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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: November 15, 2001

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	1-12154 (Commission File Number)	73-1309529 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
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1001 Fannin Street, Suite 4000 Houston, Texas (Address of principal executive offices)	77002 (Zip Code)
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(713) 512-6200
(Registrants' telephone number, including area code)

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ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS.

On November 15, 2001, Waste Management, Inc. (the "Company") entered into an underwriting agreement for the public offering of \$400 million of its 6 1/2% Senior Notes due 2008 (the "Notes"). The Notes are to be issued under an Indenture dated as of September 10, 1997 between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank, as Trustee. Closing of the issuance and sale of the Notes is scheduled for November 20, 2001. Further information is included in Exhibits 1, 4.1 and 4.2.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(c) EXHIBITS.

- 1 Underwriting Agreement dated November 15, 2001, among Waste Management, Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Salomon Smith Barney Inc., ABN AMRO Incorporated, Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, Fleet Securities, Inc., Goldman, Sachs & Co., Lehman Brothers Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, and PNC Capital Markets, Inc.
- 4.1 Form of Book-Entry Note representing 6 1/2% Senior Notes due 2008.
- 4.2 Officers' Certificate
- 5 Opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P.
- 23 Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

Date: November 20, 2001

By: /s/ David P. Steiner

David P. Steiner
Senior Vice President, General Counsel
and Corporate Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT
NUMBER
DESCRIPTION

----- 1
Underwriting
Agreement
dated
November 20,
2001, among
Waste
Management,
Inc., Banc
of America
Securities
LLC, J.P.
Morgan
Securities
Inc.,
Salomon
Smith Barney
Inc., ABN
AMRO
Incorporated,
Credit
Suisse First
Boston
Corporation,
Fleet
Securities,
Inc.,
Goldman,
Sachs & Co.,
Lehman
Brothers
Inc.,
Merrill
Lynch,
Pierce,
Fenner &
Smith
Incorporated,
Morgan
Stanley &
Co.
Incorporated,
and PNC
Capital
Markets,
Inc. 4.1
Form of
Book-Entry
Note
representing
6 1/2%
Senior Notes
due 2008.
4.2
Officers'
Certificate
5 Opinion of
Baker Botts
L.L.P. 23
Consent of
Arthur
Andersen
LLP.

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

\$400,000,000

6 1/2% SENIOR NOTES DUE 2008

UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

New York, New York
November 15, 2001

To the Representatives named
in Schedule I hereto of the
Underwriters named in
Schedule II hereto

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Waste Management, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware (the "Company"), proposes to sell to the several underwriters named in Schedule II hereto (the "Underwriters"), for whom you (the "Representatives") are acting as representatives, the principal amount of its securities identified in Schedule I hereto (the "Securities"), to be issued under an indenture (the "Indenture") dated as of September 30, 1997, between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, a New York banking corporation (as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank, as trustee (the "Trustee"). To the extent there are no additional Underwriters listed on Schedule I other than you, the term Representatives as used herein shall mean you, as Underwriters, and the terms Representatives and Underwriters shall mean either the singular or plural as the context requires. Any reference herein to the Registration Statement, the Basic Prospectus, any Preliminary Final Prospectus or the Final Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include the documents incorporated by reference therein pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 which were filed under the Exchange Act on or before the Effective Date of the Registration Statement or the issue date of the Basic Prospectus, any Preliminary Final Prospectus or the Final Prospectus, as the case may be; and any reference herein to the terms "amend," "amendment" or "supplement" with respect to the Registration Statement, the Basic Prospectus, any Preliminary Final Prospectus or the Final Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include the filing of any document under the Exchange Act after the Effective Date of the Registration Statement or the issue date of the Basic Prospectus, any Preliminary Final Prospectus or the Final Prospectus, as the case may be, deemed to be incorporated therein by reference. Certain terms used herein are defined in Section 17 hereof.

1. Representations and Warranties. The Company represents and warrants to, and agrees with, each Underwriter as set forth below in this Section 1.

(a) The Company meets the requirements for use of Form S-3 under the Act and has prepared and filed with the Commission a registration statement (the file number of which is set forth in Schedule I hereto) on Form S-3, including a related basic prospectus, for registration under the Act of the offering and sale of the Securities. The Company may have filed one or more amendments thereto, including a Preliminary Final Prospectus, each of which has previously been furnished to you. The Company will next file with the Commission one of the following: (1) after the Effective Date of such registration statement, a final prospectus supplement relating to the Securities in accordance with Rules 430A and 424(b), (2) prior to the Effective Date of such registration statement, an amendment to such registration statement (including the form of final prospectus supplement) or (3) a final prospectus in accordance with Rules 415 and 424(b). In the case of clause (1), the Company has included in such registration statement, as amended at the Effective Date, all information (other than Rule 430A Information) required by the Act and the rules thereunder to be included in such registration statement and the Final Prospectus. As filed, such final prospectus supplement or such amendment and form of final prospectus supplement shall contain all Rule 430A Information, together with all other such required information, and, except to the extent the Representatives shall agree in writing to a modification, shall be in all substantive respects in the form furnished to you prior to the Execution Time or, to the extent not completed at the Execution Time, shall contain only such specific additional information and other changes (beyond that contained in the Basic Prospectus and any Preliminary Final Prospectus) as the Company has advised you, prior to the Execution Time, will be included or made therein. The Registration Statement, at the Execution Time, meets the requirements set forth in Rule 415(a)(1)(x).

(b) On the Effective Date, the Registration Statement did or will, and when the Final Prospectus is first filed (if required) in accordance with Rule 424(b) and on the Closing Date (as defined herein), the Final Prospectus (and any supplement thereto) will, comply in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the Act, the Exchange Act and the Trust Indenture Act and the respective rules thereunder; on the Effective Date and at the Execution Time, the Registration Statement did not or will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading; on the Effective Date and on the Closing Date, the Indenture did or will comply in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the Trust Indenture Act and the rules thereunder; and, on the Effective Date, the Final Prospectus, if not filed pursuant to Rule 424(b), will not, and on the date of any filing pursuant to Rule 424(b) and on the Closing Date, the Final Prospectus (together with any supplement thereto) will not, include any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; provided, however, that the Company makes no representations or warranties as to (i) that part of the Registration Statement which shall constitute the Statement of Eligibility and Qualification (Form T-1) under the Trust Indenture Act of the Trustee or (ii) the information contained in or omitted from the Registration Statement or the Final Prospectus (or any supplement thereto) in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by or on behalf of any

Underwriter through the Representatives specifically for inclusion in the Registration Statement or the Final Prospectus (or any supplement thereto).

(c) The Indenture has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and, assuming it was duly executed and delivered by the Trustee, is a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, except as enforcement thereof may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, reorganization, moratorium and similar laws now or hereafter in effect relating to or affecting rights and remedies of creditors, and to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is sought in a proceeding at law or in equity) and to the discretion of the court before which any proceeding therefor may be brought, and the Indenture has been duly qualified under the 1939 Act and conforms to the description thereof in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus.

(d) The Securities have been duly authorized and, when executed by the Company and authenticated by the Trustee in accordance with the Indenture and delivered to you against payment therefor in accordance with the terms hereof, will have been validly issued and delivered, and will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company entitled to the benefits of the Indenture and enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as enforcement thereof may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent conveyance, reorganization, moratorium and similar laws now or hereafter in effect relating to or affecting rights and remedies of creditors, and to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is sought in a proceeding at law or in equity) and to the discretion of the court before which any proceeding therefor may be brought, and the Securities will conform to the description thereof in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus.

(e) The Company is a corporation duly organized and validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware with full corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus, and is duly registered and qualified to conduct its business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction or place where the nature of its properties or the conduct of its business requires such registration or qualification, except where the failure so to register or qualify does not have a material adverse effect on the condition (financial or other), prospects, earnings, business or properties of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, whether or not arising from transactions in the ordinary course of business (a "Material Adverse Effect").

(f) Each "significant subsidiary" (as such term is defined in Regulation S-X under the Exchange Act) of the Company is listed on Exhibit 21.1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2000 or is described in the Registration Statement as having been acquired after December 31, 2000 (the "Subsidiaries"). Each of the Subsidiaries has been duly organized, is validly existing and is in good standing in the jurisdiction of its incorporation, with full corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus, and is duly registered and qualified to conduct its business and is in good standing in each jurisdiction or place

where the nature of its properties or the conduct of its business requires such registration or qualification, except where the failure so to register or qualify does not have a Material Adverse Effect.

(g) All of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of each of the Subsidiaries have been duly authorized and validly issued and are owned directly or indirectly by the Company. All such shares are fully paid and nonassessable, and, except as disclosed in the Final Prospectus, are owned by the Company free and clear of any security interest, mortgage, pledge, claim, lien, encumbrance or adverse interest of any nature (each, a "Lien"). Except as disclosed in the Final Prospectus, there are no outstanding subscriptions, rights, warrants, options, calls, convertible or exchangeable securities, commitments of sale, or Liens related to or entitling any person to purchase or otherwise to acquire any shares of the capital stock of, or other ownership interests in, any Subsidiary.

(h) This Agreement has been duly and validly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

(i) Except as disclosed in the Final Prospectus, there is no action, suit or proceeding before or by any court or governmental agency or body or any arbitrator pending against the Company or any of its subsidiaries that is required to be disclosed in the Registration Statement or the Final Prospectus, or which could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, or materially and adversely affect the performance of the Company's obligations pursuant to this Agreement and, to the best of the Company's knowledge, no such proceedings are contemplated or threatened. No action has been taken with respect to the Company or any Subsidiary, and no statute, rule or regulation or order has been enacted, adopted or issued by any governmental agency and no injunction, restraining order or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction has been issued with respect to the Company or any Subsidiary that prevents the issuance of the Securities or suspends the effectiveness of the Registration Statement, prevents or suspends the use of any Preliminary Prospectus or the Final Prospectus or prevents or suspends the sale of the Securities in any of the jurisdictions that you may have specified pursuant to Section 5(e) hereof; and every request of the Commission, or any securities authority or agency of any jurisdiction, for additional information to be included in the Registration Statement or the Final Prospectus or otherwise has been complied with in all material respects.

(j) Except as disclosed in the Registration Statement or the Final Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto), subsequent to the respective dates as of which such information is given in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto), neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has incurred any liability or obligation, direct or contingent, that is material to the Company and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole, or entered into any transaction, not in the ordinary course of business, that is material to the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, and there has not been any material adverse change, or any development involving or which may reasonably be expected to involve, a prospective material adverse change, in the condition (financial or other), prospects, earnings, business or properties of the

Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, whether or not arising from transactions in the ordinary course of business.

(k) Except as otherwise set forth in the Final Prospectus or such as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, each of the Company and the Subsidiaries has good and marketable title to all property (real and personal) described in the Final Prospectus as being owned by it, free and clear of all Liens, except Liens for taxes not yet due and payable and Liens described in the Registration Statement or the Final Prospectus or in a document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. All the property described in the Final Prospectus as being held under lease by each of the Company and the Subsidiaries is held by it under valid, subsisting and enforceable leases, except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect.

(l) Except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, neither the Company nor any Subsidiary is in violation or default of (i) any provision of its charter or bylaws, (ii) the terms of any indenture, contract, lease, mortgage, deed of trust, note agreement, loan agreement or other agreement, obligation, condition, covenant or instrument to which it is a party or bound or to which its property is subject, or (iii) any statute, law, rule, regulation, judgment, order or decree of any court, regulatory body, administrative agency, governmental body, arbitrator or other authority having jurisdiction over the Company or such Subsidiary or any of its properties, as applicable.

(m) The Company has not distributed and, prior to the later to occur of (i) the Closing Date and (ii) completion of the distribution of the Securities, will not distribute any offering material in connection with the offering and sale of the Securities other than the Registration Statement, any Preliminary Final Prospectus, the Final Prospectus or other materials, if any, permitted by the Act.

(n) Except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, the Company and the Subsidiaries own or possess the right to use all patents, trademarks, trademark registrations, service marks, service mark registrations, trade names, copyrights, licenses, inventions, trade secrets and rights described in the Final Prospectus as being owned by them or any of them or necessary for the conduct of their respective businesses, and the Company is not aware of any claim to the contrary or any challenge by any other person to the rights of the Company and the Subsidiaries with respect to the foregoing.

(o) Neither the Company nor any subsidiary is a "holding company" or a "public utility," as such terms are defined in the 1935 Act.

(p) The Company is not and, after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Securities and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Prospectus, will not be an "investment company" as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

(q) No consent, approval, authorization, filing with or order of any court or governmental agency or body is required in connection with the transactions contemplated herein, except such as have been obtained under the Act and the Trust

Indenture Act and such as may be required under the blue sky laws of any jurisdiction in connection with the purchase and distribution of the Securities by the Underwriters in the manner contemplated herein and in the Final Prospectus.

(r) Neither the issue and sale of the Securities nor the consummation of any other of the transactions herein contemplated nor the fulfillment of the terms hereof will conflict with, result in a breach or violation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any property or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to, (i) the charter or by-laws of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, (ii) the terms of any indenture, contract, lease, mortgage, deed of trust, note agreement, loan agreement or other agreement, obligation, condition, covenant or instrument to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or bound or to which its or their property is subject, except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, or (iii) any statute, law, rule, regulation, judgment, order or decree applicable to the Company or any of its subsidiaries of any court, regulatory body, administrative agency, governmental body, arbitrator or other authority having jurisdiction over the Company or any of its subsidiaries or any of its or their properties.

(s) The consolidated historical financial statements and schedules of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries included in the Final Prospectus and the Registration Statement present fairly in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of the dates and for the periods indicated, comply as to form with the applicable accounting requirements of the Act and have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods involved (except as otherwise noted therein).

(t) Arthur Andersen LLP, who has certified certain financial statements of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries and delivered their report with respect to the audited consolidated financial statements and schedules included in the Final Prospectus, are independent public accountants with respect to the Company within the meaning of the Act and the applicable published rules and regulations thereunder.

(u) The Company has filed all foreign, federal, state and local tax returns that are required to be filed or has requested extensions thereof (except in any case in which the failure so to file would not have a Material Adverse Effect, and except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto)) and has paid all taxes required to be paid by it and any other assessment, fine or penalty levied against it, to the extent that any of the foregoing is due and payable, except for any such assessment, fine or penalty that is currently being contested in good faith or as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, and except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(v) No labor problem or dispute with the employees of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries exists or is threatened or imminent, and the Company is not aware of any existing or imminent labor disturbance by the employees of any of its or its Subsidiaries' principal suppliers, contractors or customers, that could have a Material Adverse Effect,

except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(w) Except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect: the Company and each of its Subsidiaries are insured by insurers of recognized financial responsibility against such losses and risks and in such amounts as are prudent and customary in the businesses in which they are engaged; all policies of insurance insuring the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or their respective businesses, assets, employees, officers and directors are in full force and effect; the Company and its Subsidiaries are in compliance with the terms of such policies and instruments; there are no claims by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries under any such policy or instrument as to which any insurance company is denying liability or defending under a reservation of rights clause; and neither the Company nor any such Subsidiary has been refused any insurance coverage sought or applied for, except in each case as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto). Neither the Company nor any such Subsidiary has any reason to believe that it will not be able to renew its existing insurance coverage as and when such coverage expires or to obtain similar coverage from similar insurers as may be necessary to continue its business at a cost that would not have a Material Adverse Effect, except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(x) No Subsidiary is currently prohibited, directly or indirectly, from paying any dividends to the Company, from making any other distribution on such Subsidiary's capital stock, from repaying to the Company any loans or advances to such Subsidiary from the Company or from transferring any of such Subsidiary's property or assets to the Company or any other Subsidiary of the Company, except as described or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(y) Except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, the Company and its Subsidiaries possess all licenses, certificates, permits and other authorizations issued by the appropriate federal, state or foreign regulatory authorities necessary to conduct their respective businesses, and neither the Company nor any such Subsidiary has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such certificate, authorization or permit which, singly or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, would have a Material Adverse Effect, except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(z) The Company and each of its subsidiaries maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that (i) transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorizations; (ii) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain asset accountability; (iii) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management's general or specific authorization; and (iv) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences.

(aa) The Company has not taken, directly or indirectly, any action designed to or that would constitute or that might reasonably be expected to cause or result in stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale or resale of the Securities.

(bb) The Company and its subsidiaries are (i) in compliance with any and all applicable foreign, federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to the protection of human health and safety, the environment or hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants ("Environmental Laws"), (ii) have received and are in compliance with all permits, licenses or other approvals required of them under applicable Environmental Laws to conduct their respective businesses and (iii) have not received notice of any actual or potential liability for the investigation or remediation of any disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants, except where such non-compliance with Environmental Laws, failure to receive required permits, licenses or other approvals, or liability would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect, except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto). The environmental reserves described or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus reflect in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles the known liabilities and obligations of the Company and its subsidiaries under Environmental Laws.

(cc) In the ordinary course of its business, the Company periodically reviews the effect of Environmental Laws on the business, operations and properties of the Company and its subsidiaries, in the course of which it identifies and evaluates associated costs and liabilities (including, without limitation, any capital or operating expenditures required for clean-up, closure of properties or compliance with Environmental Laws, or any permit, license or approval, any related constraints on operating activities and any potential liabilities to third parties). On the basis of such review, the Company has reasonably concluded that such associated costs and liabilities would not, singly or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect, except as set forth or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(dd) Except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, each of the Company and its subsidiaries has fulfilled its obligations, if any, under the minimum funding standards of Section 302 of the United States Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") and the regulations and published interpretations thereunder with respect to each "plan" (as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA and such regulations and published interpretations) in which employees of the Company and its Subsidiaries are eligible to participate and each such plan is in compliance with the presently applicable provisions of ERISA and such regulations and published interpretations. Except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect, the Company and its Subsidiaries have not incurred any unpaid liability to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (other than for the payment of premiums in the ordinary course) or to any such plan under Title IV of ERISA.

(ee) No holders of securities of the Company have rights to the registration of such securities under the Registration Statement.

Any certificate signed by any officer of the Company and delivered to the Representatives or counsel for the Underwriters in connection with the offering of the Securities shall be deemed a representation and warranty by the Company, as to matters covered thereby, to each Underwriter.

2. Purchase and Sale. Subject to the terms and conditions and in reliance upon the representations and warranties herein set forth, the Company agrees to sell to each Underwriter, and each Underwriter agrees, severally and not jointly, to purchase from the Company, at the purchase price set forth in Schedule I hereto the principal amount of the Securities set forth opposite such Underwriter's name in Schedule II hereto.

3. Delivery and Payment. Delivery of and payment for the Securities shall be made on the date and at the time specified in Schedule I hereto or at such time on such later date not more than three Business Days after the foregoing date as the Representatives shall designate, which date and time may be postponed by agreement between the Representatives and the Company or as provided in Section 9 hereof (such date and time of delivery and payment for the Securities being herein called the "Closing Date"). Delivery of the Securities shall be made to the Representatives for the respective accounts of the several Underwriters against payment by the several Underwriters through the Representatives of the purchase price thereof to or upon the order of the Company by wire transfer payable in same-day funds to an account specified by the Company. Delivery of the Securities shall be made through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company unless the Representatives shall otherwise instruct.

4. Offering by Underwriters. It is understood that the several Underwriters propose to offer the Securities for sale to the public as set forth in the Final Prospectus.

5. Agreements. The Company agrees with the several Underwriters that:

(a) The Company will use its best efforts to cause the Registration Statement, if not effective at the Execution Time, and any amendment thereof, to become effective. Prior to the termination of the offering of the Securities, the Company will not file any amendment of the Registration Statement or supplement (including the Final Prospectus or any Preliminary Final Prospectus) to the Basic Prospectus or any Rule 462(b) Registration Statement unless the Company has furnished you a copy for your review prior to filing and will not file any such proposed amendment or supplement to which you reasonably object. Subject to the foregoing sentence, if the Registration Statement has become or becomes effective pursuant to Rule 430A, or filing of the Final Prospectus is otherwise required under Rule 424(b), the Company will cause the Final Prospectus, properly completed, and any supplement thereto to be filed with the Commission pursuant to the applicable paragraph of Rule 424(b) within the time period prescribed and will provide evidence satisfactory to the Representatives of such timely filing. The Company will promptly advise the Representatives (1) when the Registration Statement, if not effective at the Execution Time, shall have become effective, (2) when the Final Prospectus, and any supplement thereto, shall have been filed (if required) with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) or when any Rule 462(b) Registration Statement shall have been filed with the Commission, (3) when, prior to termination of the offering of the Securities, any amendment to the Registration Statement shall have been filed or

become effective, (4) of any request by the Commission or its staff for any amendment of the Registration Statement, or any Rule 462(b) Registration Statement, or for any supplement to the Final Prospectus or for any additional information, (5) of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or the institution or threatening of any proceeding for that purpose and (6) of the receipt by the Company of any notification with respect to the suspension of the qualification of the Securities for sale in any jurisdiction or the institution or threatening of any proceeding for such purpose. The Company will use its best efforts to prevent the issuance of any such stop order or the suspension of any such qualification and, if issued, to obtain as soon as possible the withdrawal thereof.

(b) If, at any time when a prospectus relating to the Securities is required to be delivered under the Act, any event occurs as a result of which the Final Prospectus as then supplemented would include any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein in the light of the circumstances under which they were made not misleading, or if it shall be necessary to amend the Registration Statement or supplement the Final Prospectus to comply with the Act or the Exchange Act or the respective rules thereunder, the Company promptly will (1) notify the Representatives of such event, (2) prepare and file with the Commission, subject to the second sentence of paragraph (a) of this Section 5, an amendment or supplement which will correct such statement or omission or effect such compliance and (3) supply any supplemented Final Prospectus to you in such quantities as you may reasonably request.

(c) As soon as practicable, the Company will make generally available to its security holders and to the Representatives an earnings statement or statements of the Company and its Subsidiaries which will satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the Act and Rule 158 under the Act.

(d) The Company will furnish to the Representatives and counsel for the Underwriters, without charge, signed or conformed copies of the Registration Statement (including exhibits thereto) and to each other Underwriter a copy of the Registration Statement (without exhibits thereto) and, so long as delivery of a prospectus by an Underwriter or dealer may be required by the Act, as many copies of each Preliminary Final Prospectus and the Final Prospectus and any supplement thereto as the Representatives may reasonably request. The Company will pay the expenses of printing or other production of all documents relating to the offering.

(e) The Company will arrange, if necessary, for the qualification of the Securities for sale under the laws of such jurisdictions as the Representatives may designate, will maintain such qualifications in effect so long as required for the distribution of the Securities and will pay any fee of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., in connection with its review of the offering; provided that in no event shall the Company be obligated to qualify to do business in any jurisdiction where it is not now so qualified or to take any action that would subject it to tax or service of process in suits, other than those arising out of the offering or sale of the Securities, in any jurisdiction where it is not now so subject.

(f) The Company will not, without the prior written consent of Banc of America Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Salomon Smith Barney Inc., offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge, or otherwise dispose of, (or enter into any transaction which is designed to, or might reasonably be expected to, result in the disposition (whether by actual disposition or effective economic disposition due to cash settlement or otherwise) by the Company or any affiliate of the Company or any person in privity with the Company or any affiliate of the Company) directly or indirectly, including the filing (or participation in the filing) of a registration statement with the Commission in respect of, or establish or increase a put equivalent position or liquidate or decrease a call equivalent position within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act, any debt securities (excluding commercial paper or bank borrowings) issued or guaranteed by the Company (other than the Securities) or publicly announce an intention to effect any such transaction, until the Business Day set forth on Schedule I hereto.

(g) The Company will not take, directly or indirectly, any action designed to or that would constitute or that might reasonably be expected to cause or result in, under the Exchange Act or otherwise, stabilization or manipulation of the price of any security of the Company to facilitate the sale or resale of the Securities.

6. Conditions to the Obligations of the Underwriters. The obligations of the Underwriters to purchase the Securities shall be subject to the accuracy of the representations and warranties on the part of the Company contained herein as of the Execution Time and the Closing Date, to the accuracy of the statements of the Company made in any certificates pursuant to the provisions hereof, to the performance by the Company of its obligations hereunder and to the following additional conditions:

(a) If the Registration Statement has not become effective prior to the Execution Time, unless the Representatives agree in writing to a later time, the Registration Statement will become effective not later than (i) 6:00 p.m., New York City time, on the date of determination of the public offering price, if such determination occurred at or prior to 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on such date or (ii) 9:30 a.m. on the Business Day following the day on which the public offering price was determined, if such determination occurred after 3:00 p.m., New York City time, on such date; if filing of the Final Prospectus, or any supplement thereto, is required pursuant to Rule 424(b), the Final Prospectus, and any such supplement, will be filed in the manner and within the time period required by Rule 424(b); and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall have been issued and no proceedings for that purpose shall have been instituted or threatened.

(b) The Company shall have requested and caused Baker Botts L.L.P., counsel for the Company, to have furnished to the Representatives their opinion, dated the Closing Date and addressed to the Representatives, to the effect that:

(i) the Company is a corporation duly incorporated and validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware;

(ii) the Company has corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Final Prospectus and to execute and deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement;

(iii) this Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(iv) the Indenture has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and (assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery thereof by the Trustee) constitutes a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting enforcement of creditors' rights and remedies generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law);

(v) the global certificate representing the Securities is in a form authorized by the Indenture, the Securities have been duly authorized by the Company and, assuming the global certificate representing the Securities has been authenticated by the Trustee in the manner provided for in the Indenture and delivered against payment of the consideration therefor specified in this Agreement, the Securities constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting enforcement of creditors' rights and remedies generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law), and each registered holder thereof is entitled to the benefits of the Indenture;

(vi) the Indenture has been duly qualified under the 1939 Act;

(vii) the Securities and the Indenture conform as to legal matters in all material respects to the descriptions thereof contained in the Final Prospectus;

(viii) the Registration Statement has been declared effective under the Act; any required filing of the Final Prospectus pursuant to Rule 424(b) has been made in the manner and within the time period required by Rule 424(b); and, to the best of such counsel's knowledge, no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or threatened under the Act;

(ix) no authorization, approval, consent or license of any regulatory body or authority (other than under the Act, the 1939 Act and the securities or Blue Sky laws of the various states) and no approval of the stockholders of the

Company is required for the valid authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Securities by the Company, or for the performance of the Indenture;

(x) the execution and delivery of the Underwriting Agreement, the consummation of the transactions contemplated in the Underwriting Agreement and compliance with the terms of the Underwriting Agreement and the Indenture do not and will not conflict with or result in a breach of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, the charter or by-laws of the Company or its subsidiaries Waste Management Holdings, Inc. and Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc., or any indenture, mortgage or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or such subsidiaries is a party or by which they or any of their property is bound which is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or to any of the documents incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus, or any existing applicable laws, rule, regulation (excluding any securities or anti-fraud law, rule or regulation);

(xi) the Company is not an "investment company" or an entity "controlled" by an "investment company," as such terms are defined in the 1940 Act; and

(xii) neither the Company nor any subsidiary is a "holding company" or a "public utility," as such terms are defined in the 1935 Act.

Such counsel shall state that the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus, excluding the documents incorporated by reference therein and the financial statements and other financial data and supporting schedules included therein or omitted therefrom and the Trustee's Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 (the "Form T-1"), as to which they need not express a view, as of their respective effective or issue dates appear on their face to have been appropriately responsive in all material respects with the requirements of the Act. In addition, such counsel shall state that they have participated in conferences with officers and other representatives of the Company, counsel employed by the Company, representatives of the independent public accountants of the Company, representatives of the Underwriters and counsel to the Underwriters at which the contents of the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus were discussed and, although such counsel did not independently verify such information and is not passing upon and does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus (other than as set forth in paragraph (vii) above), on the basis of the foregoing, no facts came to such counsel's attention that led such counsel to believe that the Registration Statement (other than the financial statements, the notes thereto and the auditors' reports thereon and the related schedules and the other financial and accounting data included or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, and the exhibits thereto, as to which such counsel need not comment) as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, or that the Final Prospectus (other than the financial statements, the notes thereto and the auditors' reports thereon and the related schedules and the other financial and accounting data included or

incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel need not comment) as of its issue date or the Closing Date contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

In rendering such opinions, such counsel may rely (A) as to matters involving the application of laws of any jurisdiction other than the contract law of the State of New York, the General Corporation Law of Delaware or the Federal laws of the United States, to the extent they deem proper and specified in such opinion, upon the opinion of other counsel of good standing whom they believe to be reliable and who are satisfactory to counsel for the Underwriters and (B) as to matters of fact, to the extent they deem proper, on certificates of responsible officers of the Company and public officials. References to the Final Prospectus in this paragraph (b) include any supplements thereto at the Closing Date.

(c) David P. Steiner, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Company, shall have furnished to the Representatives his opinion, dated the Closing Date and addressed to the Representatives, to the effect that:

(i) each of the corporate Subsidiaries organized under U.S. law is a corporation duly incorporated and validly existing in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its incorporation, has corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Final Prospectus, except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect; except as otherwise disclosed in the Registration Statement or set forth in the opinion, all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of each of the Subsidiaries is validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable and, to the best of such counsel's knowledge, is owned by the Company free and clear of any security interest, mortgage, pledge, lien, encumbrance, claim or equity; none of the outstanding shares of capital stock of the Subsidiaries was issued in violation of the preemptive or similar rights of any security holder thereof;

(ii) the documents incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (other than the financial statements, other financial data and supporting schedules included therein or omitted therefrom, as to which he need express no opinion, and except to the extent that any statement therein is modified or superseded in the Final Prospectus), as of the dates they became effective or were filed with the Commission, as the case may be, appear on their face to be appropriately responsive in all material respects with the requirements of the Exchange Act;

(iii) except as set forth in the Final Prospectus (or incorporated by reference therein), such counsel does not know of any action, suit, proceeding, inquiry or investigation pending or threatened against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or to which the property of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is subject, before or brought by any court or governmental agency or body, domestic or foreign, in which there is a reasonable probability of a Material Adverse Effect;

(iv) such counsel does not know of any statutes or regulations or any pending or threatened legal or governmental proceedings required to be described in the Final Prospectus which are not described as required, nor of any material contracts or documents of a character required to be described in the Registration Statement or Final Prospectus or to be filed or incorporated as exhibits to the Registration Statement which are not described and filed or incorporated as required;

(v) such counsel does not know of any holders of securities of the Company that have rights to the registration of such securities under the Registration Statement; and

(vi) the execution and delivery of the Underwriting Agreement, the consummation of the transactions contemplated in the Underwriting Agreement and compliance with the terms of the Underwriting Agreement and the Indenture do not and will not conflict with or result in a breach of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, the charter or by-laws of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or, to the knowledge of such counsel, any indenture, mortgage or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or its Subsidiaries is a party or by which they or any of their property is bound, or any existing applicable laws, rule, regulation (excluding any securities or anti-fraud law, rule or regulation), or, to the knowledge of such counsel, any judgment, order or decree of any government, governmental instrumentality or court, domestic or foreign, having jurisdiction over the Company or its Subsidiaries or any of their properties, that in any case would have a Material Adverse Effect.

(d) The Representatives shall have received from Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., counsel for the Underwriters, such opinion or opinions, dated the Closing Date and addressed to the Representatives, with respect to the issuance and sale of the Securities, the Indenture, the Registration Statement, the Final Prospectus (together with any supplement thereto) and other related matters as the Representatives may reasonably require, and the Company shall have furnished to such counsel such documents as they request for the purpose of enabling them to pass upon such matters.

(e) The Company shall have furnished to the Representatives a certificate of the Company, signed by the principal legal officer and the principal financial or accounting officer of the Company, dated the Closing Date, to the effect that the signers of such certificate have carefully examined the Registration Statement, the Final Prospectus, any supplements to the Final Prospectus and this Agreement and that:

(i) the representations and warranties of the Company in this Agreement are true and correct on and as of the Closing Date with the same effect as if made on the Closing Date and the Company has complied with all the agreements and satisfied all the conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied at or prior to the Closing Date;

(ii) no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or, to the Company's knowledge, threatened; and

(iii) since the date of the most recent financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto), there has been no material adverse effect on the condition (financial or otherwise), prospects, earnings, business or properties of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, whether or not arising from transactions in the ordinary course of business, except as set forth or contemplated in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(f) The Company shall have requested and caused Arthur Andersen LLP to have furnished to the Representatives, at the Execution Time and at the Closing Date, letters (which may refer to letters previously delivered to one or more of the Representatives), dated respectively as of the Execution Time and as of the Closing Date, in form and substance satisfactory to the Representatives, confirming that they are independent accountants within the meaning of the Act and the Exchange Act and the respective applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Commission thereunder and that they have performed a review of the unaudited interim financial information of the Company for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2001 and as at September 30, 2001 in accordance with Statement on Auditing Standards No. 71, and stating in effect, except as provided in Schedule I hereto, that:

(i) in their opinion the audited financial statements and financial statement schedules included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus and reported on by them comply as to form in all material respects with the applicable accounting requirements of the Act and the Exchange Act and the related rules and regulations adopted by the Commission;

(ii) on the basis of a reading of the latest unaudited financial statements made available by the Company and its subsidiaries; their limited review, in accordance with standards established under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 71, of the unaudited interim financial information for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2001 and as at September 30, 2001; carrying out certain specified procedures (but not an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards) which would not necessarily reveal matters of significance with respect to the comments set forth in such letter; a reading of the minutes of the meetings of the stockholders, directors and audit committee of the Company and the subsidiaries; and inquiries of certain officials of the Company who have responsibility for financial and accounting matters of the Company and its subsidiaries as to transactions and events subsequent to September 30, 2001, nothing came to their attention which caused them to believe that:

(1) any unaudited financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus do not comply as to form in all material respects with applicable accounting requirements of the Act and with the related rules and regulations adopted by the Commission with respect to financial statements included or incorporated by reference in quarterly reports on Form 10-Q under the Exchange Act; and said unaudited financial statements are not in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis substantially consistent with that of the audited financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus;

(2) with respect to the period subsequent to September 30, 2001, there were any changes, at a specified date not more than five days prior to the date of the letter, in the long-term debt of the Company and its subsidiaries or capital stock of the Company or decreases in consolidated net current assets (working capital) or stockholders' equity of the Company as compared with the amounts shown on the September 30, 2001 consolidated balance sheet included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus, or for the period from October 1, 2001 to November 15, 2001 there were any decreases, as compared with the corresponding period in the preceding year in consolidated revenues or in net income or earnings per share of the Company and its subsidiaries, except in all instances for changes or decreases set forth in such letter, in which case the letter shall be accompanied by an explanation by the Company as to the significance thereof unless said explanation is not deemed necessary by the Representatives; or

(3) the information included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and Final Prospectus in response to Regulation S-K, Item 301 (Selected Financial Data) and Item 503(d) (Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges) is not in conformity with the applicable disclosure requirements of Regulation S-K; and

(iii) they have performed certain other specified procedures as a result of which they determined that certain information of an accounting, financial or statistical nature (which is limited to accounting, financial or statistical information derived from the general accounting records of the Company and its subsidiaries) set forth in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus and in Exhibit 12 to the Registration Statement, the information included or incorporated by reference in Items 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus, and the information included in the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" included or incorporated by reference in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Final

Prospectus, agrees with the accounting records of the Company and its subsidiaries, excluding any questions of legal interpretation.

References to the Final Prospectus in this paragraph (f) include any supplement thereto at the date of the letter.

(g) Subsequent to the Execution Time or, if earlier, the dates as of which information is given in the Registration Statement (exclusive of any amendment thereof) and the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto), there shall not have been (i) any change or decrease specified in the letter or letters referred to in paragraph (f) of this Section 6 or (ii) any change, or any development involving a prospective change, in or affecting the condition (financial or otherwise), earnings, business or properties of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, whether or not arising from transactions in the ordinary course of business, except as set forth or contemplated in the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto) the effect of which, in any case referred to in clause (i) or (ii) above, is, in the sole judgment of the Representatives, so material and adverse as to make it impractical or inadvisable to proceed with the offering or delivery of the Securities as contemplated by the Registration Statement (exclusive of any amendment thereof) and the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

(h) Subsequent to the Execution Time, there shall not have been any decrease in the rating of any of the Company's debt securities by any "nationally recognized statistical rating organization" (as defined for purposes of Rule 436(g) under the Act) or any notice given of any intended or potential decrease in any such rating or of a possible change in any such rating that does not indicate the direction of the possible change.

(i) Prior to the Closing Date, the Company shall have furnished to the Representatives such further information, certificates and documents as the Representatives may reasonably request.

If any of the conditions specified in this Section 6 shall not have been fulfilled in all material respects when and as provided in this Agreement, or if any of the opinions and certificates mentioned above or elsewhere in this Agreement shall not be in all material respects reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to the Representatives and counsel for the Underwriters, this Agreement and all obligations of the Underwriters hereunder may be canceled at, or at any time prior to, the Closing Date by the Representatives. Notice of such cancellation shall be given to the Company in writing or by telephone or facsimile confirmed in writing.

The documents required to be delivered by this Section 6 shall be delivered at the office of Baker Botts L.L.P., counsel for the Company, at One Shell Plaza, 910 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002, on the Closing Date.

7. Reimbursement of Underwriters' Expenses. If the sale of the Securities provided for herein is not consummated because any condition to the obligations of the Underwriters set forth in Section 6 hereof is not satisfied, because of any termination pursuant to Section 10(i) hereof (other than as a result of the occurrence of the circumstances in Section 10(ii) hereof) or because of any refusal, inability or failure on the part of the Company to perform any agreement

herein or comply with any provision hereof other than by reason of a default by any of the Underwriters, the Company will reimburse the Underwriters severally through Banc of America Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Salomon Smith Barney Inc. on demand for all out-of-pocket expenses (including reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel) that shall have been incurred by them in connection with the proposed purchase and sale of the Securities.

8. Indemnification and Contribution. (a) The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, the directors, officers, employees and agents of each Underwriter and each person who controls any Underwriter within the meaning of either the Act or the Exchange Act against any and all losses, claims, damages or liabilities, joint or several, to which they or any of them may become subject under the Act, the Exchange Act or other Federal or state statutory law or regulation, at common law or otherwise, insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions in respect thereof) arise out of or are based upon any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the registration statement for the registration of the Securities as originally filed or in any amendment thereof, or in the Basic Prospectus, any Preliminary Final Prospectus or the Final Prospectus, or in any amendment thereof or supplement thereto, or arise out of or are based upon the omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, and agrees to reimburse each such indemnified party, as incurred, for any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with investigating or defending any such loss, claim, damage, liability or action; provided, however, that the Company will not be liable in any such case to the extent that any such loss, claim, damage or liability arises out of or is based upon any such untrue statement or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission made therein in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by or on behalf of any Underwriter through the Representatives specifically for inclusion therein. This indemnity agreement will be in addition to any liability which the Company may otherwise have.

(b) Each Underwriter severally and not jointly agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, each of its directors, each of its officers who signs the Registration Statement, and each person who controls the Company within the meaning of either the Act or the Exchange Act, to the same extent as the foregoing indemnity from the Company to each Underwriter, but only with reference to written information relating to such Underwriter furnished to the Company by or on behalf of such Underwriter through the Representatives specifically for inclusion in the documents referred to in the foregoing indemnity. This indemnity agreement will be in addition to any liability which any Underwriter may otherwise have. The Company acknowledges that the statements set forth in the last paragraph of the cover page regarding delivery of the Securities and, under the heading "Underwriting" or "Plan of Distribution," (i) the list of Underwriters and their respective participation in the sale of the Securities, (ii) the sentences related to concessions and reallowances, (iii) the paragraph related to stabilization, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids and (iv) the paragraph relating to internet distribution of the Securities in any Preliminary Final Prospectus and the Final Prospectus constitute the only information furnished in writing by or on behalf of the several Underwriters for inclusion in any Preliminary Final Prospectus or the Final Prospectus.

(c) Promptly after receipt by an indemnified party under this Section 8 of notice of the commencement of any action, such indemnified party will, if a claim in respect

thereof is to be made against the indemnifying party under this Section 8, notify the indemnifying party in writing of the commencement thereof; but the failure so to notify the indemnifying party (i) will not relieve it from liability under paragraph (a) or (b) above unless and to the extent it did not otherwise learn of such action and such failure results in the forfeiture by the indemnifying party of substantial rights and defenses and (ii) will not, in any event, relieve the indemnifying party from any obligations to any indemnified party other than the indemnification obligation provided in paragraph (a) or (b) above. The indemnifying party shall be entitled to appoint counsel of the indemnifying party's choice at the indemnifying party's expense to represent the indemnified party in any action for which indemnification is sought (in which case the indemnifying party shall not thereafter be responsible for the fees and expenses of any separate counsel retained by the indemnified party or parties except as set forth below); provided, however, that such counsel shall be reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party. Notwithstanding the indemnifying party's election to appoint counsel to represent the indemnified party in an action, the indemnified party shall have the right to employ separate counsel (including local counsel), and the indemnifying party shall bear the reasonable fees, costs and expenses of such separate counsel if (i) the use of counsel chosen by the indemnifying party to represent the indemnified party would present such counsel with a conflict of interest, (ii) the actual or potential defendants in, or targets of, any such action include both the indemnified party and the indemnifying party and the indemnified party shall have reasonably concluded that there may be legal defenses available to it and/or other indemnified parties which are different from or additional to those available to the indemnifying party, (iii) the indemnifying party shall not have employed counsel reasonably satisfactory to the indemnified party to represent the indemnified party within a reasonable time after notice of the institution of such action or (iv) the indemnifying party shall authorize the indemnified party to employ separate counsel at the expense of the indemnifying party. An indemnifying party will not, without the prior written consent of the indemnified parties, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any pending or threatened claim, action, suit or proceeding in respect of which indemnification or contribution may be sought hereunder (whether or not the indemnified parties are actual or potential parties to such claim or action) unless such settlement, compromise or consent (i) includes an unconditional release of each indemnified party from all liability arising out of such claim, action, suit or proceeding and (ii) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of an indemnified party. An indemnifying party shall not be liable under this Section 8 to any indemnified party regarding any settlement or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any pending or threatened claim, action, suit or proceeding in respect of which indemnification or contribution may be sought hereunder (whether or not the indemnified parties are actual or potential parties to such claim or action) unless such settlement, compromise or consent is consented to by such indemnifying party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

(d) In the event that the indemnity provided in paragraph (a) or (b) of this Section 8 is unavailable to or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party for any reason, the Company and the Underwriters severally agree to contribute to the aggregate losses, claims, damages and liabilities (including legal or other expenses reasonably incurred in connection with investigating or defending same) (collectively, "Losses") to which the Company and one or more of the Underwriters may be subject in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and by the Underwriters on the other from the

offering of the Securities; provided, however, that in no case shall any Underwriter (except as may be provided in any agreement among underwriters relating to the offering of the Securities) be responsible for any amount in excess of the underwriting discount or commission applicable to the Securities purchased by such Underwriter hereunder. If the allocation provided by the immediately preceding sentence is unavailable for any reason, the Company and the Underwriters severally shall contribute in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only such relative benefits but also the relative fault of the Company on the one hand and of the Underwriters on the other in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such Losses as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. Benefits received by the Company shall be deemed to be equal to the total net proceeds from the offering (before deducting expenses) received by it, and benefits received by the Underwriters shall be deemed to be equal to the total underwriting discounts and commissions, in each case as set forth on the cover page of the Final Prospectus. Relative fault shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether any untrue or any alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information provided by the Company on the one hand or the Underwriters on the other, the intent of the parties and their relative knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such untrue statement or omission. The Company and the Underwriters agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution were determined by pro rata allocation or any other method of allocation which does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to above. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph (d), no person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation. The Underwriters' obligations in this paragraph (d) to contribute are several in proportion to their respective underwriting obligations and not joint. For purposes of this Section 8, each person who controls an Underwriter within the meaning of either the Act or the Exchange Act and each director, officer, employee and agent of an Underwriter shall have the same rights to contribution as such Underwriter, and each person who controls the Company within the meaning of either the Act or the Exchange Act, each officer of the Company who shall have signed the Registration Statement and each director of the Company shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company, subject in each case to the applicable terms and conditions of this paragraph (d).

9. Default by an Underwriter. If any one or more Underwriters shall fail to purchase and pay for any of the Securities agreed to be purchased by such Underwriter or Underwriters hereunder and such failure to purchase shall constitute a default in the performance of its or their obligations under this Agreement, the remaining Underwriters shall be obligated severally to take up and pay for (in the respective proportions which the principal amount of Securities set forth opposite their names in Schedule II hereto bears to the aggregate principal amount of Securities set forth opposite the names of all the remaining Underwriters) the Securities which the defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed to purchase; provided, however, that in the event that the aggregate principal amount of Securities which the defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters agreed but failed to purchase shall exceed 10% of the aggregate principal amount of Securities set forth in Schedule II hereto, the remaining Underwriters shall have the right to purchase all, but shall not be under any obligation to purchase any, of the Securities, and if such nondefaulting Underwriters do not purchase all the Securities, this Agreement will terminate without liability to any nondefaulting Underwriter or the Company. In the event of a default by any Underwriter as set forth in this Section 9, the Closing Date shall be

postponed for such period, not exceeding five Business Days, as the Representatives shall determine in order that the required changes in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements may be effected. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall relieve any defaulting Underwriter of its liability, if any, to the Company and any nondefaulting Underwriter for damages occasioned by its default hereunder.

10. Termination. This Agreement shall be subject to termination in the absolute discretion of the Representatives, by notice given to the Company prior to delivery of and payment for the Securities, if at any time prior to such time (i) trading in the Company's Common Stock shall have been suspended by the Commission, (ii) trading in securities generally on the New York Stock Exchange shall have been suspended or limited or minimum prices shall have been established on such Exchange, (iii) a banking moratorium shall have been declared either by Federal or New York State authorities or (iv) there shall have occurred any material change in the financial markets or any outbreak or escalation of hostilities, declaration by the United States of a national emergency or war, or other calamity or crisis the effect of which on financial markets is such as to make it, in the sole judgment of the Representatives, impractical or inadvisable to proceed with the offering or delivery of the Securities as contemplated by the Final Prospectus (exclusive of any supplement thereto).

11. Representations and Indemnities to Survive. The respective agreements, representations, warranties, indemnities and other statements of the Company or its officers and of the Underwriters set forth in or made pursuant to this Agreement will remain in full force and effect, regardless of any investigation made by or on behalf of any Underwriter or the Company or any of the officers, directors, employees, agents or controlling persons referred to in Section 8 hereof, and will survive delivery of and payment for the Securities. The provisions of Sections 7 and 8 hereof shall survive the termination or cancellation of this Agreement.

12. Notices. All communications hereunder will be in writing and effective only on receipt, and, if sent to the Representatives, will be mailed, delivered or telefaxed to Banc of America Securities LLC, Attention: Debt Capital Markets (fax no.: (704) 388-9939) and confirmed to Banc of America Securities LLC, at Bank of America Corp. Center, 100 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28255, Attention: Debt Capital Markets; J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Attention: Debt Capital Markets - 9th Floor (fax no.: (212) 834-6170) and confirmed to J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., at 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017, Attention: Debt Capital Markets - 9th Floor; Salomon Smith Barney Inc. General Counsel (fax no.: (212) 816-7912) and confirmed to the General Counsel, Salomon Smith Barney Inc., at 388 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10013, Attention: General Counsel; or, if sent to the Company, will be mailed, delivered or telefaxed to the Waste Management, Inc. General Counsel (fax no.: (713) 209-9710) and confirmed to it at 1001 Fannin, Suite 4000, attention of the Legal Department.

13. Successors. This Agreement will inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and the officers, directors, employees, agents and controlling persons referred to in Section 8 hereof, and no other person will have any right or obligation hereunder.

14. Applicable Law. This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York applicable to contracts made and to be performed within the State of New York.

15. Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

16. Headings. The section headings used herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

17. Definitions. The terms which follow, when used in this Agreement, shall have the meanings indicated.

"Act" shall mean the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

"Basic Prospectus" shall mean the prospectus referred to in paragraph 1(a) above contained in the Registration Statement at the Effective Date including any Preliminary Final Prospectus.

"Business Day" shall mean any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday or a day on which banking institutions or trust companies are authorized or obligated by law to close in New York City or Houston, Texas.

"Commission" shall mean the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Effective Date" shall mean each date and time that the Registration Statement, any post-effective amendment or amendments thereto and any Rule 462(b) Registration Statement became or become effective.

"Exchange Act" shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

"Execution Time" shall mean the date and time that this Agreement is executed and delivered by the parties hereto.

"Final Prospectus" shall mean the prospectus supplement relating to the Securities that was first filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) after the Execution Time, together with the Basic Prospectus.

"1935 Act" shall mean the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended.

"Preliminary Final Prospectus" shall mean any preliminary prospectus supplement to the Basic Prospectus which describes the Securities and the offering thereof and is used prior to filing of the Final Prospectus, together with the Basic Prospectus.

"Registration Statement" shall mean the registration statement referred to in paragraph 1(a) above, including exhibits and financial statements, as amended at the Execution Time (or, if not effective at the Execution Time, in the form in which it shall become effective) and, in the event any post-effective amendment thereto or any Rule 462(b) Registration Statement becomes effective prior to the Closing Date, shall also mean such registration statement as so amended or such Rule 462(b) Registration Statement, as the case may be. Such term shall include any Rule 430A Information deemed to be included therein at the Effective Date as provided by Rule 430A.

"Rule 415," "Rule 424," "Rule 430A" and "Rule 462" refer to such rules under the Act.

"Rule 430A Information" shall mean information with respect to the Securities and the offering thereof permitted to be omitted from the Registration Statement when it becomes effective pursuant to Rule 430A.

"Rule 462(b) Registration Statement" shall mean a registration statement and any amendments thereto filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) relating to the offering covered by the registration statement referred to in Section 1(a) hereof.

"Trust Indenture Act" shall mean the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended and the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

18. Consent to Representation. The Company and the Underwriters acknowledge that Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., which is acting as counsel to the Underwriters in connection with the offer and sale of the Securities, also acts as counsel from time to time to the Company and certain of its affiliates in connection with unrelated matters. The Company and the Underwriters consent to Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. so acting as counsel to the Underwriters.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding of our agreement, please sign and return to us the enclosed duplicate hereof, whereupon this letter and your acceptance shall represent a binding agreement among the Company and the several Underwriters.

Very truly yours,

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

By /s/ WILLIAM L. TRUBECK

Name: William L. Trubeck
Title: Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial
Officer

THE FOREGOING AGREEMENT IS HEREBY
CONFIRMED AND ACCEPTED AS OF THE DATE
SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE I HERETO.

BANC OF AMERICA SECURITIES LLC
J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES INC.
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY INC.

BY: BANC OF AMERICA SECURITIES LLC

By /s/ LILY CHANG

Name: Lily Chang
Title: Principal

BY: J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES INC.

By /s/ MARIA SRAMEK

Name: Maria Sramek
Title: Vice President

BY: SALOMON SMITH BARNEY INC.

By /s/ JOHN SHAFER III

Name: John Shafer III
Title: Vice President

For themselves and the other several Underwriters,
if any, named in Schedule II to the foregoing
Agreement.

SCHEDULE I

Underwriting Agreement dated: November 15, 2001

Registration Statement No.: 333-80063

Representative(s): Banc of America Securities LLC
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.
Salomon Smith Barney Inc.

Title, Purchase Price and Description of Securities:

Title: 6 1/2% Senior Notes Due 2008

Principal amount: \$400,000,000

Purchase price (include accrued interest or amortization, if any, from November 20, 2001): 98.984%

Sinking fund provisions: None

Redemption provisions: Make Whole Call + 25bp

Other provisions: As provided in the Indenture

Closing Date, Time and Location: November 20, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. CST at the offices of Baker Botts L.L.P., One Shell Plaza, 910 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002

Type of Offering: Non-delayed

Date referred to in Section 5(f) after which the Company may offer or sell debt securities issued or guaranteed by the Company without the consent of the Representative(s): December 15, 2001

Modification of items to be covered by the letter from Arthur Andersen LLP delivered pursuant to Section 6(f) at the Execution Time: None

SCHEDULE II

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SECURITIES UNDERWRITERS TO BE
PURCHASED - ----- Banc of

America Securities

LLC..... \$ 106,668,000

J.P. Morgan Securities

Inc..... \$

106,666,000 Salomon Smith Barney

Inc..... \$

106,666,000 ABN AMRO

Incorporated.....

\$ 10,000,000 Credit Suisse First Boston

Corporation..... \$ 10,000,000

Fleet Securities,

Inc..... \$

10,000,000 Goldman, Sachs &

Co..... \$

10,000,000 Lehman Brothers

Inc..... \$

10,000,000 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith

Incorporated.....

\$ 10,000,000 Morgan Stanley & Co.

Incorporated..... \$

10,000,000 PNC Capital Markets,

Inc..... \$

10,000,000

TOTAL..... \$

400,000,000 =====

BOOK-ENTRY SECURITY

THIS SECURITY IS A BOOK-ENTRY SECURITY WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE OF A DEPOSITORY. THIS SECURITY IS EXCHANGEABLE FOR SECURITIES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A PERSON OTHER THAN THE DEPOSITORY OR ITS NOMINEE ONLY IN THE LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN THE INDENTURE, AND NO TRANSFER OF THIS SECURITY (OTHER THAN A TRANSFER OF THIS SECURITY AS A WHOLE BY THE DEPOSITORY TO A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY OR BY A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY TO THE DEPOSITORY OR ANOTHER NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY) MAY BE REGISTERED EXCEPT IN SUCH LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES.

UNLESS THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, A NEW YORK CORPORATION ("DTC"), TO THE COMPANY (AS DEFINED BELOW) OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION FOR TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY CERTIFICATE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR SUCH OTHER NAME AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC (AND ANY PAYMENT IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL INASMUCH AS THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

RGN-1	Principal Amount
WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC. U.S.	\$400,000,000
6 1/2% SENIOR NOTES DUE 2008	

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC., a Delaware corporation (the "Company," which term includes any successors under the Indenture hereinafter referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to CEDE & CO. or registered assigns, at the office or agency of the Company, the principal sum of Four Hundred Million (\$400,000,000) U.S. dollars, or such lesser principal sum as is shown on the attached Schedule of Exchanges of Definitive Security, on November 15, 2008 in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts, and to pay interest at an annual rate of 6 1/2% payable on May 15 and November 15 of each year, to the person in whose name this Security is registered at the close of business on the record date for such interest, which shall be the preceding May 1 or November 1, respectively, payable commencing May 15, 2002 with interest consisting of interest accrued from November 20, 2001.

Reference is made to the further provisions of this Security set forth on the reverse hereof. Such further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as though fully set forth at this place.

The statements in the legends set forth above are an integral part of the terms of this Security and by acceptance hereof the Holder of this Security agrees to be subject to, and bound by, the terms and provisions set forth in each such legend.

This Security is issued in respect of a series of Securities of an initial aggregate of U.S. \$400,000,000 in principal amount designated as the 6 1/2% Senior Notes due 2008 of the Company and is governed by the Indenture dated as of September 10, 1997, duly executed and delivered by the Company, formerly known as USA Waste Services, Inc., to JPMorgan Chase Bank, as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank, as trustee (the "Trustee"), as supplemented by Board Resolutions (as defined in the Indenture) (such Indenture and Board Resolutions, collectively, the "Indenture"). The terms of the Indenture are incorporated herein by reference. This Security shall in all respects be entitled to the same benefits as definitive Securities under the Indenture.

If and to the extent that any provision of the Indenture limits, qualifies or conflicts with any other provision of the Indenture that is required to be included in the Indenture or is deemed applicable to the Indenture by virtue of the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, such required provision shall control.

The Company hereby irrevocably undertakes to the Holder hereof to exchange this Security in accordance with the terms of the Indenture without charge.

This Security shall not be valid or become obligatory for any purpose until the Certificate of Authentication hereon shall have been manually signed by the Trustee under the Indenture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this instrument to be duly executed under its corporate seal.

Dated: November 20, 2001

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.,
a Delaware corporation

By:

William L. Trubeck
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Attest:

By:

Linda J. Smith
Assistant Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Securities of the series designated therein referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

Date of Authentication: November 20, 2001

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK,
as Trustee

By:

Lynda Gunther
Assistant Vice President and
Trust Officer

REVERSE OF BOOK-ENTRY SECURITY

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

6 1/2% SENIOR NOTES DUE 2008

This Security is one of a duly authorized issue of unsecured debentures, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the Company (the "Debt Securities") of the series hereinafter specified, all issued or to be issued under and pursuant to the Indenture, to which Indenture reference is hereby made for a description of the rights, limitations of rights, obligations, duties and immunities thereunder of the Trustee, the Company and the Holders of the Debt Securities. The Debt Securities may be issued in one or more series, which different series may be issued in various aggregate principal amounts, may mature at different times, may bear interest (if any) at different rates, may be subject to different sinking, purchase or analogous funds (if any) and may otherwise vary as provided in the Indenture. This Security is one of a series designated as the 6 1/2% Senior Notes due 2008 of the Company, in initial aggregate principal amount of \$400,000,000 (the "Securities").

1. Interest.

The Company promises to pay interest on the principal amount of this Security at the rate of 6 1/2% per annum.

The Company will pay interest semi-annually on May 15 and November 15 of each year (each an "Interest Payment Date"), commencing May 15, 2002. Interest on the Securities will accrue from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or, if no interest has been paid on the Securities, from November 20, 2001. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. The Company shall pay interest (including post-petition interest in any proceeding under any applicable bankruptcy laws) on overdue installments of interest (without regard to any applicable grace period) and on overdue principal and premium, if any, from time to time on demand at the rate of 6 1/2% per annum, in each case to the extent lawful.

2. Method of Payment.

The Company shall pay interest on the Securities (except Defaulted Interest) to the persons who are the registered Holders at the close of business on the Regular Record Date immediately preceding the Interest Payment Date. Any such interest not so punctually paid or duly provided for ("Defaulted Interest") may be paid to the persons who are registered Holders at the close of business on a Special Record Date for the payment of such Defaulted Interest, or in any other lawful manner not inconsistent with the requirements of any securities exchange on which such Securities may then be listed if such manner of payment shall be deemed practicable by the Trustee, as more fully provided in the Indenture. Except as provided below, the Company shall pay principal and interest in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for payment of public and private debts ("U.S. Legal Tender"). Payments in respect of a Book-Entry Security (including principal, premium, if any, and interest) will be made by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the accounts

specified by the Depository. Payments in respect of Securities in definitive form (including principal, premium, if any, and interest) will be made at the office or agency of the Company maintained for such purpose within the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, which initially will be at the corporate trust office of the Trustee located at 55 Water Street, Room 234, New York, New York, or at the option of the Company, payment of interest may be made by check mailed to the Holders on the Regular Record Date or on the Special Record Date at their addresses set forth in the Security Register of Holders.

3. Paying Agent and Registrar.

Initially, JPMorgan Chase Bank (the "Trustee") will act as Paying Agent and Registrar. The Company may change any Paying Agent, Registrar or co-Registrar at any time upon notice to the Trustee and the Holders. The Company or any of its Subsidiaries may, subject to certain exceptions, act as Paying Agent, Registrar or co-Registrar.

4. Indenture.

This Security is one of a duly authorized issue of Debt Securities of the Company issued and to be issued in one or more series under the Indenture.

Capitalized terms herein are used as defined in the Indenture unless otherwise defined herein. The terms of the Securities include those stated in the Indenture, all indentures supplemental thereto, those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, as in effect on the date of the Indenture, and those terms stated in the Officers' Certificate to the Trustee, duly authorized by resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Company on April 30, 1999, May 14, 1999 and November 3, 2001 (the "Resolutions"). The Securities are subject to all such terms, and Holders of Securities are referred to the Indenture, all indentures supplemental thereto, said Act and said Resolutions and Officers' Certificate for a statement of them. The Securities of this series are general unsecured obligations of the Company limited with an initial aggregate principal amount of \$400,000,000.

5. Redemption.

The Securities will be redeemable, at the option of the Company, at any time in whole, or from time to time in part, at a Redemption Price (the "Make-Whole Price") equal to the greater of: (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Securities to be redeemed; or (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (at the rate in effect on the date of calculation of the Redemption Price) on the Securities (exclusive of interest accrued to the Redemption Date) discounted to the Redemption Date on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the applicable Treasury Yield plus 25 basis points; plus, in either case, accrued interest to the Redemption Date.

Securities called for redemption become due on the Redemption Date. Notices of redemption will be mailed at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the Redemption Date to each holder of record of the Securities to be redeemed at its registered address. The notice of redemption for the Securities will state, among other things, the amount of Securities to be redeemed, the Redemption Date, the Make-Whole Price and the place(s) that payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of Securities to be redeemed. Unless the Company

defaults in payment of the Make-Whole Price, interest will cease to accrue on any Securities that have been called for redemption at the Redemption Date. If less than all the Securities are redeemed at any time, the Trustee will select the Securities to be redeemed on a pro rata basis or by any other method the Trustee deems fair and appropriate.

For purposes of determining the Make-Whole Price, the following definitions are applicable:

"Treasury Yield" means, with respect to any Redemption Date applicable to the Securities, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity (computed as of the third Business Day immediately preceding such Redemption Date) of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the applicable Comparable Treasury Price for such Redemption Date.

"Comparable Treasury Issue" means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Securities that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Securities.

"Independent Investment Banker" means any of Banc of America Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. or Salomon Smith Barney Inc. (and their respective successors), or, if all of such firms are unwilling or unable to select the applicable Comparable Treasury Issue, an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by the Trustee and reasonably acceptable to the Company.

"Comparable Treasury Price" means, with respect to any Redemption Date, (i) the bid price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) at 4:00 p.m. on the third Business Day preceding such Redemption Date, as set forth on "Telerate Page 500" (or such other page as may replace Telerate Page 500), or (ii) if such page (or any successor page) is not displayed or does not contain such bid prices at such time (a) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations obtained by the Trustee for such Redemption Date, after excluding the highest and lowest of all Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations obtained, or (b) if the Trustee obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations obtained by the Trustee.

"Reference Treasury Dealer" means (i) each of Banc of America Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Salomon Smith Barney Inc., or their respective successors, unless any of them ceases to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (a "Primary Treasury Dealer"), in which case the Company will substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer, and (ii) any other Primary Treasury Dealer selected by the Company.

"Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations" means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any Redemption Date for the Securities, an average, as determined by the Trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue for the Securities (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Trustee by such Reference

Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such Redemption Date.

Except as set forth above, the Securities will not be redeemable prior to their Stated Maturity and will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund.

The Securities may be redeemed in part in multiples of \$1,000 only.

Any such redemption will also comply with Article Eleven of the Indenture.

6. Denominations; Transfer; Exchange.

The Securities are issued in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000. A Holder may register the transfer of, or exchange, Securities in accordance with the Indenture. The Securities Registrar may require a Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents and to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture.

7. Person Deemed Owners.

The registered Holder of a Security may be treated as the owner of it for all purposes.

8. Amendment; Supplement; Waiver.

Subject to certain exceptions, the Indenture may be amended or supplemented, and any existing Event of Default or compliance with any provision may be waived, with the consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of each series affected. Without consent of any Holder, the parties thereto may amend or supplement the Indenture or the Securities to, among other things, cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, or make any other change that does not adversely affect the interests of any Holder of a Security. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Security (unless revoked as provided in the Indenture) shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders and owners of this Security and any Securities which may be issued in exchange or substitution herefor, irrespective of whether or not any notation thereof is made upon this Security or such other Securities.

9. Defaults and Remedies.

If an Event of Default with respect to the Securities occurs and is continuing, then in every such case the Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Securities then Outstanding may declare the principal amount of all the Securities to be due and payable immediately in the manner and with the effect provided in the Indenture. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, however, if at any time after such a declaration of acceleration has been made and before judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the Trustee as provided in the Indenture, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Securities, by written notice to the Company and to the Trustee, may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if (1) the Company has paid or deposited with the Trustee a sum sufficient to pay (A) all overdue interest on all Securities,

(B) the principal of (and premium, if any, on) any Securities which has become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration and any interest thereon at the rate prescribed therefor herein, (C) to the extent that payment of such interest is lawful, interest upon overdue interest at the rate prescribed therefor herein, and (D) all sums paid or advanced by the Trustee and the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel and (2) all Events of Default under the Indenture with respect to the Securities, other than the nonpayment of the principal of Securities which has become due solely by such declaration acceleration, shall have been cured or shall have been waived. No such rescission shall affect any subsequent default or shall impair any right consequent thereon. Holders of Securities may not enforce the Indenture or the Securities except as provided in the Indenture. The Trustee may require indemnity satisfactory to it before it enforces the Indenture or the Securities. Subject to certain limitations, Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities then outstanding may direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power.

10. Trustee Dealings with Company.

The Trustee under the Indenture, in its individual or any other capacity, may make loans to, accept deposits from, and perform services for the Company or its Affiliates or any subsidiary of the Company's Affiliates, and may otherwise deal with the Company or its Affiliates as if it were not the Trustee.

11. Authentication.

This Security shall not be valid until the Trustee or authenticating agent signs the certificate of authentication on the other side of this Security.

12. Abbreviations and Defined Terms.

Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Holder of a Security or an assignee, such as: TEN COM (tenant in common), TEN ENT (tenants by the entireties), JT TEN (joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (Custodian), and U/G/M/A (Uniform Gifts to Minors Act).

13. CUSIP Numbers.

Pursuant to a recommendation promulgated by the Committee on Uniform Note Identification Procedures, the Company has caused CUSIP numbers to be printed on the Securities as a convenience to the Holders of the Securities. No representation is made as to the accuracy of such number as printed on the Securities and reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers printed hereon.

14. Absolute Obligation.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Security or the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on this Security in the manner, at the respective times, at the rate and in the coin or currency herein prescribed.

15. No Recourse.

No recourse under or upon any obligation, covenant or agreement contained in the Indenture or in any Security, or because of any indebtedness evidenced thereby, shall be had against any incorporator, past, present or future stockholder, officer or director, as such of the Company or of any successor, either directly or through the Company or of any successor, either directly or through the Company or any successor, under any rule of law, statute or constitutional provision or by the enforcement of any assessment or by any legal or equitable proceeding or otherwise, all such liability being expressly waived and released by the acceptance of the Security by the Holder and as part of the consideration for the issue of the Security.

16. Governing Law.

This Security shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of New York.

SCHEDULE OF EXCHANGES OF DEFINITIVE SECURITY

The following exchanges of a part of this Book-Entry Security for definitive Securities have been made:

Amount of
Amount of
Principal
Amount
decrease
in
increase
in of this
Book-Entry
Signature
of
Principal
Amount
Principal
Amount
Security
following
authorized
officer of
this Book-
Entry of
this Book-
Entry such
decrease
of Trustee
or Date of
Exchange
Security
Security
(or
increase)
Security
Custodian

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

OFFICERS' CERTIFICATE DELIVERED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 301 OF THE INDENTURE DATED AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

The undersigned, the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Waste Management, Inc. (the "Company"), hereby certify that:

1. This Certificate is delivered to JPMorgan Chase Bank, as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank, as trustee (the "Trustee"), pursuant to Sections 102 and 301 of the Indenture dated as of September 10, 1997 between the Company, formerly known as USA Waste Services, Inc., and the Trustee in connection with the Company Order dated November 20, 2001 (the "Order") for the authentication and delivery by the Trustee of \$400,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 6 1/2% Notes due 2008 ("Notes").

2. The undersigned have read Sections 102, 103, 301 and 303 of the Indenture and the definitions in the Indenture relating thereto.

3. The statements made herein are based either upon the personal knowledge of the persons making this Certificate or on information, data and reports furnished to such persons by the officers, counsel, department heads or employees of the Company who have knowledge of the facts involved.

4. The undersigned have examined the Order, and they have examined the covenants, conditions and provisions of the Indenture relating thereto.

5. In the opinion of the persons making this Certificate, they have made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable them to express an informed opinion as to whether or not all conditions provided for in the Indenture with respect to the Order have been complied with.

6. All conditions precedent provided in the Indenture to the authentication by the Trustee of \$400,000,000 aggregate principal amount of Notes have been complied with, and such Debt Securities may be delivered in accordance with the Order as provided in the Indenture.

7. The terms of the Notes (including the Form of Note) as set forth in Annex A to this Officers' Certificate have been approved by officers of the Company as duly authorized by resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Company as of April 30, 1999, May 14, 1999 and November 3, 2001 and such resolutions, copies of which are attached hereto as Annex B, are in full force and effect as of the date hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto executed this Certificate as of November 20, 2001.

/s/ WILLIAM L. TRUBECK

William L. Trubeck
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

/s/ DAVID P. STEINER

David P. Steiner
Senior Vice President, General Counsel
and Corporate Secretary

TERMS OF THE NOTES

Pursuant to authority granted by the Board of Directors of the Company on April 30, 1999, May 14, 1999 and November 3, 2001, the Company has approved the establishment, issuance, execution and delivery of a new series of Securities (as defined in the Indenture) to be issued under the Indenture dated as of September 10, 1997 (the "Indenture"), between the Company, formerly known as USA Waste Services, Inc., and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank, as trustee (the "Trustee"), the terms of which are set forth below. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein are used herein as defined in the Indenture.

- (1) The title of the series of Securities shall be "6 1/2% Senior Notes due 2008" (the "Notes").
- (2) The Notes shall be general unsecured, senior obligations of the Company.
- (3) The initial aggregate principal amount of the Notes which may be authenticated and delivered under the Indenture shall be \$400,000,000 (except for Notes authenticated and delivered upon registration of transfer of, or in exchange for, or in lieu of, other Notes pursuant to Section 304, 305, 306, 907 or 1107 of the Indenture).
- (4) The principal amount of each Note shall be payable on November 15, 2008.
- (5) Each Note shall bear interest from November 20, 2001 at the fixed rate of 6 1/2% per annum; the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable shall be May 15 and November 15 ("Interest Payment Dates"), of each year, commencing May 15, 2002, until maturity unless such date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, in which case, such payment shall be made on the next day that is a Business Day; the record date for the determination of Holders to whom interest is payable shall be May 1 or November 1, respectively, immediately preceding such date, as the case may be.
- (6) The Notes are to be issued as Registered Securities. Each Note is to be issued as a book-entry note ("Book-Entry Note") but in certain circumstances may be represented by Notes in definitive form. The Book-Entry Notes shall be issued, in whole or in part, in the form of one or more Notes in global form as contemplated by Section 203 of the Indenture. The Depository for such Notes shall be The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York.
- (7) Payments of principal of, premium, if any, and interest due on the Notes representing Book-Entry Notes on any Interest Payment Date or at maturity will be made available to the Trustee by 11:00 a.m., New York

City time, on such date, unless such date falls on a day which is not a Business Day, in which case such payments will be made available to the Trustee by 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next Business Day. As soon as possible thereafter, the Trustee will make such payments to the Depository.

- (8) The Notes will be redeemable, at the option of the Company, at any time in whole, or from time to time in part, at a Redemption Price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed or (ii) the sum of the present value of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest (at the rate in effect on the date of calculation of the Redemption Price) thereon (exclusive of interest accrued to the Redemption Date) discounted to the Redemption Date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360 day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the applicable Treasury Yield (as defined in the Notes) plus 25 basis points; plus, in either case, accrued interest to the Redemption Date.
- (9) The Notes shall not be redeemable through the operation of any sinking fund or analogous provision.
- (10) The Notes will be subject to defeasance and discharge as contemplated by Section 1302 of the Indenture and to covenant defeasance under Section 1303 of the Indenture.
- (11) The Notes shall be entitled to the benefit of the covenants contained in Sections 1008 and 1009 of the Indenture.
- (12) The Trustee shall serve initially as Security Registrar for the Notes.
- (13) The Notes shall be substantially in the form of Exhibit A hereto.

EXHIBIT A
TO
TERMS OF NOTES
[FORM OF BOOK-ENTRY NOTE]

RESOLUTIONS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2001, the Board of Directors previously adopted resolutions authorizing certain officers of the Company to effect borrowings or securities offerings up to an aggregate of \$600 million; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors desires to increase the aggregate amount the Company is authorized to borrow under such resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the Company anticipates that a portion of the financing will be through convertible notes, which may result in certain purchasers of such notes selling short or otherwise disposing of Company Common Stock (the "Common Stock"); and

WHEREAS, the Company desires to offset any imbalance position caused by the potential disposal of the Common Stock by implementing a stock buy-back program to repurchase shares of Common Stock on the open market ("Stock Buy-Back Program"), such repurchase of shares not to exceed \$100 million in fair market value of the Common Stock and not to continue beyond thirty days past the closing of the offering;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors on September 7, 2001, authorizing certain officers of the Company to effect borrowings or securities offerings up to an aggregate of \$600 million be, and they hereby are, superceded and rescinded; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Treasurer, and the Secretary of the Company (the "Authorized Officers") be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, for and on behalf of the Company, to issue up to \$800 Million (net proceeds to the Company) of debt securities, consisting of fixed maturity senior unsecured debt and zero coupon, subordinated convertible debt, each upon such terms and conditions as the Authorized Officers deem necessary or appropriate; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that, for a period of up to thirty days subsequent to the closing of any debt offering contemplated hereby, the Company take the appropriate action to conduct a Stock Buy-Back Program through its stock transfer agent, Mellon Investor Services LLC, or through any other financial institution and upon such terms and conditions, including price, deemed appropriate by the Authorized

Officers, in accordance with applicable law, such repurchase of shares not to exceed \$100 million in fair market value of the Common Stock; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that such shares of Common Stock repurchased by the Company shall be retained in the Company's treasury; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Authorized Officers of the Company be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of the Company, (i) to engage such financial institutions, investment banking firms or other advisors to underwrite or assist with such debt issuance, on such terms and conditions as they deem advisable or appropriate and (ii) to take or cause to be taken any and all such actions and to enter into, execute and deliver any and all such acknowledgments, agreements, certificates, contracts, indentures, instruments, notices, statements, powers of attorney and other documents, or to effect any filings, registrations, qualifications or applications with any and all appropriate regulatory authorities, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, any applicable state securities commission or agency, the New York Stock Exchange and any credit rating agency, as may be required or as any such Authorized Officer may deem necessary, advisable or appropriate to effectuate and carry out the transactions contemplated by, and the purposes and intent of, the foregoing resolutions; all such actions to be performed in such manner and all such acknowledgments, agreements, certificates, contracts, indentures, instruments, notices, statements, powers of attorney and documents to be executed and delivered in such form as the officer performing or executing the same shall approve, such officer's performance or execution and delivery thereof to be conclusive evidence of such approval and the approval thereof by this Board of Directors; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the form of any additional resolutions required in connection with the borrowings of funds or the Stock Buy-Back Program described above be and hereby is approved and adopted, provided the Authorized Officers, on the advice of counsel, consider the adoption thereof necessary or advisable, in which case the Secretary of the Company is hereby directed to insert as an appendix hereto a copy of such resolutions, which shall thereupon be deemed to have been adopted by this Board of Directors with the same force and effect as if set out verbatim herein; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Secretary and any Assistant Secretary of the Company be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of the Company, to certify and attest any documents that such Secretary or any such Assistant Secretary may deem necessary, advisable or appropriate to consummate the transactions

contemplated by the documents heretofore authorized and approved, provided that such attestation shall not be required for the due authorization, execution and delivery or validity of the particular document; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the authority granted to the Authorized Officers of the Company under the foregoing resolutions shall be deemed to include, in the case of each such resolution the authority to perform such further acts and deeds for and on behalf of the Company as may be necessary, advisable or appropriate, in the judgment of any such officer, to carry out the transactions contemplated thereby, and all acts and deeds previously performed by any of the officers or counsel to the Company prior to the date hereof that are within the authority conferred by the foregoing resolutions be and each of them hereby is approved, ratified and confirmed in all respects as the authorized acts and deeds of the Company.

[BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. LETTERHEAD]

November 20, 2001

018484.0200

Banc of America Securities LLC
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.
Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
ABN AMRO Incorporated
Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation
Fleet Securities, Inc.
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Lehman Brothers Inc.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated
PNC Capital Markets, Inc.

c/o J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.
270 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.
6 1/2% SENIOR NOTES DUE 2008

Gentlemen:

This opinion is being furnished pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Underwriting Agreement dated November 15, 2001 (the "Underwriting Agreement") by and between Waste Management, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and Banc of America Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Salomon Smith Barney Inc., as Representatives of the several Underwriters named in Schedule II of the Underwriting Agreement (the "Underwriters"), relating to the issuance and sale by the Company to the Underwriters of \$400,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Company's 6 1/2% Senior Notes due 2008 (the "Notes") to be issued pursuant to an Indenture (the "Indenture") dated as of September 10, 1997 between the Company, formerly known as USA Waste Services, Inc., and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as successor to The Chase Manhattan Bank, as trustee (the "Trustee"). Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such terms in the Underwriting Agreement.

The Company has prepared and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") a registration statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-80063) for the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"),

of the offering and sale of debt securities, including the Notes, from time to time in accordance with Rule 415 of the rules and regulations under the Securities Act. For purposes hereof, "Effective Date" means the date and time as of which Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to such registration statement was declared effective by the Commission. Such registration statement, as amended pursuant to the Securities Act, including all documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference therein, is hereinafter referred to as the "Registration Statement," and the Company's prospectus dated February 14, 2000, as supplemented by the Company's prospectus supplement thereto dated November 15, 2001, all as first filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, is hereinafter referred to as the "Final Prospectus."

We have examined the originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified, of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Company, each as amended to date, corporate records of the Company and certain subsidiaries, including minute books of the Company and certain subsidiaries, as furnished to us by the Company, certificates of public officials and of representatives of the Company, statutes and other instruments and documents, as a basis for the opinions hereinafter expressed. In giving the opinions set forth below, we have relied upon certificates, statements or other representations of officers or authorized agents of the Company with respect to the accuracy of the factual matters contained in or covered by such certificates, statements or representations. In making our examination, we have assumed that all signatures on all documents examined by us are genuine, all documents submitted to us as originals are authentic and complete, all documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies are true and correct copies of the originals thereof and that all information submitted to us was accurate and complete.

On the basis of the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations, qualifications and exceptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Company is a corporation duly incorporated and validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware.
2. The Company has corporate power and authority to own, lease and operate its properties and to conduct its business as described in the Final Prospectus and to execute and deliver and perform its obligations under the Underwriting Agreement.
3. The Underwriting Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.
4. The Indenture has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and (assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery thereof by the Trustee) constitutes a valid and binding agreement of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting enforcement of creditors' rights and remedies generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

5. The global certificate representing the Notes is in a form authorized by the Indenture, the Notes have been duly authorized by the Company and, assuming the global certificate representing the Notes has been authenticated by the Trustee in the manner provided for in the Indenture and delivered against payment of the consideration therefor specified in the Underwriting Agreement, the Notes constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as the enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, reorganization, moratorium or similar laws affecting enforcement of creditors' rights and remedies generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles of equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law), and each registered holder thereof is entitled to the benefits of the Indenture.

6. The Indenture has been duly qualified under the 1939 Act.

7. The Notes and the Indenture conform as to legal matters in all material respects to the descriptions thereof contained in the Final Prospectus.

8. The Registration Statement has been declared effective under the Act; any required filing of the Final Prospectus pursuant to Rule 424(b) has been made in the manner and within the time period required by Rule 424(b); and, to the best of our knowledge, no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or threatened under the Act.

9. No authorization, approval, consent or license of any regulatory body or authority (other than under the Act, the 1939 Act and the securities or Blue Sky laws of the various states) and no approval of the stockholders of the Company is required for the valid authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Notes by the Company, or performance of the Indenture.

10. The execution and delivery of the Underwriting Agreement, the consummation of the transactions contemplated in the Underwriting Agreement and compliance with the terms of the Underwriting Agreement and the Indenture, do not and will not conflict with or result in a breach of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, the charter or by-laws of the Company or its subsidiaries listed on Schedule I (the "Subsidiaries"), or any indenture, mortgage or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or its Subsidiaries is a party or by which they or any of their property is bound that is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or to any of the documents incorporated by reference in the Final Prospectus, or any existing applicable laws, rule, regulation (excluding any securities or anti-fraud law, rule or regulation).

11. The Company is not an "investment company" or an entity "controlled" by an "investment company," as such terms are defined in the 1940 Act.

12. Neither the Company nor any subsidiary is a "holding company" or a "public utility," as such terms are defined in the 1935 Act.

On the basis of our review described below, we also advise you that the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus, excluding the documents incorporated by reference therein and the financial statements and other financial data and supporting schedules included therein or omitted therefrom and the Trustee's Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1, as to which we have not been asked to comment, as of the Effective Date and its issue date, respectively, appear on their face to have been appropriately responsive in all material respects with the requirements of the Securities Act.

In addition, we have participated in conferences with officers and other representatives of the Company, counsel employed by the Company, representatives of the independent public accountants of the Company, representatives of the Underwriters and counsel to the Underwriters at which the contents of the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus were discussed and, although we did not independently verify such information and are not passing upon and do not assume any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained in the Registration Statement and the Final Prospectus (other than as set forth in paragraph 7 above), on the basis of the foregoing, no facts came to our attention that led us to believe that the Registration Statement (other than the financial statements, the notes thereto and the auditors' reports thereon and the related schedules and the other financial and accounting data included or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, and the exhibits thereto, as to which we have not been asked to comment) as of the date of the Underwriting Agreement contained an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, or that the Final Prospectus (other than the financial statements, the notes thereto and the auditors' reports thereon and the related schedules and the other financial and accounting data included or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, as to which we have not been asked to comment) as of its issue date or the Closing Date contained or contains an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

The opinions set forth above are limited in all respects to matters of the laws of the State of Texas, the contract law of the State of New York, the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and applicable federal law of the United States, each as in effect on the date hereof. The opinions set forth above are solely for the benefit of the Underwriters in connection with the transactions consummated on the date hereof pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement and may be relied upon only by the Underwriters named therein and may not be relied upon by any other person or for any other purpose. This opinion speaks as of the date hereof, and we disclaim any obligation to update this opinion.

Very truly yours,

/s/ BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

SCHEDULE I

SUBSIDIARIES OF THE COMPANY

Waste Management Holdings, Inc.

Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc.

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation by reference of our report dated March 7, 2001, included in Waste Management, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, into the Prospectus Supplement dated November 15, 2001 relating to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-80063) and all references to our Firm included in the Prospectus Supplement and Registration Statement.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

/s/ ARTHUR ANDERSON LLP

Houston, Texas
November 15, 2001