

E Environment Committee

Item: 2012-59

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 22, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: February 15, 2012

Subject: Adoption of the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800, Resolution 2012-4

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council adopts the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800, per the attached Resolution No. 2012-4.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Melander encouraged staff to consider using Minnesota manufacturer of solar panels. Staff said that issue will be addressed after funding is secured.

Rummel commented on the low attendance at the public hearing and asked about getting better attendance. Staff responded that attendance depends on the nature of the project, and this did not seem to be a high priority for invitees. High attendance has occurred on some projects, especially sewer projects. Council Member Van Eyll said he attended the hearing, and elected local officials were very much in favor of the project – with funding assistance to avoid an impact on wastewater rates.

Motion to approve proposed action was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

E Environment Committee

Meeting date: February 14, 2012

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of February 22, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	February 6, 2012
Subject:	Adoption of the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800, Resolution 2012-4
District(s), Member(s):	District 1, Roxanne Smith; District 3, Jennifer Munt; District 4, Gary Van Eyll
Policy/Legal Reference:	PFA Loan Rules
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Rene Heflin, 651-602-1077; Bryce Pickart, 651-602-1091
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore, 651-602-1162

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council adopts the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements, MCES Project No. 801800, per the attached Resolution No. 2012-4.

Background

The facility plan amendment recommends installing a static non-tracking solar photovoltaic system of up to 1.25 Megawatt AC on approximately 15 acres of buffer land owned by the Metropolitan Council and located on the west side of its Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant in Shakopee. The static system was selected as the lowest capital cost alternative compared to single and dual tracking systems. System capacity was selected to not exceed the plant's minimum daytime energy consumption.

The project will include the solar panel facility, consisting of approximately 5,400 modules, electrical connection to the plant's power distribution system, fencing and a small berm for flood protection. The estimated capital cost is \$6.8 million.

The proposed solar system will provide about 13% of the plant's current average electrical load. The project's estimated energy cost savings is slightly over \$100,000 per year. This results in a 25-year net present value (NPV) savings of \$2.6 million.

The total project 25-year NPV cost of \$4.4 million indicates that this project is not cost effective without additional outside funding. Therefore, before constructing the Blue Lake Solar Power Facility, MCES will seek the financial support necessary to improve the Council's lifecycle costs to the break-even point to ensure that additional ratepayer costs are not incurred as a result of this project.

Rationale

Public Facilities Authority (PFA) funding eligibility requires formal adoption of the Facility Plan Amendment by resolution (attached), following a public hearing on the draft Facility Plan Amendment.

Funding

Funds for project planning and design are included in the 2012 Capital Program. However if outside financial assistance is not secured, the project will not proceed without additional action of the Council. MCES will submit this project addition to PFA for inclusion in its 2013 Intended Use Plan.

Known Support/Opposition

A public hearing was held on January 31, 2012. No significant project opposition has arisen. The public comment period ends February 10, 2012.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 ROBERT STREET NORTH, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101
651/602-1000 TDD 651/602-0904

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-4

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING
THE FACILITY PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE
BLUE LAKE PLANT IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. 801800**

WHEREAS:

1. The Metropolitan Council is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota and has statutory responsibility for operating the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional wastewater collection and treatment system.
2. The Facility Plan Amendment recommends installing a static non-tracking solar photovoltaic system of up to 1.25 Megawatts AC on approximately 15 acres of buffer land owned by the Metropolitan Council on the west side of its Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant.
3. A draft Facility Plan Amendment for the project has been completed and a public hearing was held on January 31, 2012, to discuss and collect comments on the proposed project and the draft Facility Plan Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL that the Facility Plan Amendment for the Blue Lake Plant Improvements, Project Number 801800, is hereby approved and adopted.

Adopted this 22nd day of February, 2012.

Susan Haigh, Chair

Susan Harder, Recording Secretary