

# E Environment Committee

Business Item

Item: 2009 – 67

Meeting date: February 10, 2009

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of February 25, 2009

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

**Date:** January, 27,2009  
**Subject:** Authorization to Renew Qwest Frame Relay Circuits for the Metering & Alarm Telemetry System  
**District(s), Member(s):** All  
**Policy/Legal Reference:** Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services Over \$250,000  
**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Bill Moeller 651-602-4504  
**Division/Department:** MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to renew the contract with the Qwest Corporation for frame relay circuits for the metering & alarm telemetry system for a period of 60 months.

### Background

The metering & alarm telemetry system utilizes a network of frame relay circuits to monitor and communicate with lift stations and other facilities across the region. This frame relay network enables 7 days a week 24-hour per day monitoring and control of the interceptor sites from the Regional Maintenance Facility in Eagan, Minnesota.

The original 36-month master contract with Qwest that provides leased frame relay circuits to most of MCES lift stations (55 sites) has expired. The proposed renewal maintains the low cost of a multi year agreement.

The utilization of the frame relay circuits has resulted in a cost savings, compared to the previous data circuits, of approximately \$ 65,000 per year.

### Rationale

The Qwest Frame Relay network has been used the past three years by the metering & alarm system and it has proven to be a safe, secure and reliable technology.

- Qwest Corporation is the sole provider for the frame relay service in this area.
- Substantial cost savings of approximately \$2000/month (\$120,000 total) with the 60-month contract compared to normal month-to-month rate.

Frame relay technology will meet the needs of the metering & alarm system for the next 5 years.

### Funding

Term	Monthly Cost	Total Cost
60 months	\$4984/month	\$299,040

Funds are available in the Annual Operating Budget for this service.

### Known Support / Opposition

None.