

February 29, 2008
Addendum, 2008 Supplement

ADDENDUM
to the
Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

for the **2008 Supplement**
to the
Year 2000
Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan

February 29, 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this addendum is to describe the information provided in the 2008 Supplement, *Stepping Up To The Challenges, to the Year 2000 Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan*. The 2008 Supplement would amend, not replace, the Solid Waste Plan. New information has been included within the Supplement in order to meet the State requirements that a solid waste plan be kept updated or 'current.' The new information does not change the analysis of likely significant impacts or alternatives described in the Solid Waste Management Plan or in the *Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement* adopted in July 1989.

BACKGROUND

Pierce County Code

Chapter 8.28:

- On December 12, 2000, Pierce County adopted the *Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan* which updated the previous solid waste plan adopted in 1992. The County issued an Addendum on October 4, 1999 to the Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which was first adopted in July 1989 and re-adopted in 1992.
- All cities and towns adopted the Solid Waste Plan and signed new Interlocal Agreements with the County in 2001.
- The Washington Department of Ecology approved the Year 2000 *Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan* on August 22, 2001.

State regulations:

Chapter 70.95 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) requires counties, in coordination with their cities and towns to adopt comprehensive solid waste plans for the management, handling, and disposal of solid waste, and to keep those plans in a 'current' status through periodic review and update. State law specifies the required contents of a comprehensive solid waste plan. Among the many requirements are: estimated needs for solid waste handling facilities for 20 years of disposal capacity; a six-year construction and capital acquisition program; a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling element; and an assessment of the plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection prepared in conformance with the guidelines established by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).

Statewide plan:

In 2004, the Washington Department of Ecology adopted the *Beyond Waste Plan* as the State's waste management plan. Ecology is working with counties to incorporate waste management strategies of the *Beyond Waste Plan* into county plans during the periodic review and update cycle. The State's 30-year strategies focus on measures to reduce the use of toxic substances in industries; decrease waste generation; increase organic recycling; and properly manage any waste that remains for disposal.

Measures to implement these strategies include developing partnerships between Ecology, local governments, and industry about product stewardship; and outreach and education programs about recycling, products purchasing programs, and green building practices. Other measures focus on actions by Ecology to help “establish a recycling system so organic wastes like food waste, yard waste, and crop residues are no longer landfilled” and to develop a system to measure achievement of goals. (*Beyond Waste Plan*, SEPA Checklist and DNS, 10/06/04.)

FEIS

The County’s 1989 Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) evaluates a complex series of alternatives for waste handling, recycling, and disposal, plus alternatives for handling special wastes, such as woodwaste, landclearing and construction debris. The FEIS was re-adopted in 1992 (Ord. #92-130); an Addendum was issued October 4, 1999.

Since 1989, Pierce County has been pursuing the FEIS’s MMSW Alternative 3 which focuses on tripling waste reduction and recycling rates; disposing of remaining MSW in a landfill; and recycling of woodwaste, construction debris, and landclearing debris. Alternative 3 targets a 60% or greater recycling and waste reduction rate. Among the waste reduction and recycling measures discussed within Alternative 3 are: the need to develop food waste and other organic diversion or composting programs and facility capacity; a need to develop model product purchasing programs; and a need to work with businesses to implement comprehensive waste reduction and recycling collection. These are in addition to education and outreach programs and, residential recycling and yardwaste curbside collection services.

To implement state regulations and the Solid Waste Management Plan, the Solid Waste Division offers an extensive range of public education and outreach programs about waste reduction and recycling. The County adopted minimum levels of services to provide residential curbside recycling and yardwaste services; built a yardwaste composting facility; and maintains the contract for meeting long-term disposal and other waste handling facility capacity. The Solid Waste Division provides funding support for the enforcement actions and regulatory activities of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department which administers the State’s solid waste permit regulations, WAC 173-350 and WAC 1173-351.

To carry-out the Year 2000 Plan’s direction about illegal dumping problems, the Solid Waste Division created and funds the Pierce County Responds Program to address illegal dumping and nuisance vehicle issues, and to cleanup illegal dump sites.

Resolution

R2006-133:

On November 7, 2006, the Pierce County Council adopted Resolution 2005-122 to initiate a process to review and update the Solid Waste Plan to keep the Plan's 'current' status. The Resolution identifies a need to advance a Vision by developing a Supplement that retains the core approach of the Year 2000 Solid Waste Plan.

The Resolution charged the Solid Waste Division of the Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities to lead the efforts and charged the Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) to conduct an active public outreach process during the drafting and review of the Supplement.

Resolution

R2008-6

On February 5, 2008, the Pierce County Council adopted Resolution R2008-6 to send the draft 2008 Supplement for public review and comment to the Pierce County Planning Commission, cities and towns, and the Washington Department of Ecology and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee met in 14 regular and nine public comment meetings in 2007 to help prepare the draft 2008 Supplement and to gather public comment.

SUPPLEMENT CONTENT

Proposal:

The 2008 Supplement amends the *Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan* by updating waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste management policies to incorporate waste reduction and recycling strategies from Washington's *Beyond Waste Plan*; advance a 20-Year Vision for cost-effective and environmentally-sound delivery of solid waste management services; and establish priority actions to take for the next 5 years.

Status updates:

Background briefing papers in the Appendices to the Supplement provide information to update:

- the status of all Tacoma and Pierce County's waste reduction and recycling programs;
- the Pierce County Responds Program actions to resolve illegal dumping, littering, and nuisance vehicle issues;
- 20-year projected needs for disposal capacity;
- land use and solid waste permitting status of the LRI Landfill;
- the status of Best Available Control Technologies (BACTs) for the management of landfill gas;

- information about the Customer Service, Asset Management, and System Sustainability Program (CAS) for managing transfer station facilities and studying future facility needs;
- State landfill siting criteria as it relates to aquifers;
- information about the relationship of land use regulations to the permitting of solid waste disposal and recycling facilities under State law WAC 173-350 and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department regulations;
- information about the lack of facility capacity to increase handling of organic debris;
- the status of inter-jurisdictional planning for emergency debris programs; and
- State legislation to reduce “sham” recycling and about electronics and other collection or product stewardship programs.

This updated information is also incorporated in a more summary form within the body of the Supplement in Section III Creating a Pathway. This section contains the new waste reduction and recycling policies.

20-Year Vision; 5 new

goals, and 37 new policies: The draft 2008 Supplement articulates the Plan’s waste management approach with a 20-Year Vision statement and five new goals. (The Solid Waste Plan lacks a clear, short vision-statement.) The Vision and new goals are strong statements about disposing of waste as a last resort; reducing the annual per capita waste disposal requirements; developing waste management systems to be more effective in reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions; and contributing to efforts to protect, enhance, and cleanup Puget Sound. The Supplement also established a new waste reduction and recycling goal of 75%.

The Supplement contains 37 new waste reduction and recycling policy strategies to move forward and achieve the Plan’s goals and Vision. The policies and actions build upon the existing core waste recycling and waste management programs. Many of these new policies are expanded versions of the existing policy recommendations in the Solid Waste Plan.

The approach is an aggressive waste reduction and recycling strategy which will dramatically decrease the per capita waste disposal needs by 2032. The program actions in the Supplement are intended to achieve and go beyond the 60% recycling and reduction rate of the FEIS’s Alternative 3. It is projected that the amount of waste disposed each day can be reduced from an average of 4.5 pounds per person per day to 1.09 pounds. Recycling rates would continue to increase at a rate of 1.5% annually and reach about an 82% recycling rate by 2032. Residents would be generating much less waste through waste reduction measures, with an expected drop of about 2 pounds per person per day.

The Supplement has a strong emphasis on removing organic materials, such as foodwaste, yardwaste, and compostable paper, from the disposed waste stream by diverting the material to composting facilities or other public or private facilities which convert the bio-mass to energy or alternative fuels. Similarly, there is also a strong focus on recycling more woodwaste, construction debris, and landclearing debris.

The Supplement continues to support Best Available Control Technologies (BACTs) which reduce landfill greenhouse gas emissions. This may include, as previously discussed in the Plan and the FEIS, converting landfill gas to compressed or liquefied natural gas for use as a vehicle fuel, or to produce other fuels or electrical energy.

Priority actions:

As required in an update to a solid waste plan, a new five-year implementation schedule of priority actions is included. These are:

- Waste Characterization Audit.
- Capacity monitoring programs.
- Expanded environmental education and outreach programs.
- Business assistance programs to provide one-on-one assistance to help businesses and local governments to adopt green purchasing actions and implement green building practices and comprehensive waste reduction and recycling.
- Actions to divert construction debris from disposal facilities to permitted recycling facilities.
- Study and research about the best way to divert organics from the disposed waste stream and to evaluate the availability or need for public or private facilities to handle organic waste.
- Expanded recycling collection programs.
- A new two-year plan review schedule to measure progress to meet the 20-Year Vision of the Plan.

Except for the new two-year plan review, all of the above actions are discussed in the Solid Waste Plan and the 1989 FEIS, although in less detail than in the draft 2008 Supplement. Expanding the recycling collection programs and diverting organics depends upon completion of the Waste Characterization Audit which will identify what other recyclable materials are still being disposed and could be added to the curbside, drop-off, and other recycling collection programs. The Audit will also provide information about how much and what type of organic material is being disposed.

Capital Facilities Plan: The Priority Actions Section IV of the Supplement incorporates the County's adopted Six Year Capital Facility Plan for solid waste facilities, beginning in 2008. A capital facility plan must be included within any update to the Solid Waste Plan.

WUTC Cost Assessment: As required by RCW 70.95, an assessment of the plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection is included in Section C of the Appendices. It has been prepared in conformance with the guidelines established by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ The additional information does not change analysis of likely significant impacts or alternatives in the 1989 Programmatic FEIS. The alternatives and mitigations remain the same as summarized in the FEIS.
- ▶ The 2008 Supplement has been prepared pursuant to Pierce County Council Resolutions R2006-133, passed November 7, 2006 and R2008-6, passed on February 5, 2008.
- ▶ The 2008 Supplement contains the State's required information to update a solid waste plan including: status updates about all programs; priority actions to take for the next 5 years; a six-year capital facility plan; and a WUTC Cost Assessment which analyzes the plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection.
- ▶ No additional significant adverse impacts have been identified from expansion of the waste reduction and recycling outreach and education programs and continued use of existing private sector collection and processing capacity.
- ▶ The draft 2008 Supplement continues to support diversion of recyclables through established curbside collection programs, drop-off centers, buy-back and recycling processing businesses and compost facilities; and through diversion alternatives at existing transfer stations.
- ▶ No new need for solid waste disposal or transfer station facility capacity has been identified. The Supplement continues to support study of transfer facility needs in compliance with the FEIS.
- ▶ The Supplement continues support for researching best management practices to divert organic waste from the disposed waste stream and to identify facility capacity needs to manage organic waste.
- ▶ The Supplement continues to support BACT technologies to reduce landfill greenhouse gas emissions. It includes policy support to work with the landfill owners "to research, develop, and implement best management practices to maximize landfill capacity, extend the life of the landfill, reduce emissions, and address climate change initiatives."
- ▶ The Supplement continues support for inter-agency coordination between local and state agencies to prevent the improper siting of "sham" recycling operations and to ensure coordination between land use and solid waste permitting agencies for the siting and permitting of solid waste and recycling facilities.

AVAILABILITY

The 2008 Supplement, *Stepping Up to The Challenges, to the Year 2000 Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan* is available at all libraries, the Solid Waste Division, or the website: www.piercecountywa.org/swplan. Anyone wishing to review the 1989 Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement may contact the Solid Waste Division, Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities, (253) 798-2179.