



MEMORANDUM

February 28, 2006

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TO: Gene Eckhardt, Regulatory Services
Assistant Director, Transportation and Water Section

FROM: Penny Hansen, Regulatory Analyst 

SUBJECT: Application No. GA-79409 in Docket No. TG-051631 for a certificate to provide solid waste collection services in a portion of Stevens County

Katherine A. Long-Felsch
d/b/a Quality Care Unlimited
4971 Hunters Shop Road
PO Box 143
Hunters, WA 99137

Discussion

On October 25, 2005, Katherine A. Long-Felsch, d/b/a Quality Care Unlimited, filed Application GA-779409 in Docket TG-051631 for a certificate to provide solid waste collection services in Stevens County on Highway 25 from Rice to the Spokane River and to the unincorporated communities of Rice, Daisy, Gifford, Cedonia, Hunters and Fruitland.

Rice, Daisy, Gifford, Cedonia, Hunters and Fruitland are all unincorporated communities located in southwestern Stevens County on or near Highway 25. Highway 25 runs along the Columbia River (Lake Roosevelt) on the backside of Coulee Dam. Ms. Long-Felsch proposes to transport the waste she collects to the Stevens County Landfill at Kettle Falls (approximately 40 miles) which is open full time and charges \$48 a ton for disposal.

Mr. Dennis Durbin, Stevens County Department of Public Works, states that the Highway 25 area south of Kettle Falls is isolated with the River on one side and mountainous area on the other. He estimated about 100 residences in the area, many separated by miles. The area frequently has problems with bears and other wildlife attracted to the waste collected at residences, the Hunters transfer station, and even the landfill in Kettle Falls. The Hunters transfer station is open two days a week in the winter months, charges \$68 a ton and consists of two 40 yard dumpsters intended to serve the needs of those individuals that self-haul their waste. According to Mr. Durbin the landfill at Kettle Falls would be the more appropriate location for disposal of larger quantities (pick-up truck loads) or commercially collected waste.

Ms. Long-Felsch includes three statements from individuals supporting the request for authority because there is currently no service available and having regularly scheduled collection service would help reduce the problem of garbage piling up creating an unsanitary situation as well as bringing bears and other wildlife into residential areas.

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Ms. Long-Felsch contacted our Consumer Affairs staff in December of 2003 to question the availability of residential garbage service to the Hunters community. At that time, Waste Management of Washington, Inc., held certificate authority to provide service in that portion of Stevens County, but the authority was limited to drop box service only. Ms. Long-Felsch circulated a petition and gathered over 75 signatures from residents wanting garbage collection service. The Commission authorized transfer of Waste Management's drop box authority in that portion of Stevens County to Torre Refuse and Recycling, LLC, effective June 8, 2004. There is no certificated carrier with authority to provide residential waste collection services to the requested area.

Ms. Long-Felsch owns a 1964 Chevy pick-up truck and has extremely limited financial resources. In conversation with Ms. Long-Felsch she indicated that she has access to additional financial support from family and other community members to get the service started. She intends to collect waste once a week and transport it to the Stevens County Landfill at Kettle Falls.

Staff believes it is in the public interest to grant this application for a certificate to allow Ms. Long-Felsch to provide solid waste collection service limited to cans and bags in that portion of Stevens County described above.

Conclusion

This is an uncontested application for authority to provide solid waste collection in portions of Steven's County. Staff has received no other information indicating this application should be set for hearing.

Staff recommends the application be granted and a certificate issued to Katherine A. Long-Felsch, d/b/a Quality Care Unlimited, authorizing the following:

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE limited to bags and cans in that portion of Stevens County described as:

Highway 25 from the community of Rice (the intersection of Highway 25 and Orin Rice road) to the Spokane River.

The Orin-Rice Road for a distance of 5 miles from its intersection with Highway 25.

The Daisy Mine Road for a distance of 5 miles from its intersection with Highway 25.

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The Addy-Gifford Road for a distance of 5 miles from its intersection with Highway 25.

The Cedonia-Addy Road for a distance of 8 miles from its intersection with Highway 25.

The Springdale-Hunters Road for a distance of 8 miles from its intersection with Highway 25.

The Fruitland Valley Road for a distance of 10 miles from its intersection with Highway 25.

NOTES TO STAFF:

Coordinate with GIS staff to ensure the map reflects the order effective date.

Coordinate with Ms. Felsch to receive signed tariff pages. Lori Kanz worked with Ms. Katherine Felsch on the tariff earlier in the process.