



COMMISSION FILE NO: 25-007-1 **DATE INTRODUCED:** January 13, 2025

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

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Award of Contract S02017C01, Blower Branch Piping Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility, and Executive Director’s Change Order Authority for Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to award and to direct the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract S02017C01, Blower Branch Piping Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility (SSWRF), to J. F. Ahern Co. (Ahern) in the amount of \$1,916,000. Ahern was the lowest responsible, responsive bidder between two bids received.

Further, the Commission is requested to delegate \$50,000 in change order authority to the Executive Director for future change orders to Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at SSWRF.

SSWRF uses large quantities of compressed air to provide oxygen to the aeration basins in the secondary treatment process. Process air is conveyed from four blowers via individual 30-inch steel branch pipes into an underground 60-inch and 90-inch steel pipeline (the air header). The air header then conveys the process air approximately 1,730 feet from the Blower & Generator Building to the Aeration Buildings. Within the Aeration Buildings, pipelines branch off from the air header ultimately to serve individual aeration basins. The blower branch piping and air header went into service in approximately 1970.

In January 2020, one of the 30-inch blower branch pipes developed a leak, resulting in the need to shut down all process air to complete the emergency repair. SSWRF can only operate for six to 12 hours without process air before risking loss of the biological treatment process in the aeration basins.

ATTACHMENTS: BACKGROUND KEY ISSUES RESOLUTION
FISCAL NOTE S/W/MBE OTHER _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Award of Contract S02017C01, Blower Branch Piping Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility, and Executive Director's Change Order Authority for Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility

The purpose of this project is to restore the integrity of the blower branch piping and the air header. Since there is no isolation outside the Blower & Generator Building, a loss of one of these branch pipes or a failure of the air header, which is an integral part of the biological treatment process, can affect plant capacity, effluent quality, and the ability to meet the District's Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System effluent permit limits. The replacement of the corroded blower branch pipes and patching of corroded areas on the air header will mitigate the risk of failure and is expected to provide at least 30 years of reliable service.

Under Contract S02017C01, the contractor will:

- Provide mechanical bulkheads for temporary isolation of the blower branch piping.
- Replace the buried blower branch piping.
- Patch corroded areas of the air header near the blower branch pipes.
- Replace the blower branch piping, valves, and expansion joints inside the building.
- Provide new reinforced concrete pipe supports inside the building.
- Restore the cathodic protection system after replacing the buried pipes.
- Provide surface restoration of all areas disturbed by the work.

The contract duration is 965 days.

Staff will decrease the total cost for Project S02017, Process Air Header Improvements, by \$140,000 because the low bid is less than budgeted.

In May 2023, the District executed Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at SSWRF, with Donohue & Associates, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$268,710. The scope of Contract S02017D01 includes engineering design services, developing construction bid documents, bid and award services, and engineering services during construction, all related to Contract S02017C01.

Commission policy delegates to the Executive Director the authority to award contracts less than \$300,000 without Commission approval, which was done for Contract S02017D01. If the contract and cumulative change orders are \$300,000 or more, the Executive Director shall seek the approval of the Commission. To date, a change order totaling \$25,719 under the Executive Director's authority has been executed, leaving \$5,570 in remaining authority. Engineering services contracts under \$500,000 awarded by the Commission normally provide the Executive Director the authority to make changes up to \$50,000. The request to delegate \$50,000 in authority to the Executive Director for Contract S02017D01 is in case additional engineering services beyond the remaining \$5,570 are needed during construction.

RESOLUTION

Award of Contract S02017C01, Blower Branch Piping Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility, and Executive Director's Change Order Authority for Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that Contract S02017C01, Blower Branch Piping Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility, is awarded to J. F. Ahern Co. in the amount of \$1,916,000, and that the Executive Director is directed to execute a contract on behalf of the District.

FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is delegated \$50,000 in change order authority for future change orders to Contract S02017D01, Engineering Services – Blower Branch Pipe Replacement at South Shore Water Reclamation Facility.