



“Meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life.”

---

Department of Utilities  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
2006 E Newberry Street  
Appleton, WI 54915-3128  
920-832-5945 tel.  
920-832-5949 fax

**To:** Chairperson Vered Meltzer and Members of the Utilities Committee

**From:** Utilities Director Chris Shaw

**CC:** Chris Stempa, Utilities Deputy Director  
Kelli Rindt, Enterprise Fund Accounting Manager

**Date:** December 29, 2022

**Re:** *Action: Award sole source purchase of Goulds axial flow pump from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$133,876*

---

**BACKGROUND:**

The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) utilizes two large axial flow pumps in the solids operations train. These axial flow pumps have reliably operated since the late 1970's to blend post digested sludge to a homogenous state. That state of homogeneity is necessary for dewatering equipment and chemical delivery systems to optimize and reach engineered design conditions.

In November, it was discovered that the impeller on one of the axial flow pumps failed. This failed state makes the pump unusable and AWWTP staff are reduced to operating the remaining pump which reduces overall capacity by 50%. Staff are not able to perform an expedited repair because of the condition of the impeller. A custom fabricated replacement impeller was sought. However, the lead time could be up to 24 weeks and initial indication was that they would not warranty the replacement part because of the age and absence of existing equipment design drawings that would otherwise be relied upon to replicate fabricated parts.

A direct replacement axial flow pump was found available through Crane Engineering (Crane). Crane is the authorized distributor of this pump in Wisconsin. They provided a quote for a 5 month lead time, stainless steel pump (\$133,876).

The Utilities Department consulted Mayor Woodford regarding emergency purchase authorization because of the critical nature of this pump to wastewater treatment operations, the unique nature of the equipment, and the long lead time of even an expedited purchase. Mayor Woodford granted emergency purchased authorization of a cancellation expense of 15 percent of the purchase cost should the committee choose not to authorize the purchase. In

short, this approval under emergency authorization, will allow for a shorter lead time on the pump. As such, a purchase order submitted to Crane on Thursday, December 29, 2022. Notably, this pump failure was prior to the polymer incident on December 26, 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Utilities Department is seeking authorization to procure the stainless-steel pump sole source from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$133,876. It should be noted that there is a cancellation fee associated with this purchase. If this purchase was denied by the Utilities Committee or Common Council, The Utilities Department would be subject to \$20,081 fee or 15% of the original purchase price.

If you have any questions regarding the project or the associated change order, please contact Chris Shaw at 832-2362.