December 12, 1984
5255A/BW:CH:mss

Introduced by: LOIS NORTH, BRUCE LAING, GARY GRANT

Proposed No.: 84 - 622

MOTION NO. 6175

A MOTION relating to solid waste disposal establishing County Council policy about future efforts to explore and implement energy recovery from incinerating solid waste (energy/resource recovery), making conclusions and directing further work to expedite energy/resource recovery in King County.

WHEREAS, King County has recently completed Phase II, Stage I of a study with the city of Seattle for implementing Energy/Resource Recovery (E/RR) as a solid waste disposal alternative in King County, and

WHEREAS, E/RR as a disposal alternative to continued landfilling is likely to be more expensive by at least $175 million over a 20-year facility life, and

WHEREAS, energy contract commitments and vendor financing arrangements are the most significant aspects of ERR economics, and need to be better defined and conclusive, and

WHEREAS, previous studies did not access relative economics of small versus very large facilities, and

WHEREAS, additional costs to burn solid waste might be justified by other public benefits such as reduced negative environmental impacts, increased landfill life, and mitigation of any possible negative impacts on citizens living near Cedar Hills and other landfills, and

WHEREAS, small, dispersed ERR facilities offer advantages of decreased transportation cost, shared siting burdens, and a reduced financing and investment risk, and

WHEREAS, the King County Executive has proposed a Phase II Stage 2 Work Scope to further study E/RR as a part of King County's Solid Waste Management Program, and

WHEREAS, the council wishes to provide direction and focus in the development of the executive workscope necessary to implement E/RR, and

WHEREAS, general environmental advantages to the process of E/RR have not been ascertained by the EPA and are beyond the ability of King County resources to determine, and

WHEREAS, a small pilot E/RR facility would provide operating experience to document economics, demonstrate environmental consequences and develop residue disposal options, and

WHEREAS, a small pilot E/RR facility can likely be designed and built within a shorter time frame, and

WHEREAS, a small pilot E/RR facility will not preclude subsequent location and sizing of small or larger scale potential future E/RR facilities, and

WHEREAS, environmental considerations are specific to the facility site selected and the environmental impact at Cedar Hills will be studied in the Cedar Hills site development plan;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has decided to proceed with a City ER/R facility and the County is cooperating in the analysis and environmental impact assessment of that project;

WHEREAS, Substitute House Bill 1164 lists state priorities for solid waste management with the preference order beginning with waste reduction followed by recycling, ER/R or incineration, and then landfilling, and

WHEREAS, Council motion 6047 adopted waste reduction and recycling as the top priorities of the King County solid waste management system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. Phase II - Stage II study efforts shall be directed toward both small scale short term and full scale E/RR options.

B. Short-term small scale E/RR options shall include the following and shall be completed no later than August 1, 1985:

1. Economic evaluation and review of the most feasible site(s) for a small scale (approximately 100-250 Tons Per Day) E/RR facility; site evaluation, at a minimum, should include all transfer station and landfill sites;

2. Evaluation of potential sites should include transportation economics, zoning, and environmental considerations;

3. Development of a request for proposals which would be sufficient for solicitation of vendor proposals based upon acceptable site(s) where a vendor would build and operate the facility with county delivery of solid waste and transport and handling of residue of fixed price fee arrangements. The price proposal would be the total of a solid waste acceptance price and a residue disposal fee.

C. Full scale E/RR options (500 to 2,000 tons per day) shall include:

1. Further exploration and confirmation of markets, energy prices, technology, and specific financing structures to confirm general E/RR economics.

2. Further exploration of the impacts, costs, and consequences of continued landfilling versus E/RR scenarios.

D. The executive shall develop a work plan to acoomplish B, and C and resubmit it for council review and approval.

PASSED this 7th day of January, 1985.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Gary Grant
Chairman

ATTEST:

Dorothy M. Owens
Clerk of the Council