



COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-077-6 **DATE INTRODUCED:** June 8, 2026

INTRODUCED BY: Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Restore the Executive Director’s Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04064D01, Engineering Services – Chaff and Dryer Exhaust Systems Improvements at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to restore the Executive Director’s original delegated change order authority on Contract J04064D01, Engineering Services – Chaff and Dryer Exhaust Systems Improvements at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility (JIWRF), with Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead).

At JIWRF, the Dewatering and Drying (D&D) Facility processes biosolids from both JIWRF and the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility and produces Milorganite®. The Milorganite® production process uses up to 12 rotary dryers to heat-dry dewatered biosolids. The dryers use hot gases from turbines fueled by natural gas or landfill gas or use natural gas or landfill gas fired directly in the dryers. As the hot gases dry the sludge via direct contact, they accumulate particulate matter in the gas stream, which can result in air pollution if the particulate matter is not removed. To capture this particulate matter, each dryer discharges exhaust gases through an air pollution control system consisting of a dedicated cyclone separator, quench chamber, wet electrostatic precipitator, and induced draft fan.

Milorganite® production and transport create significant dust, chaff, and particulate matter that must be captured and disposed. This material must be managed, because it can create explosive conditions and health risks and is a source of air pollution. There are several collection, containment, and transfer systems within the D&D Facility that interact with the air pollution control system to remove particulate matter and transport the collected dust and chaff to luggers for disposal at a landfill.

ATTACHMENTS: BACKGROUND KEY ISSUES RESOLUTION
FISCAL NOTE SBE OTHER _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04064D01, Engineering Services – Chaff and Dryer Exhaust Systems Improvements at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

The chaff and dryer exhaust systems originally went into operation in 1994. The performance of the air pollution control systems is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources via air permits. Reliable and proper operation is critical to ensure continued air permit compliance. District staff created Project J04064, Chaff System Improvements, with the purpose of ensuring reliable biosolids processing, Milorganite® production, and air permit compliance.

In December 2024, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into Contract J04064D01 with Mead in the amount of \$2,572,373. The scope of the contract includes:

- Evaluating 12 dryer exhaust air pollution control systems consisting of cyclones, rotary valves, diverter valves, wet electrostatic precipitators, induced draft fans, and local controls.
- Reviewing two baghouse systems responsible for dust containment within the D&D Facility.
- Analyzing screw and drag conveyor systems, which transport dust and chaff to luggers for disposal at a landfill.
- Evaluating dust piping within the D&D Facility to improve the operation and performance of the dust collection system.
- Verifying the feasibility of recycling waste fines back into the Milorganite® production process. Successful recycling waste fines could increase Milorganite® production and reduce or eliminate waste fines disposal costs.

As this contract progressed, change orders were previously executed under the Executive Director's authority to provide engineering services for the following activities within the D&D Facility:

- Perform laboratory testing to develop combustibility and explosibility data for explosion mitigation design of the chaff and dryer exhaust systems.
- Conduct dust characterization testing to establish process equipment design criteria and fabricate a specialized pressure regulator device for leak testing wet electrostatic precipitators.
- Perform field testing to quantify waste stream mass flow rates within the chaff system for sizing future recycling equipment capacities.
- Sample air contaminants within D&D to evaluate the feasibility of recirculating process exhaust air instead of exhausting through the main stack.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04064D01,
Engineering Services – Chaff and Dryer Exhaust Systems Improvements at Jones
Island Water Reclamation Facility

For engineering service contracts greater than or equal to \$500,000, the Commission has delegated to the Executive Director the authority to make changes up to \$200,000 or 10% of the original contract price, whichever is less. For this contract, a limit of \$200,000 prevails. To date, the Executive Director has utilized \$199,829 of this authority, leaving a balance of \$171. The request to restore the Executive Director's authority is in case any additional changes beyond the remaining Executive Director's authority are necessary. Without this restored authority, work may need to stop while staff obtains necessary change order authority from the Commission.

RESOLUTION

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04064D01,
Engineering Services – Chaff and Dryer Exhaust Systems Improvements at Jones
Island Water Reclamation Facility

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director's original delegated change order authority is restored on Contract J04064D01, Engineering Services – Chaff and Dryer Exhaust Systems Improvements at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility, with Mead & Hunt, Inc.