

## Update on North Recycling & Disposal Station Rebuild Project

The purpose of this fact sheet is to bring you up-to-date on the planning process for rebuilding the North Transfer Station and to let you know what to expect in the coming months.

### Rationale for Rebuilding the North Recycling & Disposal Station

The North Recycling and Disposal Station (NRDS) in the Fremont and Wallingford neighborhoods is more than 40 years old and has a variety of problems. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is planning to rebuild it to

- Ensure reliable solid waste transfer service.
- Manage solid waste in an economical and environmentally sound manner.
- Encourage more recycling and reuse in keeping with the City's goal of waste minimization.
- Provide better customer service.
- Be a better neighbor to the surrounding community.
- Make it a safer and better place for customers and employees.



In 2007, the City of Seattle decided to rebuild both the NRDS and South Recycling & Disposal Stations and provide additional recycling and other solid waste services without adding a new intermodal transfer facility in the industrial rail corridor at the Corgiat site. After input from the SRDS Stakeholder Group and the community, SPU has selected a contractor to design and build a new facility in South Park. Site preparation for the new SRDS will start this spring and actual Construction of the new SRDS is scheduled to begin this fall.

SPU issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) as a result of evaluating the NRDS rebuild project under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). This decision was challenged and subsequently upheld by the City Hearing Examiner and Washington State Superior Court. The litigation is continuing in the Washington State Court of Appeals.

### Creation of the North Transfer Station Stakeholder Group

In 2008, SPU convened a Stakeholder Group for the NRDS to advise the City on

- Customer service goals
- Public outreach and involvement
- Environmental and community issues to be addressed in the planning process
- Design and performance goals to be used in the development of a new transfer station.

The NRDS Stakeholder Group met several times in 2008 and 2009 and created a list of issues about the project including environmental concerns as well as customer and neighborhood goals for a rebuilt facility. The group's charter and membership are available at the project website. (See below.)

### Design Program

SPU has selected a support services consultant. This consultant will assist SPU in guiding the Stakeholder group through a process to evaluate a range of configurations for rebuilding the NRDS. This public process will examine the following.

- The bulk and visual impact of the new facility

- Potential zoning changes to allow recycling at 1550 North 34<sup>th</sup> Street (1550 Building) and the vacation (closure) of Carr Place North among other aspects.
- Transfer Station configurations that do not include rezoning or closure of Carr Place North
- Community benefits associated with the potential street vacation
- Option to achieve LEED Gold certification

SPU will work with the Stakeholder group to gather input on several design concepts. The goal of the Design Program will be to reduce the number of design concepts to one or two that will be presented to the larger community. SPU is committed to develop a Transfer Station configuration that meets customer and recycling needs and that will be a good neighbor to the surrounding community.

## Proposed Features of a Rebuilt NRDS

SPU is proposing the following features in the rebuilt NRDS to improve solid waste transfer reliability; to encourage more recycling and reuse; and to make the facility a better neighbor for the surrounding community.

- Improved facility design to minimize customer wait time and long lines
- A fully enclosed building with a small entrance and exit to better control noise and air emissions
- More unload stalls, natural lighting, and improved signage
- Recycling and reuse drop-off areas that are separated from disposal areas, in a new facility to the east of the existing site, to allow more convenient waste recovery



Enclosed building with small entrance and exit to control noise and odors.<sup>1</sup>



Recycling and reuse drop-off areas separated from disposal areas allowing easier access for recycling.<sup>1</sup>



More unload stalls, natural lighting, improved signage all make the transfer station a safer place.<sup>1</sup>

Note (1) Photos are for example only.

## For More Information

Find copies of the environmental studies, the Hearing Examiner decision, and the latest information on the project website at

[www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/Garbage\\_System/Plans/SolidWasteFacilityUpdate/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Garbage_System/Plans/SolidWasteFacilityUpdate/index.htm).

Or you may contact Bill Benzer, SPU Project Manager at (206) 684-7845 or email [newstations@seattle.gov](mailto:newstations@seattle.gov). If you'd like to receive email updates about the project, please note this in your email.