

Report to Civic Works Committee

To: Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

From: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

Subject: Approval of Roster of Vendors for Wastewater Solids
Disposal Services

Date: April 30, 2024

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to establishing a roster of solids disposal service providers:

- a) The roster for various solids disposal services **BE APPROVED** as submitted in accordance with Article 12.2.b of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- b) the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any contract or other documents, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.
- c) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project.

Executive Summary

The incinerator at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant is planned for rebuild over the second half of 2024. During this time, it will not be possible to process the waste solids generated at the City's treatment plants in the normal way. In order to ensure continued operation of the plants, it was determined that establishing a roster of multiple vendors capable of disposing of the waste solids provided the best risk mitigation for the City. This roster could also be of use for periods of downtime following the completion of the incinerator rebuild.

This report recommends the approval of establishing a roster of service providers necessary for the disposal of waste solids generated at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This report supports the 2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan in the following areas:

- Build infrastructure to support future development and protect the environment;
- Improve London's resiliency to respond to potential future challenges.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

Planned Rebuild of Incinerator Systems at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant – Procurement Approvals. Civic Works Committee. October 24, 2023.

Planned Rebuild of Incinerator Systems at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant – Single Source. Civic Works Committee. March 21, 2023.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Sludge Disposal at Greenway WWTP

As previously reported, the Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant is the City's largest treatment plant. It is also the location of a centralized solids handling facility that processes the waste sludge removed from wastewater at all five City wastewater treatment plants in preparation for disposal. The final treatment process at Greenway is typically incineration. Incineration takes the solids removed from wastewater through the treatment process and burns them at temperatures approaching 900 degrees Celsius. This reduces the solids to an inert ash that is ready for safe disposal.

Finding a suitable means of disposing of the waste solids is essential for the safe and effective operation of the treatment facilities to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. The generation of waste solids is also an unintermittent process, with over 2 dry tonnes per hour generated 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Developing robust disposal strategies with contingency plans is essential for effective plant operation.

2.2 Procurement of Solids Disposal Services

Given the variety of different disposal options, seasonal variation, solids characteristics and the essential nature of 24-7 operation, it was decided that the strategy that best managed the risk was to develop a roster of multiple vendors that are capable of providing parts or all of the required solids disposal services. During the incinerator rebuild, staff will contact one or more of those vendors based on the services required at a given time, availability of the vendors, cost of the services and the possibility of beneficial re-use, all of which can change from day to day.

In order to develop the roster, a Request for Proposals was issued which allowed for Proponents to submit multiple proposals covering all of the potential services they could provide, including limitations like seasonal variations or times of day for each. Multiple proposals were received from four vendors. Staff reviewed all proposals received and categorized them based on the various services and opportunities provided in each.

The vendors who submitted proposals for the various services are as follows in alphabetical order. There were multiple proposals submitted for each service required:

- GFL Environmental Inc. (6 proposals)
- Lasalle Agri Inc. (1 proposal)
- Lystek International Corp. (2 proposals)
- Wessuc Inc. (8 proposals)

Since the proposals received also provide a useful roster of service providers as contingency planning even when the incinerator is returned to service, roster members providing quality service and good response times will be approached at the end of the incinerator rebuild regarding extension of their contract with the City, albeit with significantly reduced haulage volumes and frequency.

2.3 Estimated Expenditure

It is difficult to predict the total value of services procured over the 6-month period while the incinerator is being rebuilt. The characteristics of the solids may change, dictating a more costly disposal method, higher sludge production could result in multiple vendors being used during a given period, or the incinerator rebuild project could be longer or shorter than anticipated. The Request for Proposals also included a mechanism for allowing new proposals within the contract period from roster vendors if opportunities for cost-savings become apparent during the contract period e.g. a new type of vehicle, new alternatives for disposal locations, and so forth.

Staff will prioritize minimizing the total cost while meeting operational needs. As a very rough estimate, disposal costs could total between \$2M and \$6M, excluding HST.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

Funding for these vendors of record is available in the approved capital project ES5022 – Biosolids Processing Upgrades. This approved budget for this project is \$11,925,003.

Conclusion

Disposal of the waste solids generated at the City's wastewater treatment plants is an essential process that is required 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. During periods in which the City's incinerator at Greenway is out of operation alternative means of disposal are required. The upcoming incinerator rebuild project will require an estimated 6 months of alternative disposal. By building a roster of solids disposal vendors, the City can reduce operational risk during incinerator shutdowns. It is recommended that the presented roster of vendors be approved.

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cc: Steve Mollon, Senior Manager, Procurement and Supply
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