



FLOW CONTROL Q&A

Why does SPSA want Flow Control?

There can only be one reason, to appease those member localities that voted to raise their tipping fees last July from \$57/ton to \$100/ton and now will see those rates return to the \$55-\$60 range, at least at first. SPSA is using the \$100 figure to determine how much those cities and counties will “save” as a result of both private and public rates being equalized under Flow Control.

How much will the localities save?

If you believe that the costs of doing business, rather than just the costs of running government, are critical to the overall economy, then no one will save anything. According to SPSA, Flow Control will be revenue neutral so any “savings” the localities will realize will be more than offset by the extra costs for waste collection and disposal that will be borne by tax-paying property owners, merchants and apartment tenants.

Why shouldn't the private sector pay the same rate as the public sector for solid waste disposal?

Residents, particularly homeowners, receive substantially more services from SPSA than businesses, including:

- Residential household hazardous waste programs
- Residential curbside recycling
- Household & car battery disposal
- Yard waste recycling
- Drop-off recycling programs
- Sharps disposal
- Document shredding
- Used motor oil disposal

In addition homeowners in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake receive curbside pickup of garbage through their real estate tax taxes, while businesses must pay for that service independently.

How much does the private sector pay?

The negotiated, fair market rate charged to private haulers is \$28/ton, but that is only for waste delivered to SPSA transfer stations that is subsequently burned at the Portsmouth energy plant to create power for the Navy. The private sector pays \$60/ton for waste that is taken to the regional landfill in Suffolk. Under Flow Control, the private sector would pay the same high rate, regardless of the final destination of the trash.

SPSA claims that Flow Control will allow it to stop taking out of state waste. Is that a good reason to impose it?

SPSA actually accepts very little out of area waste now, and much of that comes from the Peninsula or North Carolina, not from New York. The decision to take out of area waste was an economic one for SPSA and has no bearing on landfill capacity since all of it is supposed to be burnable. By stopping the import of non-local waste, our public and private sectors simply have to pay more in tipping fees or generate more trash to replace it.

Is Flow Control in the best interests of Virginia Beach?

No. Virginia Beach has a capped rate so under Flow Control, its private sector will be subsidizing the reduction of tip fees in the other cities and gaining no benefit for itself. Rewarding SPSA with a monopoly without requiring that agency to reform its operations or policy-making protocol would be foolish. Rather Virginia Beach, the largest producer of solid waste in the region and a lone voice over the years in pleading with SPSA to stop borrowing, start outsourcing and run leaner, finally has the leverage to force change. It must do so.

For more reasons on why to Say No to Flow Control, call (757) 686-5960 or visit www.vtvia.com.