



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
 (360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

November 8, 2018

David Nails, Director
 Whitman County Solid Waste Division
 252 Landfill Road
 Pullman, WA 99163

**RE: Whitman County Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Cost Assessment
 Questionnaire, TG-180836**

Dear Mr. Nails:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) has completed its review of the cost assessment questionnaire for the draft of the Whitman County Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan), submitted September 26, 2018. Staff reviewed this Plan and the cost assessment questionnaire under Docket TG-180836.

The County proposes two tip fee increases at the Whitman County transfer station during the 2019 – 2024 Plan period. These tip fee increases are expected to occur in 2021 and 2023. As a result, there will be a rate impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Whitman County in years 2021 and 2023. This is illustrated in the table shown below.

	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Whitman County Transfer Stations – Projected Disposal Fees							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$110.24	\$110.24	\$114.65	\$114.65	\$119.28	\$119.28	
Per Ton Increase	\$4.24	\$0.00	\$4.41	\$0.00	\$4.63	\$0.00	\$13.28
Projected Rate Increases							
<i>Residential</i>							
Monthly rate increase for one 32-gallon can per week service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.32	\$0.00	\$0.34	\$0.00	\$0.67
<i>Commercial</i>							
Monthly rate increase for one-yard per pick up service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.67	\$0.00	\$1.76	\$0.00	\$3.43

Whitman County submitted its solid waste management plan prior to issuance of the commission's October 18, 2018, letter informing the state's counties of the commission's intent to increase its focus on the cost to customers of recycling. As part of that increased focus, it was noticed that the county's Plan indicates glass will still be collected in curbside programs. The markets for glass are such that the cost of processing (and disposal) exceeds the value gained from the material, which cost is then passed on to customers. Although the Plan states the county will be reviewing its list of recyclable materials required to be collected, there is no time frame identified for that review. The commission feels strongly that the continued collection of recyclable materials that have no value or markets only adds cost without any of the benefits of collecting recyclable materials with markets. We encourage the county to review its list of recyclables in its curbside programs and when practical, amend the Plan accordingly.

Staff has no further comment on the cost assessment questionnaire. Please direct questions or comments to Mike Young at (360) 664-1155 or by email at mike.young@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Meagan Gilmore, Environmental Planner and Financial Assistance Manager