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INFORMATION RELEASE  
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### **Company that collects Juneau's trash set to change hands**

- *Public hearing on proposed acquisition, local trash service and rates on May 25*
- *Transfer of garbage collection ownership has implications on Juneau's solid waste future*

Trash is messy. In Juneau, trash is also complicated. Some people might think the City and Borough of Juneau owns the local landfill. CBJ doesn't. Some people might think CBJ is responsible for garbage collection and where that trash goes after it's picked up from your home. CBJ has no control over that. The company that does is in the process of being bought, and CBJ wants to ensure that Juneau residents are informed of what will happen to service and rates. A public hearing on the matter is taking place May 25.

In Alaska, garbage collection is regulated as a utility by the state Regulatory Commission of Alaska, or RCA. In order to collect garbage, an entity must have a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from RCA. The holder of the certificate, with input from the RCA, controls where the trash goes. In Juneau, a private company, Alaska Pacific Environmental Services, holds that certificate. The company picks up garbage and brings it to the landfill owned by another company, Waste Management.

Alaska Pacific Environmental Services and Waste Connections, a different company, filed a joint application with RCA in February to transfer the certificate from Alaska Pacific Environmental Services to Waste Connections. Waste Connections, a solid waste services company, serves markets in U.S. and Canada. It intends to purchase Alaska Pacific Environmental Services in Juneau, as well as four other locations around the state.

"These actions have implications for the future of solid waste in Juneau," CBJ RecycleWorks manager Michele Elfers said. "We're concerned about the life of the landfill and have questions about the possibility of transferring garbage to the Lower 48. Another question is whether CBJ can have regulatory authority over the certificate."

After RCA published a public notice about the application, CBJ submitted comments and requested a public hearing be held in Juneau. The hearing will be on Thursday, May 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Assembly Chambers. Representatives from Alaska Pacific Environmental Services and Waste Connections will provide an overview of the acquisition.

"This is an opportunity for CBJ and the community to voice their interest in solid waste management and garbage collection in town – anywhere from garbage can size and pickup times to, 'What is the fate of our garbage? Where is it going to be disposed up in the next 10 years? What are you going to do for rates?'" Elfers said.

RCA will issue a final decision on the application to transfer the certificate from Alaska Pacific Environmental Services to Waste Connections by August 27, 2017.

Prior to the application, CBJ staff members have been working on a long-term plan for solid waste based on recommendations from a 2006 Solid Waste Management Strategy Report. CBJ's waste management program, RecycleWorks, diverts about 7 percent of waste from the landfill. Elfers recently presented to the Juneau Assembly Finance Committee a five-year plan that would increase diversion to 50 percent. Diversion methods include increasing the recycling drop box collection program, consolidating facilities for more convenience, building a business and commercial recycling program, and adding a composting program. These efforts would extend the life of the landfill, which is estimated to be only another 20 years at current waste disposal practices.

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