

Report to Council

To: Waterworks Committee
From: Administration
File #: DOP-CC-15
Date: February 8, 2021
Re: WPCF Upgrading Status

For Information

Tasks undertaken since mid-December regarding the Portage la Prairie Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Upgrading project include:

- 1) Discussed and resolved some details of the proposed project funding agreements with Manitoba Sustainable Infrastructure Secretariat. These have not yet been received.
- 2) City staff and AECOM recently began development of a Design-Build tender document for the design and construction of a Utility maintenance shop and staff facility adjacent to the Operations Department Public Works yard. A topographical survey was completed by City staff. This facility will be needed by the City when the WPCF contract operator takes over the WPCF site and those facilities are no longer available to the City. Federal and Provincial funding under the ICIP program will not be increased for this work.
- 3) Three proponents have been selected to prepare submissions in response to a Request for Proposal and were notified of their success in achieving this objective.
- 4) Submission debriefs were held with all four proponents who responded to the RFQ.
- 5) The Project Agreement and Request for Proposal documents continue to be developed. It is intended to issue the RFP in March. The team held further discussion on technical aspects of the scope of the treatment components of the final contract. Defining the influent wastewater mass loading and quality is a key concern. Not all industrial treatment capacity requirements have been confirmed. These influent figures will set their wastewater loading limits to be incorporated into their service agreements. (Note: The Functional Design Report, the upgrading cost estimate, and the application for funding did not consider any allowance for industrial expansion. Due to requests from Industry to accommodate potential processing expansion, a few iterations of preliminary cost estimates have been generated for an expanded treatment facility. These additional capital costs would be 100% attributable to the respective Industry, assuming no additional grant funding becomes available. These capital costs would be financed by ProjectCo and incorporated into the City's annual service payment.)
- 6) The team held further discussion on risk retention by the City and allocation to the Contractor. The risk allocation is to be specified in the Project Agreement.

- 7) City staff were apprised of the results of the RFQ submission evaluations. A number of questions about the project in relation to jobs have been raised by staff and are being addressed.
- 8) The City's team continued to compile background information for the prospective proponents to the Project RFP. Additional influent wastewater and biogas sampling and testing has been conducted. This additional information will help reduce the risk, and ultimately reduce the cost for the City for unquantified risk.
- 9) AECOM has recently begun developing a basic Odour dispersion computer model to enable criteria to be set for maximum odour limits at the site, adjacent to the site and in nearby residential areas of the City. Weather data is to be obtained from Environment Canada and provided to the three proponents. Odour control will be a prime objective in the upgrading of the WPCF.
- 10) The Environment Act Licence was received from Manitoba Conservation and Climate Environmental Approvals. Generally, the licence limits are as anticipated, except for the ammonia nitrogen daily mass limit, which is significantly lower than in the previous licence. This is due to Simplot being granted a significant portion of the Assiniboine River's assimilative capacity and due to the reduction of the defined total assimilative capacity of the river. This might not have an impact on the design of the treatment facility due to the need to meet effluent toxicity standards regardless.
- 11) City staff and McKim Communications, the Communications Advisor, held a meeting with Roquette to determine their interest in being a part of City issued communications and to provide Roquette an update on the wastewater treatment project. Roquette was invited to mention the wastewater project in their announcements related to their commitment to environmental sustainability. All communications regarding funding issues and significant milestone events are to be vetted through the Province, who will also provide translation services to the French language.

Tasks over the next month will include reviewing and proposing amendments to the ICIP and Provincial funding agreements, if received; finalizing the scope of work for the Request for Proposals and the Project Agreement; preparing the odour dispersion model; issuing the DB tender for the Utility maintenance building; conduct a geotechnical investigation for the Utility maintenance building; and compiling additional historical documents and wastewater characterization documents to be made available to the proponents. City staff, with assistance from legal counsel, will collate human resources documents and develop the approach and terms of reference for the transfer of staff to the new contractor. The development of revised industrial service agreements will begin after the RFP is issued.