

Ten verifiable objective reasons why Woodinville is unsuitable for a NERTS site

- 1) The population center of the NERTS collection district is in the Southern half of the district. Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish total 232,900 people, while Kenmore, Woodinville and Bothell total 85,167 people-a difference of 147,800 people, or 61,550 households (based on current Google data). Thus, garbage from an extra 61,500 households must be transported an additional 17 miles to a potential Woodinville site (8.5 miles each way).
- 2) More drivers and/or more trucks will be needed to haul this extra mileage. Or overtime will be needed to get the same amount of garbage hauled in a work shift. This will cost the solid waste division more money and increase all our rates.
- 3) the distance from the freeway to the current Houghton site is 0.5 miles from the South and 1.4 miles from the North. Trucks can easily get off the freeway, dump their loads, and get back to work. The distance from the freeway to the proposed Woodinville site is 6.2 miles (not 8.2 as I recently reported) from the South and about 1.5 miles from the North; plus, most of this road from freeway to the Woodinville location is 2 lane roads, must negotiate roundabouts (from the South), or travel under the trestle (from the North)- where traffic is often backed up to the 405 offramp.
- 4) The time spent off the freeway for these additional 61,550 households of garbage to get to Woodinville is not cost effective. I drove to the Woodinville site from the 124th exit on 405- during the night (no traffic)- and it took me a minimum of ten minutes and driving through 8 traffic lights-vs only a few minutes from freeway to Houghton site (maximum 3 traffic lights).
- 5) Fuel costs will dramatically increase as trucks are idling on surface roads to get to Woodinville. Fossil fuel pollution will dramatically increase both here and considering the extra 17 miles driven for the majority of truckloads.
- 6) The Woodinville site is across the street from a K-12 school. This was not even considered in your evaluation even though you stated proximity to a school was a negative variable. Young drivers, added congestion and an increase in traffic accidents- and probably liability for NERTS-is a likely result.
- 7) The Sammamish River is directly across the street from the proposed Woodinville site. Even though you state the new site would be modern and state of the art, pollution and runoff from trucks (oil, brake fluid, gas fumes) could contaminate the soil. Designated agricultural land is also across the street from the site and parallels the route up the Woodinville-Redmond road. Damage to farmers crops and fish in the Sammamish River cannot be ignored, and frankly, I'm amazed at how this issue has been ignored by you.
- 8) In addition to the proposed Woodinville site being next to protected agricultural land, the Woodinville site is about 40% wetlands. Look at your own map of the site. When the

wetlands area is excluded, the Woodinville site is smaller than the secondary Kirkland site-which you ruled out as being too small. So, how did that happen?

9) The proposed Woodinville site is located in a tourist business zone. This is not the case for Houghton. Woodinville stands to lose businesses, which will mean loss of tax revenue to both Woodinville and King County, as well as loss of jobs.

10) NERTS already owns the Houghton site, which is more than large enough to build the future facility, and still retain the ball fields. The proposed Woodinville site would need to be purchased from the current owners (I believe there are 5 separate parcels). This will no doubt be a lengthy process and result in probable legal action. This means NERTS will have far fewer financial resources to build the future site in Woodinville.

Many of these ten situations should have been a deal breaker on their own, and the ten together present a situation that no rational, thinking human should be contemplating.

Increased truck miles driven, increased fuel costs and pollution, increased number of employees working more hours at greater cost, possible damage to farm land and fish bearing river, loss of tax revenue and jobs for Woodinville, higher costs to consumers, less funding available to build a Woodinville site (after you buy the land and get more trucks and employees). All of these factors are real, negative consequences of building NERTS in Woodinville. Please consider objective information in your decision.

Gary Harris
Former Woodinville Mayor and council member