

COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-089-7 **DATE INTRODUCED:** July 13, 2026

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

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Policy, Finance, and Personnel Committee

RELATING TO: Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with Midwest Fiber Networks for the Dedicated Use and Maintenance of Fiber Circuits for MMSD, Site to Site, and Internet Connectivity

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Midwest Fiber Networks for the dedicated use and maintenance of fiber circuits for MMSD, site to site, and internet connectivity for a 10-year period in an amount not to exceed \$1,350,000.

The fiber services described herein are essential to the District's site to site connectivity and internet operations across multiple facilities. Transitioning to an alternate carrier would introduce significant operational, technical, and financial risk to critical District systems.

The dark fiber ring forms the primary site to site backbone interconnecting the District's four major facilities across approximately 35 miles of dedicated fiber:

- Headquarters/Central Lab – 260 W Seeboth Street, Milwaukee
- Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility – 700 E. Jones Street, Milwaukee
- South Shore Water Reclamation Facility – 8500 S. 5th Avenue, Oak Creek
- 13th Street Facility – 6060 S. 13th Street, Milwaukee

This ring topology provides the redundant, high capacity backbone that interconnects the District's water reclamation facilities and operational sites. The ring architecture is critical, because it allows traffic to reroute automatically in the event of a single fiber cut, ensuring continuous operations at all sites.

The District maintains one gigabit-per-second dedicated fiber internet access circuits at two primary locations.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒
FISCAL NOTE ☒ **SBE** ☒ **OTHER** ☐ _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with Midwest Fiber Networks for the Dedicated Use and Maintenance of Fiber Circuits for MMSD, Site to Site, and Internet Connectivity

The fiber infrastructure provided by Midwest Fiber Networks is not a commodity service that can be easily substituted. It represents a purpose built, District-owned (via indefeasible rights of use) network backbone that has been specifically designed and maintained to support the District's multisite operational requirements over two decades. The combination of dark fiber ring connectivity, supplemental point to point capacity, and dedicated internet access constitutes a unified network infrastructure on which the District's most critical systems depend daily.

Renewing the service agreement with Midwest Fiber Networks for a 10-year term, effective August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2036, is the operationally sound, fiscally responsible, and lowest risk path forward for the District. The renewal preserves existing infrastructure investments, locks in stable pricing, and maintains the continuity of service at the District's water reclamation facilities.

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with Midwest Fiber Networks for the Dedicated Use and Maintenance of Fiber Circuits for MMSD, Site to Site, and Internet Connectivity

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is directed to execute a contract with Midwest Fiber Networks in the amount not to exceed \$1,350,000 for a 10-year period for the dedicated use and maintenance of fiber circuits for MMSD, site to site, and internet connectivity.