



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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October 28, 2021

Kevin J. Dionas.
Stevens County Solid Waste Supervisor
185 E. Hawthorne Ave.
Colville, WA 9840

**RE: Stevens County Solid Waste Management Plan Cost Assessment Questionnaire
TG-210734**

Dear Kevin Dionas:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the cost assessment questionnaire for the preliminary draft of the Stevens County Comprehensive Solid and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan (Plan) submitted on September 17, 2021.

The County's plan appropriately considers the County's rural location and relatively small population and has focused its recycling efforts on collection of commodities with viable markets, such as cardboard, while refusing to collect commodities with no current market value, like glass. The County also places an emphasis on the diversion of potentially harmful materials from its landfill, such as tires and Moderate Risk Waste, which includes auto batteries, used oil, and CFCs.

There is currently no residential recycling collection offered within the County. Instead, the County collects recyclables from its residents through various drop boxes located strategically throughout the County. The materials collected at these collection sites are hauled to the Community Recycling Center (CRC) facility where they are sorted, weighed, and bailed before being transported to market. As of July 1, 2021, the County has taken back operation and control of the CRC facility and County-owned transfer stations from Sunshine Disposal and Recycling. Now that the County is operating these facilities, it intends to gather more accurate data on the mix of recyclables and contaminants and implement changes to improve the efficiency and economics of the program.

The cost assessment questionnaire in the 2021-2026 Plan anticipates changes to tip fees at the Stevens County Landfill in 2023 and 2025. These anticipated tip fee increases are based on the County's best guess at the time the plan was drafted and are subject to change if necessary. If implemented as planned, there will be rate impacts to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Stevens County, as shown in the table below.

	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>Total</i>
Projected Disposal Fees							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$87.00	\$87.00	\$92.00	\$92.00	
Per Ton Increase			\$12.00		\$5.00		\$17.00
Projected Rate Increases							
<i>Residential</i>							
Monthly rate for one 32-gallon can per week service			\$0.88		\$0.37		\$1.25
<i>Commercial</i>							
Monthly rate for one-yard per pick up service			\$4.55		\$1.90		\$6.45

Commission staff has no further comment on the cost assessment questionnaire. Please direct questions or comments to Greg Hammond at (360) 664-1278 or by email at greg.hammond@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

AMANDA MAXWELL
 Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Paula Wesch, Department of Ecology, Solid Waste Planner