



## DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES

**Department of Utilities**  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
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### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 2, 2025  
**To:** Chairperson Vered Meltzer and Members of the Utilities Committee  
**From:** Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities  
**CC:** Ryan Rice, Deputy Director of Utilities  
**Subject:** **Utilities Committee Action: Award AWWTP Digester Cleaning and Inspection Support contract to Staab Construction Corporation in the amount of \$122,600 with a 15% contingency of \$18,390 for a total not to exceed \$140,990**

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### BACKGROUND:

The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) operates two 2.2-million gallon (Mgal) egg-shaped digesters (ESDs) that produce methane and carbon dioxide through the biological conversion of organic material under anaerobic conditions present in the ESDs. The ESDs are the primary treatment process that stabilizes and reduces volume of the several solids waste streams from various treatment processes along with hauled-in, high-strength waste. These waste streams are comingled and then pumped to the ESDs for treatment. The ESDs operate in the mesophilic range (85 - 100°F), typically at 95°F. Digester gas (DG) generated by the anaerobic process is collected at the top of the ESDs. Each digester is 113.56-feet tall and 80-feet in diameter at the girth. The nominal liquid height is 105.5 ft. The two ESDs are designed to operate in parallel, providing a total digestion volume of 4.4-Mgal.

The ESDs were originally commissioned in 1993 and were last taken offline in 2010 and 2011 as part of an inspection, maintenance, and improvements project. The interior inspections performed as part of that work found much of the coating system to be largely intact. However, there was evidence where areas of the coal tar epoxy finish had lost thickness or was nearly absent at the lower elevations of the ESDs. Interior coating repairs or wholesale replacement were not recommended at that time because the interior carbon steel did not show signs of substantial corrosion or metal deterioration except for localized shallow pitting at some of the welded seams.

Donohue was contracted in September 2024 to develop the most effective method to perform ESD inspections, anticipated maintenance and repairs including planned improvements with the least downtime and impact to treatment operations. On June 6, 2026, Donohue facilitated a formal Request for Quotation (RFQ) process on behalf of the Appleton Department of Utilities, Wastewater Division. The RFQ included a scope of work that will target the interior inspection of the lower elevation of one ESD between August and September 2025. The findings of the inspection will provide important insights into the subsequent design phase and produce bidding documents for top-to-bottom inspections of both ESDs in 2026 along with other improvements identified by AWWTP staff.

## QUOTATION PROCESS

Donohue submitted RFQs to three firms on June 6, 2025. Each firm has successfully completed work at the AWWTP in the past and demonstrated the ability to effectively manage a complex scope of work such as this in a finite amount of time while ensuring safety and regulatory compliance. It is critical that the work provides an accurate assessment of this critical infrastructure by leveraging specialized expertise and experience.

A mandatory pre-quotation meeting was held at the AWWTP on June 17, 2025. Only two of the three firms attended the mandatory pre-quotation meeting and facility walkthrough. Quotations were received by July 2, 2025 deadline and are summarized below.

**Table 1: Digester Inspection Quote Summary**

Company	Quote
August Winter & Sons	DNP
JF Ahern	\$235,000
Staab Construction	\$122,600

DNP: Did not proposed.

## RECOMMENDATION:

I am recommending the contract award for the AWWTP Digester Cleaning and Inspection Support contract to Staab Construction Corporation in the amount of \$122,600 with a 15% contingency of \$18,390 for a total not to exceed \$140,990

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this project, please contact Chris Stempa at 920-832-2353.