

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: November 8, 2023

Business Item: 2023-248

Seneca Polymer Contract 22P297

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P248A with Polydyne Inc. to provide polymer to Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant in amount not to exceed \$7,048,000.

Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

- CM Cederberg asked: You mentioned that only one vendor bid was received, did the others technically fail?
- Staff responded: We had 3 vendor and 4 products that qualified. One vendor had three products, that all failed. The last competitor decided not to bid.
- CM Wulff asked: Was the price what we expected?
- Staff responded: Yes, it is what we expected. It is the same prices that we currently have.
- CM Lindstrom asked: We have used this vendor before, correct?
- Staff responded: Yes, Polydyne is the major polymer manufacturer for the municipal wastewater treatment market.

Motion by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales. Motion carried.



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Seneca Polymer, Contract 22P297A

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Rebecca Hurley, Senior Engineer, 651-602-4474
Division/Department:	Environmental Services/Process Engineering, R&D, and Air Quality

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P297A with Polydyne, Inc., to provide polymer to the Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$7,048,000.

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.

This procurement followed a two-step process. An Invitation for Prequalification was issued on January 9, 2023. The purpose of this solicitation is to identify the most effective polymer through a full-scale evaluation of their performance and prequalify those vendors. Only vendors that are prequalified are allowed to participate in the Invitation for Bids which is the second step in the procurement process.

Three vendors performed full-scale performance tests with a total of eight polymer products. After the full-scale testing, two vendors and four polymer products prequalified to participate in the Invitation for Bids.

The Invitation for Bids was issued on September 6, 2023. There were eight registered planholders, six suppliers, two plan rooms, and two planholders identified as minority, woman, veteran, small, or disadvantaged business enterprises. On September 28, 2023, a public bid opening was facilitated, and one bid was received. Procurement staff did not find any indication that the Council's specifications were restrictive and determined there was adequate competition for this project. Polydyne Inc. was determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder and is being recommended for award.

Polymer unit costs ranged from \$56.04 to \$70.27 per dry ton of sludge processed. This contract will provide polymer at a unit price of \$1.66 per pound for a period of two years with an option to extend for three additional one-year periods. Estimated expenditures are \$1,210,000 annually and up to \$7,048,000 over a five-year period with price adjustments based on the Producer Price Index for Plastic Material and Resins Manufacturing.

Rationale

The execution of a professional service, goods contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

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.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) thoroughly reviewed this procurement for Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) opportunities in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations as well as contract specifications. Upon conclusion of OEEO's research and analysis, no MCUB goal was set.

