

STORAGE CAPACITY

Transfer Plan Review Workshop 2

August 22, 2013



Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste Division

Why do we need storage capacity?

- To handle surges in the amount of waste received
 - Related to time of day, season, holidays
 - After events, such as snowstorms, when collection has been disrupted
- To stockpile waste when access to disposal is disrupted
 - Road conditions
 - Weather
 - Debris-causing disaster
- To store waste when equipment is down



Current storage capacity

- Algona, Factoria, Houghton, and Renton depends on how many empty trailers are available
- Shoreline and Bow Lake ~ 3 days waste stored on floor



Why 3 days?

- No regulation or requirement
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) recommends storage capacity
- FEMA – be prepared for 3 days
- May also use temporary debris management sites where non-putrescible debris can be stored until it can be sorted for recycling or proper disposal
 - Recommend that cities identify temporary debris management sites before a disaster

Cost

- Capital cost is negligible – design of new facilities can accommodate ~ 3 days waste stored in piles



Airport Way Transfer Station, Snohomish County, during rail disruption

- Ability to store waste may require temporary modifications
 - Waste acceptance, e.g., accepting only high priority (putrescible) waste and closing to self-haul
 - Operations, e.g., allowing fewer vehicles in the building at one time

Service

- In the event of an emergency, having storage capacity would enable the transfer station to continue to operate (prioritizing acceptance of putrescible garbage) as clean-up occurs
- Existing Algona, Factoria, Houghton and Renton transfer stations are vulnerable to even minor events, such as traffic – if empty trailers aren't available on-site the station has to close until trailers arrive

Environment and Public Health

- Single-family homes can safely store garbage in a container with a tight fitting lid for 2 to 3 weeks
- Grocery stores, restaurants, apartment buildings, hospitals, and nursing homes may not have adequate, appropriate storage capacity and would be prioritized for service
- Health and environmental issues could arise if putrescible garbage can't be accepted
- Storing garbage in an enclosed transfer facility with environmental control systems reduces the potential for odors, run-off or spills, and other potential health impacts



King County

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