

Environment Committee

Meeting date: March 26, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 10, 2013

Subject: Authorization to Hold a Public Hearing on the Draft Facility Plan for Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Processing Improvements, MCES Project No. 807400

District(s), Member(s): Districts 4, Gary VanEyll; District 16, Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: PFA Loan Rules

Staff Prepared/Presented: Bill Cook, 651-602-1811; Bryce Pickart 651-602-1091

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the General Manager of Environmental Services to hold a public hearing on the Draft Facility Plan for Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Processing Improvements, MCES Project No. 807400.

Background

The Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant was expanded to 24 mgd liquid treatment capacity in 2006. Solids processing capacity expansion was deferred.

The draft Facility Plan recommends increasing primary digester capacity and increasing dewatered cake storage capacity at the Empire Plant to accommodate growth. A phased approach of expanding existing facilities to continue the Class B biosolids land application program is recommended as the least cost alternative (present worth basis) compared to the other technologies evaluated.

The first phase of the plan will include conversion of two existing secondary digesters to primary digesters, a 650 kW combined heat and power system to convert biogas to electricity, and a biogas storage and treatment system. The first phase will conduct a biosolids cake storage demonstration of covered storage and alternative cake stacking methods to improve utilization of the existing dewatered cake storage pads. Cake storage improvements will include pad drainage pumping and equalization.

The project will provide a 33% increase in primary digestion capacity and an estimated \$350,000 annual savings in electricity. The estimated capital cost is \$15,000,000.

Rationale

Public Facilities Authority (PFA) funding eligibility requires a public hearing before submitting the Facility Plan to the MPCA.

Funding

Funds for project planning and design are included in the 2013 Capital Program. MCES will request construction funding for 2014.

Known Support / Opposition

A public hearing is scheduled to be held in the City of Farmington in May 2013.