Chapter 14: Public Services and Utilities

This chapter describes the public services and utilities in the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF) vicinity, and the potential for affecting these services by implementing any of the alternatives.

This environmental review determined that there would be no significant unavoidable adverse impacts to public services and utilities during construction of operation of any of the alternatives.

14.1 Affected Environment

14.1.1 Water and Sewer

Potable water is supplied to the CHRLF by Water District 90 of Renton, and is conveyed to the site through a 10-inch-diameter pipeline that runs along the north side of the South Solid Waste Area (SSWA). Water to fight fires is provided by this pipeline and on-site wells. The wells can supply from 130 to 170 gallons per minute, and up to a total of 9.7 million gallons of water annually. A non-potable water storage reservoir is located in the eastern buffer strip of the landfill and has a capacity of 1.73 million gallons.

Precipitation that has come into contact with solid waste, either through percolation or direct runoff, is pre-treated through biological processes at the contaminated stormwater water and leachate lagoons. A discharge permit allows for 3.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of effluent to be discharged to a King County Wastewater Treatment Division pipeline.

14.1.2 Natural Gas

In 2008, KCSWD leased 2 acres in the southeast area of CHRLF to Bio Energy (Washington), LLC (BEW) for a facility to convert landfill gas produced at the landfill into pipeline-quality natural gas for use in the region. The landfill gas processing facility is owned and operated by BEW and is also planned to generate supplementary electricity from the waste gas stream to run the processing facility. Once processed, the methane gas is pumped into a natural gas pipeline owned by Williams Northwest Pipeline Companies, Inc. (Williams).

The Williams natural gas pipeline is located along the south side of the SSWA. A 20-foot-wide easement was acquired by Williams when the pipeline was installed (Williams 2005); KCSWD is not allowed to develop within this easement. A north–south natural gas line is also located along the eastern edge of the CHRLF site. There would be no impacts to the existing natural gas pipelines under any of the action alternatives.

14.1.3 Electrical Facilities

Electrical energy is supplied to the CHRLF site by 3-phase power lines owned by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) high-voltage electrical transmission lines cross the CHRLF site at two locations. A north–south BPA transmission

line easement is located along the eastern edge of the landfill. Five east–west transmission lines owned by BPA are located on the southern portion of the CHRLF site. There are limitations on uses and activities within the BPA easements.

14.1.4 Solid Waste Services

King County's solid waste transfer and disposal system is a public-sector operation that is funded almost entirely by fees collected from its customers. The fees charged at county facilities pay for the construction, operation, and maintenance of transfer and disposal facilities and equipment, education and promotion related to waste prevention and recycling (WPR), grants to cities to support WPR efforts, and administrative operating expenses and overhead.

A portion of KCSWD's revenue is transferred from the Solid Waste Operating Fund to reserve funds. These funds were established to ensure that the division can meet future obligations, or expenses, some of which are mandated by law. Contributions to reserve funds are routinely evaluated to ensure they are adequate to meet short- and long-term needs. Paying into reserve funds stabilizes the impact on rates for certain expenses by spreading the costs over a longer time period, and ensures that customers who use the system pay the entire cost of disposal.

One such fund is the Landfill Reserve Fund (LRF), codified in KCC 4.08.045, which covers the costs of four major accounts maintained for the CHRLF, shown below. The cell closure and post-closure maintenance accounts are mandated by federal and state law.

- *New area development account*: Covers the costs for planning, designing, permitting, and building new refuse cells.
- *Facility improvements account*: Covers a wide range of capital investments required to sustain the infrastructure and operations at the landfill, such as enhancements to the landfill gas and wastewater systems.
- *Cell closures account*: Covers the cost of closing refuse cells, or operating areas, within the landfill that have reached capacity. These contributions help the division prepare incrementally for the cost of final closure of the entire landfill.
- *Post-closure maintenance account*: Accumulates funds to pay for post-closure maintenance of the Cedar Hills landfill for at least 30 years.

14.1.5 Police and Fire Services

The Eastside Fire & Rescue, part of King County Fire District 10, serves the landfill. Fire District 10 provides technical rescue, hazardous material, and wild land services for deployment at CHRLF (Williams 2009). Precinct 3 of the King County Sheriff's department supplies police service to the landfill.

14.2 Environmental Impacts

To assess impacts to public services and utilities, the action alternatives were evaluated for potential changes to current operating conditions. Relocation of various portions of the sewer, water, and PSE electrical facilities would likely be required for all action alternatives. Brief, temporary interruptions to these services could occur on the CHRLF site during the relocations; however, no impacts to these services would be anticipated off of the CHRLF site.

No impacts to the natural gas lines or BPA transmission lines would occur for any of the action alternatives.

The capacities of the water and sewer utilities at CHRLF are adequate for any of the action alternatives.

14.2.1 Direct Impacts

No public services or utilities would be significantly affected during either construction or operation of any of action alternatives.

No public services or utilities would be significantly affected by selection of the No Action Alternative. Selection of the No Action Alternative would result in CHRLF reaching capacity sooner than any of the action alternatives, likely resulting in higher solid waste disposal rates for King County ratepayers.

14.2.2 Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

No significant indirect or cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of implementation of any of the action alternatives.

14.3 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures would be required for the alternatives evaluated.

14.4 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

None of the action alternatives would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts to public services or utilities.