

E Environment Committee

Meeting date: April 24, 2007

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of May 9, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	April 17, 2007
Subject:	Authorization for Sole Source Procurement of Fine Bubble Aeration Diffusers for Seneca Plant, MCES Project No. 801900
District(s), Member(s):	5, Russ Susag; 15, Daniel Wolter; 16, Brian McDaniel
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3, Expenditures
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Bryce Pickart, 651-602-1091
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore, 651-602-1162

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to procure ceramic fine bubble aeration diffusers for the Seneca Plant Improvements, MCES Project No. 801900, from Engineering America at a cost not to exceed \$296,000.

Issue(s)

- Sole source procurements exceeding \$250,000 require authorization by the Metropolitan Council.

Overview and Funding

Air for biological treatment at the Seneca Plant is supplied through ceramic fine bubble aeration diffusers installed about nine inches above the floor of the aeration tanks. These types of diffusers create tiny air bubbles, which are the most efficient means to transfer oxygen to the biological organisms. The existing Seneca Plant aeration tanks have approximately 22,000 diffusers supplied by Engineering America (Sanitaire).

The Seneca Plant Improvements project will modify the aeration tanks to efficiently and effectively remove phosphorus to meet a 1 mg/l effluent permit limit. Approximately 6,200 additional aeration diffusers are needed. Half the diffusers will be installed on existing piping with spare holders. Half the diffusers will be installed with new air piping and holders. The existing diffusers will remain in place.

The opportunity to competitively bid the new diffusers is constrained by three issues: (a) diffusers from other manufacturers have different headloss through the diffuser, making it difficult to control air flow rates, which will waste significant energy (more than the potential cost savings from competitive bidding); (b) operation will be more complex, which will also add costs; and (c) the major competing manufacturer has indicated that they will not accept liability for air balancing of the system.

The proposed approach for the Seneca Plant Improvements is to obtain a firm price quotation from Engineering America for the additional diffusers, to include that price on the construction bid form, and for Engineering America to be a sub-contractor to the general construction contractor.

BUDGET INFORMATION					
Annual or Capital	Year Project Approved	Estimated Project Cost	Current Auth.	Unencumbered Funds	Requested Amount
Capital	2007	\$26,000,000	\$26,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$296,000