



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 9, 2023
TO: Chair Bryson and Public Works and Facilities Committee
FROM: Denise Koch, Deputy Engineering and Public Works Director
THROUGH: Katie Koester, Engineering and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Overview of Juneau's Solid Waste Situation

At the January 23, 2023, PWFC meeting, Jim Denson from Waste Management provided an update on policy changes at the Capitol Disposal Landfill. The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the solid waste situation in Juneau and provide additional information on the items that were discussed.

CBJ differs from other local governments in how we handle waste

- CBJ does not control Juneau's waste stream (i.e., waste hauling).
- Most other municipalities control their waste streams.
- CBJ does not have mandatory/universal waste collection.
- A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate) from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) is required to collect garbage.
- Most other local governments either hold this Certificate, have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), or a contract with a waste hauler.
- Alaska Waste currently holds the Certificate for hauling municipal solid waste in Juneau.
- CBJ does not have a contract or an MOA with Alaska Waste for waste collection.
- A Certificate cannot be transferred without the prior approval of the RCA.¹
- RCA may issue multiple Certificates in one service area.
- Applicants for a Certificate may be private or a local government.
- Local governments that are issued certificates are not automatically subjected to RCA tariff (which establishes rules and pricing) if they are the only entity providing the service.²
- Local governments that are issued certificates are subjected to RCA tariff (which establishes rules and pricing) if there are other entities providing the service.³

What does a community gain by controlling the waste stream?

- The community controls how garbage is collected in Juneau and how it is disposed.

¹ AS 42.05.281

² A local government can choose to be regulated by RCA per AS 42.05.711(b)(1).

³ AS 42.05.711(b)(2)

CBJ has done a lot of solid waste planning,⁴ and those studies have laid out two major options:

Option 1 – Status Quo

- CBJ develops new diversion programs
 - New compost facility - \$2.5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending from Sen. Murkowski; Development of a Zero Waste Subdivision; Applying for compost grant; Etc.
- Alaska Waste (hauler) and Waste Management (landfill) continue to control Juneau's waste stream
 - Alaska Waste may change collection policies and prices, subject to RCA approval.
 - Waste Management is not regulated by the RCA per the exemptions found at AS 42.05.711. Waste Management is authorized to raise tipping fees and even to stop accepting Juneau's waste altogether (although there is no indication that they would do the latter.)

Option 2 – CBJ Controls the Waste Stream

- CBJ acquires the Certificate – making CBJ Waste Management's biggest customer with more leverage
 - CBJ can contract the waste hauling services out or handle it internally
 - CBJ sets collection policies and procedures
 - CBJ sets collection prices
 - CBJ has more control over how we meet our diversion goals
- CBJ would be better positioned to develop new diversion programs

Next Step: Chair Bryson knows this is an important community issue. He is working on inviting key industry stakeholders to a two-hour PWFC work session. Please submit any questions you want to be researched or have for the group to staff.

⁴ Reports can be found here: <https://juneau.org/engineering-public-works/recycleworks-2/projects-plans>

- Municipal Composting Feasibility Assessment; Prepared by Cedar Grove; 2016
- City and Borough of Juneau Solid Waste Strategy; Prepared by WIH Resource Group; 2008
- Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Alternatives, Southeast Alaska: Developing Regional Solutions; Prepared for Southeast Conference; Smith Bayliss LeResche Inc; 2006
- Technical Reconnaissance Study for New Landfill Site Selection; Brown, Vence, & Associates and R&M Engineering; 1993.