STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ADJUDICATIVE SERVICE UNIT

In the Matter of:)
) Docket No. 03-06-C-2001CN
OVERLAKE HOSPITAL MEDICAL)
CENTER, a Washington non-profit) FINDINGS OF FACT,
corporation; and KING COUNTY) CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2,) AND FINAL ORDER ON
dba EVERGREEN HEALTHCARE,) REMAND
a Washington public hospital district,	j
)
Petitioners.)
)

APPEARANCES:

Petitioner, Overlake Hospital Medical Center, by Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC, per Donald W. Black, Attorney at Law

Petitioner, King County Public Health District No. 2, dba Evergreen Healthcare, by Livengood, Fitzgerald, & Alskog, PLLC, per James S. Fitzgerald, Attorney at Law

Intervenor, Swedish Health Services, dba Swedish Medical Center, by Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S. per Stephen I. Pentz, Attorney at Law

Department of Health Certificate of Need Program, by Office of the Attorney General, per Richard A. McCartan, Assistant Attorney General

PRESIDING OFFICER: John F. Kuntz, Health Law Judge

Following the issuance of the Amended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Order, Swedish Health Services (Swedish) filed a petition in King County

Superior Court appealing the order. The Superior Court remanded the matter for further action.

ISSUES

- 1. Whether Swedish correctly included the number of surgeries performed at exempt ambulatory surgery center operating rooms in its WAC 246-310-270 calculation of the surgical procedure, use rate, and correctly excluded the number of exempt ambulatory surgery center operating rooms in its calculation of the existing operating room capacity determination?
- 2. Whether the Program's decision to grant the Swedish certificate of need application should be granted?

SUMMARY OF THE EVIDENCE

Randall Huyck, Robin Edward MacStravic, and Jody Carona testified at the hearing. The following thirteen exhibits were admitted at the hearing:

- Exhibit 1: The Swedish Certificate of Need Application Record.
- Exhibit 2: Health Service Area Map showing Southeast (yellow) and East (blue) King County Service Areas.
- Exhibit A: Program analysis in the Northwest Nasal Sinus Center application (Certificate of Need No. 1250).
- Exhibit B: Resume of Robin Edward MacStravic, Ph.D.
- Exhibit C: Deposition of Program Analyst Randy Huyck, taken August 27, 2003 (pages 58 through 95).
- Exhibit D: Facsimile dated August 20, 2003, with Program work sheets used in the original analysis date of August 15, 2003.

- Exhibit E: Four ambulatory surgery center need methodology worksheets prepared by Jody Carona, Health Service Planning & Development, based on the Program's worksheets and data in the record, demonstrating the numerical need:
 - E-1: In the Swedish defined planning area if all exempt ambulatory surgery center operating rooms are included in the available supply;
 - E-2: In the Swedish planning area if all surgeries performed in all exempt ambulatory surgery center operating rooms are excluded from the use rate;
 - E-3: In the East King County planning area if all exempt ambulatory surgery center operating rooms are included in the available supply; and
 - E-4: In the East King County planning area if all surgeries performed in all exempt ambulatory surgery center operating rooms are excluded from the use rate.
- Exhibit F: Oversized Map of Proposed Service Area for Swedish ambulatory surgery center (Exhibit 7 from the Huyck deposition).
- Exhibit G: Swedish Defined Service Area (actual Swedish defined service area facilities per Department of Health directory of certified ambulatory surgery centers and Swedish application).
- Exhibit H: Summary of East King Surgery 2001 Utilization Data and Use Rate Calculations corrected Calculation of Need Northwest Nasal Surgery Center.
- Exhibit I: 2006 East King Secondary Health Service Area Excluding Exempt Facilities.
- Exhibit J: Swedish Bellevue Ambulatory Surgery Center Need Methodology:
 - J-1: Methodology using 102/1000 use rate.
 - J-2: Methodology using 82/1000 use rate.
 - J-3: Methodology using 57/1000 use rate.

- J-4: Methodology using 76/1000 use rate.
- Exhibit K: November 27, 2002 letter to Lori Aoyama, Health Facilities Planning & Development, from Randy Huyck (with attached copies of the Program's application of the ambulatory surgery center numeric need methodology contained in WAC 246-310-270:
 - K-1: Program methodology.
 - K-2: Methodology using Evergreen/Overlake number of surgeries (prepared November 27, 2002).
 - K-3: Methodology using Northwest Nasal Sinus Center projected surgeries (prepared November 27, 2002).
 - K-4: Methodology as prepared by applicant Northwest Nasal Sinus Center (prepared November 27, 2002).
 - K-5: East King Ambulatory Surgery Center Survey CN Facilities (prepared November 27, 2002).
 - K-6: East King Ambulatory Surgery Center Survey All Responding (prepared November 27, 2002).

Based on the evidence and exhibits in this matter, the Presiding Officer enters the following:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

A. Background

1.1 The Certificate of Need Program (the Program) granted Swedish Health Services (Swedish) Certificate of Need No. 1264 to establish an ambulatory surgical facility in Bellevue, Washington. Overlake Hospital Medical Center and Evergreen Healthcare (the Petitioners) appealed the Program's decision. Swedish was permitted to intervene in the appeal.

- 1.2 On July 8, 2005, the Presiding Officer issued an Amended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Order (the Final Order). The Final Order reversed the Program's decision that granted the certificate of need to Swedish.
- 1.3 On August 9, 2005, Swedish filed a Petition for Judicial Review in King County Superior Court pursuant to RCW 34.05.530. On April 19, 2006, King County Superior Court Judge Douglas North issued an Order Reversing the Presiding Officer's Amended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Order, and Remanding to the Presiding Officer for Further Proceedings (the Remand Order). Judge North ruled, in relevant part:

Accordingly, the Presiding Officer's Final Order is affirmed in part and reversed in part. The case is remanded to the Presiding Officer, based on the evidence presented by the parties to the Department of Health during the application process and the adjudicative proceeding, to (i) determine whether Swedish's proposed ASC satisfies the certificate of need criteria, using the East King County planning area; and (ii) address any other issues raised by the parties in the prior adjudicative proceeding and not previously addressed in the Final Order or this order.

The Remand Order at 2.

Surgery can be performed on an inpatient or outpatient basis. Inpatient 1.4 surgery is when a person's surgery requires board and room in a health care facility (i.e., a hospital) on a continuous twenty-four-hour-a-day basis.² Therefore, outpatient surgery is when a person's surgery requires less than twenty-four hour care. When a

¹ "Surgery" means that "branch of medicine dealing with the manual and operative procedures for correction of deformities and defects, repair of injuries, and diagnosis and cure of certain diseases." Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary (14th Edition, 1981), at 1395.
² See WAC 246-310-010.

need exists for additional outpatient operating room capacity, preference is given to dedicated outpatient operating rooms.³

1.5 When a person receives surgery on an outpatient basis, that surgery can be performed in an ambulatory surgical facility. An "ambulatory surgical facility" is a free standing entity that operates primarily for the purpose of performing outpatient surgical procedures, that is surgery for patients who do not require hospitalization. To qualify as an ambulatory surgical facility, the facility must have a minimum of two operating rooms. The facility can be located in a private physician or dentist office. When the use of the facility is not restricted to a specific individual or group practice, the facility can qualify as an ambulatory surgical facility. When a facility's use is restricted to a specific individual or group practice, by definition, it is not an ambulatory surgical facility. These exempt facilities can be referred to as ambulatory surgical centers.

1.6 Characterizing a facility as an ambulatory surgical facility or an ambulatory surgical center is important under the law. An ambulatory surgical facility must obtain a certificate of need to operate in the state of Washington.⁸ An ambulatory surgical center is exempt from the certificate of need requirement.

⁸ WAC 246-310-270(1).

³ WAC 246-310-270(5).

⁴ WAC 246-310-010.

⁵ WAC 246-310-270(6) and WAC 246-310-010. To "operate" is "to perform an incision or to make a suture on the body or any of its organs or parts to restore health." Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary (Edition 14, 1981), at 990.

⁶ See WAC 246-310-010.

⁷ The term ambulatory surgical center is not defined in chapter 246-310 WAC. The term is being used to help to differentiate between exempt and non-exempt facilities.

1.7 The decision whether to grant or deny an ambulatory surgical facility certificate of need application is determined by using a mathematical formula or methodology to determine whether there is a "need" for an additional facility (that is, a requirement for additional operating room capacity).9 To determine whether need for an additional facility exists requires the identification of a geographic region known as a secondary health services planning area (the health planning area). 10 If the applicant can show there is a net need for dedicated outpatient operating rooms in the relevant health planning area in the future (three years after the applicant anticipates starting the operation of the facility) the application is granted. If no need exists, the application is denied.

1.8 Need exists if more operating room capacity is required in the project year. Capacity speaks to the number of surgeries that can be performed in an operating room. The surgery information is obtained from information derived from surveys provided by facilities in the health planning area or by use of a default figure provided in the regulation. Facilities in a health planning area are not required to complete the surveys regarding surgical capacity at their respective facilities. Thus, the capacity calculations in any given application are affected by the number of facilities that reply to the submitted surveys. 11

⁹ WAC 246-310-270(9).

WAC 246-310-270(3).

11 The Program analyst acknowledged at hearing that an issue exists with any use rate calculations, as the figure is calculated without receiving complete surgical statistics.

1.9 Deciding whether future operating room capacity is necessary requires the calculation of a figure known as a "use rate." The use rate means a projection of the number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries within the applicant's health planning area for the applicant's target year (the third year of operation). The projection is based on the current number of surgeries adjusted for the forecasted growth in the population served, and may be adjusted for trends in surgeries per capita (that is, surgeries according to the number of individuals). The use rate is represented by a percentage of surgeries required per each one thousand population (for example, 100 surgeries per

1.10 When calculating the use rate for a health planning area, it is necessary to include the surgical volume or number of surgeries that have been performed both in ambulatory surgical centers (that is, surgical centers that are exempt from the requirement of obtaining a certificate of need) and ambulatory surgical facilities (non-exempt facilities which are required to obtain a certificate of need). When calculating the number of existing facilities in a health service area, it is necessary to exclude from that count the number of operating rooms from ambulatory surgical centers (exempt facilities). The calculation performed under this regulation requires a comparison of separate concepts: (1) The total volume or number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries which have been performed in the planning area; and (2) the amount of capacity or facilities needed to accommodate the number of anticipated future surgeries (based on the anticipated increase in the population) in the health planning area.

¹² See WAC 246-310-270(9)(b)(i).

each 1000 individuals, or 100/1000).

1.11 The number of anticipated future surgeries can be calculated by applying the use rate to the anticipated future population. Determining whether an individual will obtain that future surgery, in an ambulatory surgical center (an exempt facility) or an ambulatory surgical facility (a non-exempt facility) cannot be reduced to a mathematical formula. The first concept (anticipated future surgeries) is a numerical value. The second concept (the location of the future surgery) cannot be determined with mathematical certainty. For example, a patient who may qualify for surgery at an exempt ambulatory surgical center in the present may not qualify for surgery in the future at the same exempt facility. Another example is a surgeon who holds surgical privileges at an exempt ambulatory surgical center in the present, may not hold surgical privileges at the same facility in future. Finally, the exempt ambulatory surgical center may no longer exist.

B. Need.

- 1.12 What does this mean for calculating the need methodology? It means capturing all current surgical capacity statistics from ambulatory surgical facilities (non-exempt facilities) and ambulatory surgical centers (exempt facilities) in calculating existing capacity, but calculating future need considering only ambulatory surgical facilities to ensure that the patients have access to surgical facilities in the future.
- 1.13 Swedish submitted its application to establish the free-standing ambulatory surgical facility in November 2002. Under its application, the third year of operation would be 2006. Swedish provided need calculation information as a part of its application. The Swedish information shows that with a use rate of 102/1000 (based on

National Center for Health Statistics data) and a population of 533,055 in 2004 (based

on the Northwest Nasal Sinus Center application) there existed a net need for 5.9

outpatient operating rooms. PR 316-317. With a use rate of 82/100 (obtained from the

Northwest Nasal Sinus Center application) and using the same 2004 population figure,

there existed a net need for 1.0 outpatient operating rooms. PR 319.

1.14 The Swedish need calculations under WAC 246-310-270(9) included all

surgery date, whether those surgeries were performed in an ambulatory surgery center

(an exempt facility) or an ambulatory surgical facility (a non-exempt facility). When

calculating whether need existed, Swedish performed those calculations using only

ambulatory surgical facility operating rooms to show the existence of a surplus or

shortage of dedicated outpatient operating rooms.

1.15 The Program submitted need figures at hearing based on information

contained in the Swedish application records. With a use rate of 82/1000 and a 2006

population figure of 546,288, there existed a net need for 5.39 dedicated outpatient

operating rooms. Exhibit J-2.

1.16 The Program need calculations under WAC 246-310-270(9) included all

surgery data, whether those surgeries were performed in an ambulatory surgical center

(an exempt facility) or an ambulatory surgical facility (a non-exempt facility). When

calculating whether need existed, the Program performed those calculations using only

ambulatory surgical facility operating rooms to show the existence of a surplus or

shortage of dedicated outpatient rooms.

- 1.17 Information in both the Swedish application and the Program's certificate of need analysis show need exists. However, Swedish used 2004 population information as opposed to 2006 population figures (the third year of operation) as required under WAC 246-310-270(9)((b)(i). The Northwest Nasal Sinus Center use rate (82/1000) was based on state population information as opposed to national population figures from the National Center for Health Statistics (102/1000).
- 1.18 In calculating whether operating room need exists, the appropriate use rated is be 82/1000, as this figure is derived from state population information and the appropriate health planning area. The appropriate population information is the 2006 population information from the East King County health planning area. That population figure is 546,288. See Exhibit J-2. The calculations show a net need for an additional 5.39 dedicated outpatient operating rooms. Therefore, need exists.
- 1.19 All surgery data (the total number of surgeries performed) was included in the calculations in Finding of Fact 1.18 above, whether those surgeries were performed in an ambulatory surgical center (an exempt facility) or an ambulatory surgical facility (a non-exempt facility). When calculating whether need existed in Finding of Fact 1.18, calculations were performed using only ambulatory surgical facility outpatient operating rooms to show a shortage of dedicated outpatient operating rooms in the East King County health planning area.
- C. Remaining Certificate of Need Criteria.
- 1.20 Swedish provided financial information to show that the immediate and long range capital and operating costs for its proposed ambulatory surgical facility

project could be met. The Program considered whether the Swedish project was financially feasible by using a financial ratio analysis to assess the financial impact of the project on the overall facility operation. PR 563–564. The Program also compared costs of the project and determined the Swedish project would not result in an unreasonable impact on the costs and charges for health services within the service area. PR 565. Swedish provided sufficient information to show that it could finance the project from available cash reserves. PR 566.

- 1.21 Swedish provided information to show that it could meet the structure and process (quality) of care for the project. Swedish provided sufficient information in its application to show that it could meet staffing requirements, establish sufficient ancillary and support services and would conform to any applicable legal requirements.

 PR 566–568.
- 1.22 Swedish provided information in its application to show that it could meet the cost containment requirements of the project. Swedish provided information to show it had considered whether there were any superior alternatives to its proposal to establish an ambulatory surgical facility, and that the project would not have an impact on the costs and charges to the public. PR 566–568.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2.1 The certificate of need program is regulated pursuant to chapter 70.38 RCW and chapter 246-310 WAC. The development of health services and resources should be accomplished in a planned, orderly fashion, consistent with identified priorities and without unnecessary duplication or fragmentation.

RCW 70.38.015(2).

- 2.2 In all license application cases, the burden shall be on the applicant to establish that the application meets all applicable criteria. WAC 246-10-606.¹³ The Program then decides whether to grant or deny a certificate of need application. The Program's written decision must contain sufficient information to support the Program's decision granting or denying the application. See WAC 246-310-200(2)(a); see also In re Auburn Regional Medical Center, Docket No. 01-05-C-1052CN (February 20, 2003). Evidence is admissible in certificate of need hearings if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely on in the conduct of their affairs. RCW 34.04.452; WAC 246-10-606.
- 2.3 In general a certificate of need hearing does not supplant the certificate of need application review process. Rather, the hearing assures that the procedural and substantive rights of the parties have been observed and factual record supports the Program's decision and analysis. *In re Ear, Nose, Throat*, Docket No. 00-09-C-1037CN (April 17, 2001) (Prehearing Order No. 6). While the hearing does not supplant the certificate of need review process under normal circumstances, the King Count Superior Court remanded the proceeding to the Presiding Officer in this case to determine whether the application should be granted using information contained in the application record regarding the East King County planning area. The remand order also required the Presiding Officer to address any other issues raised by the parties in the prior

¹³ Certificate of need proceedings are governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.05 RCW), chapter 246-310 WAC and chapter 246-08 WAC. WAC 246-310-610. The relevant sections in chapter 246-08 WAC were replaced in 1993 by chapter 246-10 WAC. WAC 246-10-101

adjudicative proceeding and not previously addressed in the Final Order or this order.

See the Remand Order, page 2.

- A. First Remand Issue: Need.
- 2.4 There is sufficient information in the Swedish application file to answer the first issue identified in the Remand Order, specifically to determine whether the ambulatory surgical facility proposed by Swedish satisfied the certificate of need criteria using the East King County planning area. See Findings of Fact 1.13 through 1.18. Regarding the 2006 project year, there is need for an additional 5.39 operating rooms in the East King County planning area. See Finding of Fact 1.18.
- B. Second Remand Issue: Issue Not Previously Addressed in Earlier Final Order.
- 2.5 Answering the first issue (determining if need exists in the East King County planning area) requires answering another issue that was not addressed in the Amended Final Order. That issue is whether, when calculating operating room need under WAC 246-310-270(9), the applicant can include the number of surgeries performed at an exempt ambulatory surgical center when determining the surgical procedure use rate, but exclude the number of operating rooms in an exempt ambulatory surgical center from the count in existing capacity. The Certificate of Need Program has historically used this approach in reviewing ambulatory surgical facility applications.
- 2.6 The rule which is applied is WAC 246-310-270. That rule provides, in pertinent part:

- (9) Operating room need in a planning area shall be determined using the following method:
 - (a) Existing capacity.
 - (iii) Calculate the total annual capacity (in number of surgeries) of all dedicated outpatient operating rooms in the area.
 - (iv) Calculate the total annual capacity (in number of minutes) of the remaining inpatient and outpatient operating rooms in the area, including dedicated specialized rooms except for twenty-four hour dedicated emergency rooms. When dedicated emergency operating rooms are excluded, emergency or minutes should also be excluded when calculating the need in the area. Exclude cystoscopic and other special purpose rooms (e.g. open heart surgery) and delivery rooms.
 - (b) Future need.
 - (i) Project number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries performed within the third year of operation. This shall be based on current number of surgeries adjusted for forecasted growth in the population served and may be adjusted for trends in surgeries per capita.
 - (ii) Subtract the capacity of dedicated outpatient operating rooms from the forecasted number of outpatient surgeries. The difference continues into the calculations of (b)(iv) of this subsection.
 - (iii) Determine the average time per inpatient and outpatient surgery in the planning area. Where data are unavailable, assume one hundred minutes per inpatient and fifty minutes per outpatient surgery. This excludes preparation and cleanup time and is comparable to "billing minutes".
 - (iv) Calculate the sum of inpatient and remaining outpatient (from (b)(ii) of this subsection) operating room time needed in the third year of operation.
 - (c) Net Need.

- (i) If (b)(iv) of this subsection is less than (a)(iv) of this subsection, divide their difference by ninety-four thousand two hundred fifty minutes to obtain the area's surplus of operating rooms used for both inpatient and outpatient surgery.
- (ii) If (b)(iv) of this subsection is greater than (a)(iv) of this subsection, subtract (a)(iv) of this subsection from the inpatient component of (b)(iv) of this subsection and divide by ninety-four thousand two hundred fifty minutes to obtain the area's shortage of inpatient operating rooms. Divide the outpatient component of (b)(iv) of this subsection by sixty-eight thousand eight hundred fifty to obtain the area's shortage of dedicated outpatient operating rooms.

WAC 246-310-270(9) (emphasis added).

in calculating future need, all outpatient surgery data (the number of surgeries) for use in calculating future need, all outpatient surgery data should be included in the final data figure. All outpatient surgery data means data from both exempt and non-exempt facilities. The plain language of WAC 246-310-270(9)(a)(iii) requires that operating room need shall be determined using the total annual capacity (in number of surgeries) of all dedicated outpatient operating rooms in the area. The plain language of the rule does not differentiate between exempt (ambulatory surgical centers) and non-exempt (ambulatory surgical facilities). Rules of statutory construction apply to administrative rules and regulations, particularly where they are adopted pursuant to express legislative authority. See State v. Burke, 92 Wn.2d 474, 478 (1979). Where the meaning of a provision is plain on its face, the court must give effect to that plain meaning as an expression of legislative intent. City of Olympia v. Drebick, 156 Wn.2d 289, 295 (2006) (citing Department of Ecology v. Campbell & Gwinn LLC, 146 Wn.2d 1, 9–10 (2002).

- 2.8 The next question is whether the WAC 246-310-270(9)(b) and (c) language is equally clear regarding the calculation of operating room need? In other words is the operating room need calculation restricted to only the number of non-exempt (ambulatory surgical facility) operating rooms, or all operating rooms consistent with the reading of WAC 246-310-270(9)(a). A reading of the regulatory language in WAC 246-310-270(9)(b) speaks to projecting the number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries performed in the planning area. This language appears to be all inclusive, similar to a reading of the capacity language set forth in WAC 246-310-270(9)(a).
- 2.9 However, the language of WAC 246-310-270(9)(b) and (c) cannot be read in isolation. A provision's plain meaning may be ascertained by an examination of the statute in which the provision at issue is found, as well as related statutes or other provisions of the same act in which the provision is found. *City of Olympia v. Drebick*, 156 Wn.2d at 295 (internal citations omitted). The legislative declaration of public policy states that health planning should promote, maintain, and assure that all citizens have accessible health services. *See* RCW 70.38.015(1). If the more inclusive approach were followed, the calculation of available operating rooms would include ambulatory surgery center (exempt) operating rooms that would not be available to many of the individuals within the health planning area. *See* Findings of Fact 1.11 and 1.12. For this reason, while all surgeries from whatever source should be included in the existing capacity calculations under WAC 246-310-270(9)(a), that inclusive approach should not

be used in determining the future need/net need calculation under WAC 246-310-270(9) (b) and (c).

III. ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Amended Final Order, and the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law following the King County Superior Court remand order, it is ORDERED:

- 3.1 There is a net need for 5.39 additional dedicated outpatient operating rooms in the East King County planning area in the 2006 project year.
- 3.2 Certificate of Need No. 1264 for Swedish Health Services to establish an ambulatory surgical facility in Bellevue, Washington, is GRANTED.

Dated this _9__ day of November, 2006.

____/s/_
JOHN F. KUNTZ, Health Law Judge
Presiding Officer

NOTICE TO PARTIES

Either party may file a petition for reconsideration. RCW 34.05.461(3); . RCW 34.05.470. The petition for reconsideration must be filed within 10 days of service of this Order with:

Adjudicative Service Unit P.O. Box 47879 Olympia, WA 98504-7879

And a copy must be sent to:

Certificate of Need Program P.O. Box 47852 Olympia, WA 95204-7852

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The petition must state the specific grounds upon which reconsideration is requested and the relief requested. The petition for reconsideration is considered denied 20 days after the petition is filed if the Adjudicative Service Unit has not responded to the petition or served written notice of the date by which action will be taken on the petition.

A petition for judicial review must be filed and served within 30 days after service of this Order. RCW 34.05.542. The procedures are identified in chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V, Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement. A petition for reconsideration is not required before seeking judicial review. If a petition for reconsideration is filed, however, the 30-day period will begin to run upon the resolution of that petition.

This order remains in effect even if a petition for reconsideration or petition for judicial reviewed is filed. "Filing" means actual receipt of the document by the Adjudicative Service Unit. RCW 34.05.010(6). This Order was "served" upon you on the day it was deposited in the United States mail. RCW 34.05.010(19).