electronic form.

For purposes of illustration, the Commission encourages stakeholders to consider and provide comment on the rules for billing and payment that apply to telecommunications companies:

- **Bills** – “With the consent of the customer, a company may provide regular billings in electronic form if the bill meets all the requirements of this rule. The company must maintain a record of the customer's request, and the customer

may change from electronic to printed billing upon request.” [WAC 480-120-116(3)]

- **Payments** – “(a) Companies must, at a minimum, allow the following methods of payment: Cash, certified funds (e.g., cashier check or money order), and personal checks. (b) Upon written notice to a customer, companies may refuse to accept personal checks when that customer has tendered two or more nonsufficient-funds checks within the last twelve months.” [WAC 480-120-161(8)]

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Written comments on the rules relating to payment options and electronic billing for solid waste and/or refuse companies must be filed with the Commission no later than **Wednesday, August 25, 2004**. Instructions for filing written comments are provided in the next section.

The Commission expects to provide draft rule language to stakeholders on Wednesday, **September 1, 2004**. The draft language will be sent by e-mail to stakeholders who have responded to this notice and will be posted on the Commission’s web site at the address listed above.

The Commission will hear comments on the question of whether to propose rules and the specific draft proposal at its regularly scheduled Open Meeting on **Wednesday, September 8** at 9:30 a.m. in Olympia.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to the Commission’s Records Center at <records@wutc.wa.gov>. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (TG -041349)
- The commenting party’s name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

As an alternative method for submitting comments, you may mail/deliver an electronic copy on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 97 or later. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission

will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <<http://www.wutc.wa.gov/041349>>.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will accept a paper document. Questions may be addressed to Penny Hansen at (360) 664-1242 or e-mail at phansen@wutc.wa.gov.

Your participation is welcomed through written comments. We anticipate an opportunity for further comment. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking, you may call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234, e-mail the Commission at <records@wutc.wa.gov>, or mail written comments to the address below. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. TG-041349 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

NOTICE

If you do not want to comment now, but do want to receive future information about this rulemaking, please notify the Secretary in one of the ways described above and ask to be included on the mailing list for Docket No. TG-041349. If you do not do this, you might not receive further information about this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary