

Environment Committee

Meeting date: August 28, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 12, 2018

Subject: Empire Polymer Contract

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract to Polydyne, Inc. of Riceboro, GA to provide Clarifloc polymers at a unit price of \$0.89 per pound delivered to the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant. This contract will be for a period of two years with an option to extend for three additional one-year periods with the total procurement not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

NOTE: Correction to paragraph 3 under “background” section of the business item. Strike out first sentence and replace with “The trial results were 21-27 active pound polymer per dry ton of sludge processed at a cost of \$45.57-\$56.36 per dry ton of sludge dewatered.” Correction reflected in the business item below.

Is polymer a plastic? Staff clarified it is comprised of petroleum products and water but are not considered a hazardous material. In addition, polymers are widely used for dewatering wastewater treatment processes. At Empire, solids are land applied.

Chair Rummel asked for details of why polymer is not harmful to the environment. Staff will obtain this information and share with Committee members.

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District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000

Staff Prepared/Presented: Joseph Ward, 651-602-8302

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

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Background

Polymer is a conditioning chemical, which aids in the removal of water while processing sludge solids on mechanical equipment such as centrifuges and belt presses. A formal, advertised Invitation for Bids was issued on December 8, 2017. Two bids were received and opened on February 1, 2018.

Following the receipt of sealed polymer bids, an evaluation process is conducted which includes a full-scale evaluation of polymer performance along with an evaluation of the bids to identify the most effective polymer at the lowest cost to the Council. At the conclusion of this process, Polydyne, Inc. was determined to be the vendor that met evaluation process requirements.

Polymer unit costs ranged from \$21-\$27 per dry ton of sludge processed. The trial results were 21-27 active pound polymer per dry ton of sludge processed at a cost of \$45.57-\$56.36 per dry ton of sludge dewatered. Estimated expenditures for this procurement are \$200,000 annually.

Rationale

Council authorization is required for purchases over \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcome of stewardship. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to maintain proper operation of the Metropolitan Disposal System which protects the region's natural resources.

Funding

Funds are available in the treatment plant operating budget

Known Support / Opposition

None