

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-5498 AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO ISSUE A NON-SYSTEM LICENSE TO TIDEE BEE, INC. FOR TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF NON-RECOVERABLE SOLID WASTE, INCLUDING PUTRESCIBLE WASTE AT THE SPOKANE REGIONAL WASTE TO ENERGY FACILITY LOCATED IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Date: May 5, 2025
Department: WPES
Meeting Date: May 22, 2025

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ISSUE STATEMENT

All solid waste generated within the Metro jurisdictional boundary must be transported to a designated facility, or to another approved destination under a non-system license, for processing or disposal. Tidee Bee, Inc. (Tidee Bee) is a subscription diaper and natural baby hygiene service located at 6011 SE 92nd Ave., Portland, Oregon. It has applied for a new non-system license to transport putrescible waste to a non-system facility pursuant to Metro Code Chapter 5.05.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 25-5498 to authorize the Chief Operating Officer to issue a non-system license (No. N-209-25) to Tidee Bee authorizing the licensee to transport putrescible waste to the Spokane Regional Waste to Energy facility (Spokane WTE).

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The effect of Resolution No. 25-5498 will be to issue a non-system license authorizing Tidee Bee to transport up to 500 tons per calendar year of putrescible waste to the Spokane WTE facility for disposal. The proposed license will commence on July 1, 2025, and expire on June 30, 2028.

POLICY QUESTION

Should Metro Council approve a non-system license authorizing Tidee Bee to transport up to 500 tons per calendar year of putrescible waste generated in the Metro jurisdictional boundary to the Spokane WTE facility for disposal?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

1. Adopt the proposed resolution and authorize Tidee Bee to transport putrescible waste to a non-system facility

Authorizing a non-system license for Tidee Bee will help Metro ensure that putrescible waste generated inside the jurisdictional boundary is transported to an appropriate destination and properly managed when it leaves the region. A non-system license also enables Metro to effectively monitor and enforce its solid waste requirements such as reporting and collecting fee and tax payments.

2. Do not adopt the Resolution to authorize Tidee Bee to transport putrescible waste to a non-system facility

If Council does not adopt this resolution, Tidee Bee will not be authorized to transport putrescible waste to the Spokane WTE facility and would need to transport the waste to a designated facility.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that Metro Council adopt Resolution No. 25-5498 to issue a non-system license to Tidee Bee to transport Metro area waste to the Spokane WTE facility.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A non-system license is required for any person to transport, or cause to be transported, any solid waste generated within the Metro jurisdictional boundary to any non-system facility for processing or disposal. The Metro Council may approve or deny an application for a non-system license to transport putrescible waste to a non-system facility after the Chief Operating Officer reviews the application. If Metro Council approves, then the Chief Operating Officer will issue the non-system license.

A non-system licensee must report to Metro the amount of solid waste that it delivers to the non-system facility each month. The licensee must also remit to Metro the requisite regional system fee and excise tax for each ton of waste transported to the non-system facility. A new non-system license has an initial maximum term of three years, with two-year renewal terms thereafter.

On December 27, 2024, Tidee Bee submitted a non-system license application to Metro to transport waste generated at its Tidee Didee facility in Southeast Portland to the Spokane WTE facility for disposal. Tidee Bee operates a subscription-based diaper collection service that collects, cleans, and redistributes reusable cloth diapers to customers. The facility also distributes and collects a small quantity of used disposable diapers, which it could previously transport for disposal at Reworld Marion (formerly Covanta Marion) in Marion County under a former Designated Facility Agreement. Reworld Marion closed on December 31, 2024, and Tidee Bee had not yet transported any waste to that facility by that time. Although used disposable diapers are generally disposed of in a landfill, Tidee Bee, Inc. seeks to transport the waste to an energy recovery facility as a part of its business sustainability goals. The Spokane WTE is the closest municipal solid waste incineration located near the Metro region.

Legal Antecedents

Metro Code Section 5.05.040 prohibits any person from transporting solid waste generated within the Metro region to a non-system facility without a valid, Metro-issued non-system license. To determine whether to issue a non-system license, Metro Council must consider the factors described in Metro Code Section 5.05.140 as set forth in the staff analysis and information included as Exhibit B to Resolution 25-5498.

Financial Implications

The issuance of this non-system license will not impact Metro's budget. Upon issuance of this NSL, Tidee Bee will be responsible for reporting and remitting the fees and taxes to Metro monthly.

Known Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed new non-system license.

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