



# Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

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## Call to Order

## Roll Call

## Notice of Open Meeting

## Approval of Agenda

## Public Comment

## Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2025.
2. Electrical Outage: 636 Hamilton Street – February 6, 2025
3. February 2025 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval

## Unfinished Business

4. Columbus Wastewater Utility Finalized Sewer Rate Case Adjustment Proposals
5. Action Item from January 23, 2025 Columbus Utility Commission Meeting - Vacation Accrual Balances

## New Business

6. Exempt Utilities Employees Removal of Compensation Time
7. Purchase of Midwest Chemical and Equipment Polymer Skid for Wastewater
8. Approval of Final Payment/Closeout Payment for Meister Park and Waterloo Lift Station Capital Projects

## Reports

9. MEUW Live Lines February 2025
10. Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority Biogas to RNG to Injection Project

## Adjourn

Next Columbus Utility Commission Meeting: Thursday March 20th @ 6:00PM Council Chambers - City Hall

\*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



## Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

### Call to Order

Thom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### Roll Call

PRESENT: Joe Hammer, Molly Finkler, Michael Thom, Reagan Rule, Brook Andler, and Sandy Curtis

### Notice of Open Meeting

The meeting was posted appropriately.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Curtis to move the closed session after New Business #12 and to move New Business #10 to follow New Business #7.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

### Public Comment

Michelle Kaltenberg, Utility Business Manager, requested to be included in the closed session.

### Consent Agenda

Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Rule to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2024
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2024
3. Electrical Outage: November 16, 2024 - 210 Dix Street.  
 Electrical Outage: December 18, 2024 - Water Street Substation #1  
 Water Outage: December 28, 2024 - South Water Street  
 Water Outage: December 30, 2024 - Maple Ave  
 Water Outage: January 7, 2025 - Faith Drive & Faith Lutheran Church Lot Entrance
4. December 2024 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval  
 January 2025 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval



## New Business

7. Resolution # 1-2025 Emergency Declaration for Water Plant #1 Repairs  
 Holbert discussed recent issues at the plant and need for repairs.  
 Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Rule to approve the Resolution.  
 Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis
  
10. Columbus Wastewater Utilities 2025 Rate Case Study  
 Bridgot Gysbers of Ruekert-Mielke discussed the Sewer Rate Case Study and the two alternatives explored as part of the study.  
 Commission requested that an alternative be explored to review a rate structure that has Elba, Fall River, and Columbus customers all paying the same rate.
  
8. Task Order 2024-CU03R Wastewater Treatment Facility BioSolids Upgrade Design Services - 2026 Project  
 Dave Arnott of Ruekert-Mielke discussed the task order.  
 Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Finkler to approve the task order.  
 Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis
  
9. Task Order – Ruekert-Mielke 2025 WQT Services  
 Dave Arnott discussed the Water Quality Trading Program and that we need to update our permit for this program.  
 Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Finkler to approve the task order.  
 Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis
  
11. Approval of Rhyme Printer Leasing Contract for Wastewater and Utilities Offices  
 Jacob Holbert discussed the need for the service.  
 Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to approve the proposal.  
 Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis
  
12. Approval of Rhyme Managed IT Contract for Columbus Utilities  
 Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Rule to approve the proposal.  
 Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

## Closed Session

5. Convene to closed session under section 19.85(1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to discuss the compensation of the Business Manager and banked vacation benefits for two employees.  
 Motion made by Hammer, seconded by Curtis to adjourn to close session.  
 Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

## Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to reconvene to open session.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

13. Consider and take possible action on the compensation of the Business Manager.

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Andler to postpone discussion of the Business Manager salary to the 2026 budget process.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

14. Consider and take possible action on banked vacation benefits for two employees.

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Rule to direct Utility Director to work with staff on plan to use vacation and work towards policy compliance.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

## Reports

Holbert gave a brief overview of the information in the reports.

15. Directors Report

16. MEUW - December 2024 Live Lines

17. MEUW - January 2025 Live Lines

18. Commendation of Mutual Aide Letter and Memo from American Public Power Association

## Reports

19. Emergency Funding - Water Plant #1

20. Funding Approval - Meister Park Forced Main Repair

21. Permission of Additional Bonding - Payment of Emergency Repairs to Water Plant #1

## Adjourn

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to adjourn at 9:33 pm.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Special Joint Columbus Utility Commission & Columbus Common Council Meeting: February 4, 2025 7:45PM Council Chambers - City Hall; Following Common Council & COW Meetings.

Emergency Columbus Utilities Commission Meeting Following Joint Common Council & CUC Meeting: February 4, 2025 Council Chambers - City Hall

Next Columbus Utility Commission Meeting: February 20, 2025 6:00PM Council Chambers - City Hall

\*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type: Utilities Commission**

**Meeting Date: February 27, 2025**

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**Item Title:** Electrical Outage: 636 Hamilton Street – February 6, 2025

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Electrical Cutout blew. This outage began at 2:34PM and was resolved at 3:00PM. The outage was due to excessive wind. A total of 6 customers were without power for 30 minutes.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Attached Outage Report

**Action Requested of Council:**

Information and Discussion. No Action Requested.

# COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 1      CIRCUIT # 103      DATE 2/06/2025 Item #2.  
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 57205/13  
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION 636 Hamilton St  
 REMARKS Cutout blew

**PART THAT FAILED**

- 0 None
- 1 Numerous
- 2 Other-note in remarks
- 3 Transmission equipment
- 4 Substation equipment
- O.H. DISTRIBUTION
- 10 Anchor or guy
- 11 Arrester
- 12 Conductor - Primary
- 13 " - Secondary
- 14 Connector
- 21 Insulator
- 24 Metering equipment
- 25 Pole
- 26 Recloser
- 27 Riser or Jumper
- 28 Splice
- 29 Switch - GOAB
- 30 " - Disc.
- 31 Cutout - Fused
- 32 Transformer - Line
- 33 Transformer - Potential
- U.G. DISTRIBUTION
- 50 Arrester
- 51 Conductor - Primary
- 52 " - Secondary
- 53 Connector - Bolted
- 54 " - Comp.
- 55 " - Elbow
- 56 " - Splice
- 59 Terminator
- 60 Transformer - Pad Mount
- 61 Transformer - Bayonet Fuse
- 62 Metering Equipment

**WEATHER**

- 1 Normal
- 2 Wind
- 3 Thunderstorm
- 4 Rain
- 5 Rain and wind
- 6 Fog
- 7 Ice
- 8 Ice and wind
- 9 Snow
- 10 Extreme cold
- 11 Extreme heat
- 12 Extreme storm

**CAUSE**

- 0 Unknown
- 1 Loss of supply
- 2 Operating error
- 3 Circuit overload
- 4 Mis-coordination
- 5 Faulty installation
- 6 Lightning
- 7 Wind
- 8 Ice
- 9 Cold weather
- 10 Hot Weather
- 11 Moisture
- 12 Contamination
- 13 Fire
- 14 Extreme storm

**FOREIGN OBJECTS**

- 20 Vehicles
- 22 Trees - tore down
- 23 Trees - shorted
- 24 Animals
- 25 Birds
- 26 Underground dig in
- 27 Vandalism
- 28 Other

**EQUIPMENT**

- 30 Manufacturing defect
- 31 Equipment overload
- 32 Electrical failure
- 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 234 ON 3:00

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>6</u>	<u>30 min</u>

**TRANSFORMER FAILURE**

CWL# \_\_\_\_\_ KVA \_\_\_\_\_  
 MFG \_\_\_\_\_ AGE (est) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

**ARRESTOR FAILURE**

MFR \_\_\_\_\_ Porc Polymer  
 Riser Line Transformer  
 (circle all that apply)

**DEVICE THAT OPENED**

Distribution  
Main Feeder

Breaker \_\_\_\_\_ Counter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Targets \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Line**

O.C.R. \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fuse  \_\_\_\_\_ Size 150A

**Transformer**

Fuse \_\_\_\_\_ Transf. Size \_\_\_\_\_

**ROUTING (initial)**

Responded By Jeff Hicks  
 Line Assisted By Mason Mohr  
 Assisted By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 Outage File \_\_\_\_\_

## 2025 AGENDA ITEM

Utility Commission Meeting Date: 2/20/2025

ITEM: Financial Reports

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

Included in the Financial Reports are the Treasurer's Report and the Cash Disbursements Report.

The Accounts Payable Report will be sent via email the Wednesday before the Commission meeting.

### LIST ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. The Cash Disbursements Report

### ACTION REQUESTED OF COMMISSION:

1. Review and approve the Cash Disbursements Report and the Accounts Payable Report.

COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT  
JANUARY, 2025

DATE	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
23-Jan	24138	ACE HARDWARE	\$525.60	
23-Jan	24139	AQUA FIX	\$2,120.43	
23-Jan	24140	BAKER TILLY	\$4,680.00	
23-Jan	24141	CITIES & VILLAGES MUTUAL	\$3,000.00	
23-Jan	24142	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$401.89	
23-Jan	24143	COLUMBIA COUNTY HIGHWAY	\$236.33	
23-Jan	24144	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$196.00	
23-Jan	24145	DRAVY LABORATORIES	\$583.00	
23-Jan	24146	DIGGERS HOTLINE	\$25.60	
23-Jan	24147	EVER CLEAR WINDOW CLEANERS	\$400.00	
23-Jan	24148	GRAINGERS, INC	\$713.67	
23-Jan	24149	HAWKINGS	\$680.12	
23-Jan	24150	HYDRO INTERNATIONAL	\$928.00	
23-Jan	24151	HYDROCORP LLC	\$8,335.81	
23-Jan	24152	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE	\$225.40	
23-Jan	24153	JUNEAU UTILITIES	\$281.07	
23-Jan	24154	KRAFT INCORPORATED	\$70.86	
23-Jan	24155	LAKESIDE INTERNATIONAL	\$1,247.86	
23-Jan	24156	LINCK AGGREGATES, INC	\$255.63	
23-Jan	24157	MANUJEIN LANDSCAPING	\$5,273.00	
23-Jan	24158	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC.	\$115.04	
23-Jan	24159	MIDWEST CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT	\$350.00	
23-Jan	24160	MILLENNIUM	\$560.00	
23-Jan	24161	NAPA AUTO PARTS	\$24.98	
23-Jan	24162	NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIES	\$910.78	
23-Jan	24163	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT	\$98.01	
23-Jan	24164	RAUEKERT & MIELKE, INCE	\$17,211.00	
23-Jan	24165	SABEL MECHANICAL	\$227.24	
23-Jan	24166	SAVCO NORTH AMERICA, INC	\$1,069.93	
23-Jan	24167	STUART C IRBY CO	\$8,300.00	
23-Jan	24168	USIC LOCATING SERVICES	\$646.64	
23-Jan	24169	VISU-SEWER, LLC	\$56,640.00	
23-Jan	24170	WI STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE	\$29.00	
23-Jan	24171	WISCONSIN COPY & BUSINESS	\$95.82	
23-Jan	24172	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL	\$85.00	
23-Jan	24173	AQUAFIX	\$615.00	
23-Jan	24174	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC	\$1,269.95	
23-Jan	24175	BROZEK & OBRION EXCAVATING	\$806.80	
23-Jan	24176	CAMBELL THOM	\$500.00	
23-Jan	24177	CHEMTRADE CHEMICALS	\$11,844.00	
23-Jan	24178	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$69,926.83	
23-Jan	24179	CIVIC SYSTEM	\$3,333.00	
23-Jan	24180	COLUMBIA COUNTY LWCD	\$1,240.37	
23-Jan	24181	CORE & WAIN LP	\$5,516.16	
23-Jan	24182	DAILY CITIZEN	\$49.99	
23-Jan	24183	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	\$5,551.91	
23-Jan	24184	DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	\$250.00	
23-Jan	24185	DREXEL BUILDING SUPPLY	\$300.33	
23-Jan	24186	GRAINGER, INC	\$102.62	
23-Jan	24187	HAWKINS	\$894.11	
23-Jan	24188	JACOB HOLBERT	\$1,265.87	
23-Jan	24189	JACOB TANNER	\$125.00	
23-Jan	24190	JAKE BONESS	\$800.00	
23-Jan	24191	JEREMY ROLL	\$360.11	
23-Jan	24192	MEUW	\$6,816.00	
23-Jan	24193	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC.	\$16,000.00	
23-Jan	24194	MUSSON BROTHERS, INC.	\$32,000.00	
23-Jan	24195	NAPLETON FORD	\$125.10	
23-Jan	24196	OPEN POINT	\$1,250.00	
23-Jan	24197	PACKERLAND RENT-A-MAT	\$44.70	
23-Jan	24198	PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK	VOID	
23-Jan	24199	RESCO	\$343.50	
23-Jan	24200	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL LLC	\$280.07	
23-Jan	24201	USA BLUE BOOK	\$725.34	
23-Jan	24202	WASTEWATER TRAINING SOLUTIONS	\$560.00	
23-Jan	24203	WALKESHA CRANE SALES	\$850.00	
23-Jan	24204	WHITMAN, REQUARDT & ASSOCIATION	\$240.00	
23-Jan	24205	WRWA	\$870.00	
23-Jan	24120	MILLENNIUM	(\$560.00)	
		SUBTOTAL	\$267,793.37	
		ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LIST APPROVED AT JANUARY MEETING		
	ACH	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK	\$202.00	ACH FEES

13.Feb.25

03-Jan	ACH-4065	BP		\$1,188.53	FUEL
03-Jan	ACH-4066	PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK		\$2,904.60	CUSTOMER PAYMENT FEE
17-Jan	ACH-4067	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS		\$89.99	INTERNET SERVICE FOR CWL ADMIN BUILDING
10-Jan	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL		\$30,000.00	DECEMBER BOND INTEREST PAYMENT
10-Jan	ACH	INVESTMENT POOL		\$5,000.00	DECEMBER DEPRECIATION PAYMENT
10-Jan	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL		\$15,500.00	TRANSFER INTO LGIP #13 - UTILITY GENERAL FUND
10-Jan	ACH-4049	NORTH SHORE BANK		\$35,985.65	NET PAYROLL FOR 1ST PAYROLL IN JANUARY #1
10-Jan	ACH-4046	EFTPS (EL FED TAX PYMNT SYS)		\$300.00	DEFERRED COMP PAY #1
10-Jan	ACH-4047	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD		\$13,137.96	FICAMED/DEF WITHOLDING PAYROLL #1
10-Jan	ACH-4048	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE		\$1,956.04	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #1
09-Jan	ACH-4079	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE		\$1,974.93	STATE WITHOLDING PAYROLL #1
18-Jan	ACH-4070	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS		\$7,912.81	DECEMBER SALES/USE TAX
07-Jan	ACH-4078	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS		\$81.18	Postage Meter Rental 12/22/24-3/21/2025
20-Jan	ACH-4040	WE ENERGIES		\$800.00	POSTAGE
17-Jan	ACH-4068	WE ENERGIES		\$0.00	VOIDED
17-Jan	ACH-4072	WE ENERGIES		\$13.55	WASTEWATER PUMP STATION
17-Jan	ACH-4074	WE ENERGIES		\$60.24	NATURAL GAS WATER PLANT
17-Jan	ACH-4082	WE ENERGIES		\$1,623.83	NATURAL GAS SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING
17-Jan	ACH-4083	WE ENERGIES		\$14.71	GENERATOR ON JAMES
17-Jan	ACH-4084	WE ENERGIES		\$1,258.86	TREATMENT PLANT
23-Jan	ACH-4060	Brook Andler		\$13.56	WESTSIDE SEWAGE LIFT
23-Jan	ACH-4061	Michael Thom		\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
23-Jan	ACH-4062	Reagan Rule		\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
23-Jan	ACH-4063	Sandra Curtis		\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
22-Jan	ACH-4076	KWIK TRIP		\$50.00	COMMISSION MEETING FOR MONTH
17-Jan	ACH-4081	KWIK TRIP		\$79.72	FUEL
24-Jan	ACH-4064	SEERA		\$30.11	FUEL
22-Jan	ACH-4099	CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY		\$1,870.11	FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT
17-Jan	ACH-4071	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS		\$73.13	FIRST AID SUPPLIES FOR DECEMBER
24-Jan	ACH	CWL NET PAYROLL		\$119.98	WASTEWATER SPECTRUM
24-Jan	ACH-3656	CITY OF COLUMBUS - LIFE		\$34,974.98	NET PAYROLL FOR 2ND PAYROLL IN JANUARY #2
24-Jan	ACH-3654	CITY OF COLUMBUS - RETIREMENT		\$15,110.98	RETIREMENT FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES JANUARY
24-Jan	ACH-3655	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH INS		\$20,267.86	DEAN CARE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR JANUARY
24-Jan	ACH-3657	CITY OF COLUMBUS - DENTAL INS		\$1,276.12	DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR JANUARY
24-Jan	ACH-3658	CITY OF COLUMBUS - VISION INS		\$157.52	VISION INSURANCE FOR CW&L EMPLOYEES FOR JANUARY
24-Jan	ACH-3659	CITY OF COLUMBUS - HEALTH SAVINGS		\$25,912.00	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR JANUARY
24-Jan	ACH-4049	NORTH SHORE BANK		\$300.00	DEFERRED COMP #2
24-Jan	ACH-4047	WI DEFERRED COMP BOARD		\$1,823.15	PAYROLL DEFERRAL BILLING FOR PAYROLL #2
24-Jan	ACH-4046	EFTPS (EL FED TAX PYMNT SYS)		\$12,806.60	FICAMED/DEF WITHOLDING PAYROLL #2
24-Jan	ACH-4048	WISCONSIN DEPT OF REVENUE		\$1,993.26	STATE WITHOLDING PAYROLL #2
28-Jan	ACH-4080	WPPI		\$451,263.44	POWER BILL 12/24, NORTHSTAR/DYNAMICS, ELE & WTR MDM CHARGES, INTERFACE, AMI METERIN, LOAN REPAYMENT
20-Jan	ACH-4038	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES		\$9,364.57	PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, PUBLIC POWER WEEK PRIZES, RECHARGEABLE BATTERY, LADDER, SHOP SUPPLIES, SHEVING, MICROWAVE FOR BREAKROOM
22-Jan	ACH-4075	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES		\$4,929.86	ELECTRIC HEATER FOR WP #2, LODGING AND REGISTRATION FOR MEUW EXPO, GIVING TREE, BINDERS, CALENDARS, FLASH DRIVES, PENS, EMAIL SUBS
31-Jan	ACH-4077	ATC		\$11,356.00	ADDITIONAL CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION
31-Jan	ACH	FARMERS & MERCHANTS UNION BANK		\$40.00	NSF FEES
		SUBTOTAL		\$714,446.24	
		TOTAL		\$982,239.61	APPROVED BY:

**CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES  
TREASURER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2025**

Item #3.

**GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 204,860.40
Receipts:	\$ 1,063,350.77
Interest Earned:	\$ 220.91
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,268,432.08
Disbursements:	\$ (972,874.94)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 295,557.14</b>

*NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).*

**UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 461,417.76
Receipts:	\$ 15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,752.81
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 478,670.57
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 478,670.57</b>

**MRB PRINCIPAL & INTEREST - LGIP #5 - ACCOUNT #1255**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 400,754.45
Receipts:	\$ 30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,558.15
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 432,312.60
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 432,312.60</b>

*NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.*

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 224,952.00
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 838.19
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 225,790.19
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 225,790.19</b>

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP#11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$1,114,931.94
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$4,111.71
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,119,043.65
Disbursements:	\$ (88,640.00)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 1,030,403.65</b>

**WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 250,784.76
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 888.31
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 251,673.07
Disbursements:	\$ (95,949.68)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 155,723.39</b>

**CW&L RESERVE FUND - F&M - ACCOUNT #1251**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 340,422.56
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 340,422.56
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 340,422.56</b>

*F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit: \$170,211.28 Due June 2025 4.75%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2025 4.75%*

**E-3-P ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM - F&M - ACCOUNT #1313**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 123,607.14
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 123,607.14
Disbursements:	\$ (36.10)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 123,571.04</b>

**CW&L DEPRECIATION - LGIP #6 - ACCOUNT #1266**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 830,908.28
Receipts:	\$ 5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$ 3,106.85
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 839,015.13
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 839,015.13</b>

*NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.*

**SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 482,100.02
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ 1,796.34
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 483,896.36
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 483,896.36</b>

**SEWER UTILITY - F&M SAVINGS - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 234,530.77
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 234,530.77
Disbursements:	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 234,530.77</b>

**WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS**

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$ 1,065,564.23
Receipts:	\$ -
Interest Earned:	\$ -
<i>Sub-total:</i>	\$ 1,065,564.23
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$ -
Cash on Hand - Month End:	<b>\$ 1,065,564.23</b>

*F&M Bank/CDAR (2) - Interest paid out and deposited to Checking*

Local Gov't. Investment Pool	4.39%	F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.5% / 0.75%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	4.75% to 5.20%		





## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type: Utility Commission**

**Meeting Date: Thursday February 27, 2025**

**Item Title:** Columbus Wastewater Utility Finalized Sewer Rate Case Adjustment Proposals

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

### Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

The documents will be providing insight on the following:

#### Part #1

We ran a few different scenarios to present to the Council. Just to reiterate the Council asked for keeping the fixed charge the same at the 56 percent increase and to have Elba and Fall River contribute more equally as Columbus as all parties are working off the same system. Alternative 3 addresses this request (see explanation below). We ran 2 more alternatives just to evaluate all options. The other 2 options we altered the 56% fixed charge just to see where things played out. This is alternatives 5 and 6 below.

#### Alternative 3

- Columbus' fixed charge remains at a 56% increase for all meter sizes to cover all debt service for 2025.
- Elba and Fall River get a volume charge increase to \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet.
- Columbus remains at the current volume charge of \$6.34 per 100 cubic feet.
- Waste haulers remains consistent through all alternatives.

#### Alternative 5

- Columbus' fixed charge remains at the current rates for all meter sizes, 0% increase. Will not cover all debt service for 2025.
- Elba and Fall River get a volume charge increase to \$8.78 per 100 cubic feet.
- Columbus remains at the current volume charge of \$6.34 per 100 cubic feet.
- Waste haulers remains consistent through all alternatives.

#### Alternative 6

- Columbus' fixed charge gets a 28% increase (half of the original 56% increase) for all meter sizes. This would cover roughly 80% of 2025 projected debt service.
- Elba and Fall River get a volume charge increase to \$7.35 per 100 cubic feet.
- Columbus remains at the current volume charge of \$6.34 per 100 cubic feet.
- Waste haulers remains consistent through all alternatives.

R/M would recommend proceeding with Alternative 3, or a similar option, to ensure that debt service is fully covered by fixed charges. While the other two alternatives (5 & 6) would help minimize the overall rate increase for Columbus, they would result in Elba and Fall River's volume charges exceeding those

paid by Columbus residents. The final decision will depend on what is considered equitable for Elba and Fall River in relation to their share of costs.

If you could look at the attached, if you are comfortable with these other options, we could be ready by the 4<sup>th</sup>. I would propose we put together another power point presentation focusing on alternative 3 that addresses the Council question and then also show them 5 & 6 what the impact would be just looking at it form 2 other additional ways.

Part #2

We used the original capital improvement plan and kept the 56% increase for the fixed charge but adjusted the volume charge for the Fall River and Elba, as the Council Requested. See below. This is Alternative 2.

The report and presentation goes through the actual dollar values for the fixed and volume charges for each of the below scenarios.

## ■ Impact on Customers

### ■ Proposed Rate Increase

- Fixed meter charges increase 56 percent
- Fall River volume charges increased 195 percent
- Elba volume charges increase by 143.8 percent
- Columbus volume charges increased by 0.2 percent

For the report and presentation, we just included Alternative 2 for this discussion. This would be our recommendation.

After you have had a chance to review, let's discuss.

### **List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Alternative #3
2. Alternative #5
3. Alternative #6
4. Alternative #2 (Original Capital Improvement Plan Based)
5. 2025 Columbus Sanitary Sewer Rate Study – 20252014
6. Columbus Sewer Rate Study Presentation

### **Action Requested of Council:**

Discuss and Approve of Recommended Sewer Rate Case Adjustment for Implementation Q2 2025.

**Columbus Sanitary Sewer Utility  
2025 Test Year**

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Revenue Requirement</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Cash</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	Depreciation	406,843
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Interest Income	93,000
Operation	1,708,274	Debt Service	(628,129)
Depreciation	406,843	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>(615,297)</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>Projected Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		<b>Projected Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>
Interest Income	93,000	<b>Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>
Other Revenues	3,196,940		
Debt Principal	(430,727)		
Debt Interest	(197,402)		
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>Cash Flow as % of Annual O&amp;M</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>Cash Balance as % of Annual O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>

Table 2

## Fixed and Variable Costs

Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) = 0%

<b>Fixed</b>	<b>Unadjusted</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
<b>Variable</b>	<b>999,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>999,977</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

**Table 3****Fixed Charges****Monthly Fixed Charges**

Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change
5/8" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
3/4" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
1" \$	<b>35.88</b> \$	23.00	56.0%
1 1/2" \$	<b>51.48</b> \$	33.00	56.0%
2" \$	<b>68.64</b> \$	44.00	56.0%
3" \$	<b>110.76</b> \$	71.00	56.0%
4" \$	<b>171.60</b> \$	110.00	56.0%

**Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges**

Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual
5/8"	10 \$	267 \$	3,201
3/4"	2,162 \$	57,674 \$	692,082
1"	59 \$	2,117 \$	25,403
1 1/2"	25 \$	1,287 \$	15,444
2"	18 \$	1,236 \$	14,826
3"	6 \$	665 \$	7,975
4"	4 \$	686 \$	8,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b> \$	<b>63,931</b> \$	<b>767,168</b>

Table 4.1

Fall River Volume Charges

Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		8960771.11
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
Proposed	\$	5.90
Current	\$	2.00
Change	\$	3.90
Change		195.0%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$528,685.50

40 percent increase from 2024

Gallons (2024): 67031000.00

2.67362

Fall River:

The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of .40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. -- Email from Jacob 12/2/2024  
 For 2024, estimate of 67,031,000 gallons. -- Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

**Table 4.2**

<b>Elba Volume Charges</b>	
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$ 13,330.00
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$ 18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)	661,680.85

<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 5.90
Current	\$ 2.42
Change	\$ 3.48
Change	143.8%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates	\$39,039.17

Elba:

- we have an expected revenue of \$13,330 for 2024. The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. – Ent from Jacob 12/2/2024
- For 2024 estimate of 4,949,700 gallons. – Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

40 percent increase from 2024  
 Gallons (2024) : 4949700

Table 4.3

Waste Haulers Volume Charges

Holding Tank Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks	667
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$141,829.80
Septage Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks	133
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial Waste (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)	\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength	50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial Strength	50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$59,299.75
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>	<b>\$201,129.55</b>

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assumption of this test not being done for low strength waste

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assume 5% of trucks receive this charge

Assumption of 10% of trucks receiving an extra charge of \$15/1000 gal (0.1\*133\*4500gal/1000gal)

**Waste Haulers**  
 Assumptions for 2025 R/W: - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:  
 Holding Tank Revenue: Assume 3,005,192 (2025 actual) gallons from holding tanks for 2025 Septage. Assume 600,000 gallons of septage per year. This is based on 307,258 gallons received through Q3 2024.  
 • Assume 50 percent is Extra Strength at a current charge of \$25/1000 gallons  
 • Assume 50 percent is High Strength at a current charge of \$35-1000 gallons (These changed to High Strength and Industrial Strength as seen in the models.)

2025 Proposed Rates Provided by City - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:

Assumption of **\$100/gallon** average per truck based on Jacobs comment "Trucks average 3,000 to 6,000 gallons EACH" - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

COLUMBIUS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY SEPTAGE RECEIVING RATES	Units
Septage (Septage)	250 Pounds/day
Low Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	250 mg/L or ppm
High Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Trucks average 3,000 to 6,000 gallons EACH	
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm
Septage (Septage)	250 mg/L or ppm
COD	250 mg/L or ppm
Ortho P	250 mg/L or ppm
TKN (Total Suspended Solids)	250 mg/L or ppm
High strength (High strength)	500 mg/L or ppm
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	1500 mg/L or ppm



Remaining Vairable Cost	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$767,168
Fall River Volume Charge	\$528,685
Elba Volume Charge	\$39,039
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$932,822</b>

This will not change with rate increase  
 This will not change with rate increase

Table 4.4	
Columbus Volume Charges	
Remaining Variable Cost	\$ 932,822
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*	14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$ 6.35</b>
Current	\$ 6.34
Change	\$ 0.01
Change	0.2%

Gallons (2022) : 109965537.00

NOTES:  
 \* Estimated volume from 2022 Sewer Users and Flows sheet

Table 5

## Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Residential Rates</b>						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 26.68	\$ 9.58	56%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 39.41	\$ 9.60	32%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 52.14	\$ 9.62	23%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 69.12	\$ 9.64	16%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 94.59	\$ 9.68	11%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 111.56	\$ 9.71	10%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.88	\$ 12.88	56%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 48.61	\$ 12.90	36%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 61.35	\$ 12.92	27%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 78.32	\$ 12.95	20%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 103.79	\$ 12.99	14%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 120.77	\$ 13.01	12%

Table 5 (continued)

## Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>						
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 408.19	\$ 25.17	7%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24	6%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24	6%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 157.59	\$ 18.65	13%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 200.03	\$ 18.71	10%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 280.86	\$ 24.97	10%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 365.42	\$ 40.16	12%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 493.08	\$ 25.31	5%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 535.20	\$ 40.43	8%

Year-over-year Increases

	2025	2026	2027	2028
	56%	18%	14%	8%
	7%	7%	7%	7%
	3%	3%	3%	3%

**Table 6 – Increases Every Second Year**

	5 Year Forecast				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>	0%	56%	18%	14%	8%
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,997,017	\$ 3,416,599	\$ 3,689,927
Operation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Other O&M	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>609,594</b>	<b>879,322</b>	<b>992,823</b>
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>					
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,383	78,552
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(1,106,055)	(1,395,216)	(1,513,783)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>	<b>\$ 7,272</b>	<b>\$ 13,224</b>	<b>\$ 7,057</b>	<b>\$ 15,498</b>
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,283,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,724</b>	<b>\$ 1,303,782</b>	<b>\$ 1,319,279</b>
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus Fixed Charge.

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Debt Service</b>					
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	-	(159,967)	(479,277)	(848,687)	(1,002,282)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (628,129)</b>	<b>\$ (782,611)</b>	<b>\$ (1,106,055)</b>	<b>\$ (1,395,216)</b>	<b>\$ (1,513,783)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	<b>2,177,000</b>	<b>2,339,536</b>	<b>5,020,404</b>	<b>2,087,402</b>	<b>4,510,500</b>

<b>Debt Assumptions</b>	
Term (years)	20
Interest Rate	4%
<b>Forecast Debt Payments</b>	
2024 Debt	\$ (159,967)
2025 Debt	\$ (319,311)
2026 Debt	\$ (369,410)
2027 Debt	\$ (153,595)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (1,002,282)</b>

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
<b>WWTP-SEWER FUND</b>							
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>							
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,657,500	\$ 1,599,674	\$ 1,733,600	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 1,628,106	(105,494)	-6%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>1,657,500</b>	<b>1,599,674</b>	<b>1,733,600</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>(105,494)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
Sewage Treatment	1,979,409	1,010,508	1,677,129	1,415,957	1,708,274	31,145	2%
Depreciation	-	406,843	-	406,843	406,843		
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,979,409</b>	<b>1,417,351</b>	<b>1,677,129</b>	<b>1,822,800</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	<b>437,988</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(321,909)</b>	<b>182,322</b>	<b>56,471</b>	<b>(194,695)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>(543,482)</b>	<b>-962%</b>
Interest Income	20,000	34,620	12,500	112,404	93,000	80,500	644%
Other Revenues	800,864	-	2,272,890	273,942	3,196,940	924,050	41%
Debt Principal	(381,474)	-	(390,929)	-	(430,727)	(39,798)	10%
Debt Interest	(115,981)	(134,718)	(217,667)	(217,667)	(197,402)	20,265	-9%
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(1,500)	(86,592)	(1,500)	(800)	(800)	700	-47%
<b>TOTAL NONOP. REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>321,909</b>	<b>(186,690)</b>	<b>1,675,294</b>	<b>167,880</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>985,717</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TRANSFER FOR DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (4,368)</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,765</b>	<b>\$ (26,815)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>\$ 442,235</b>	<b>-10125%</b>

ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Cash - January 1			1,891,525
Operating Income	56,471	(194,695)	(487,011)
Depreciation	-	406,843	406,843
Interest Income	12,500	112,404	93,000
Debt Repayment (Principal & Interest)	608,596	(217,667)	(628,129)
<b>Cash - December 31</b>	<b>\$ 677,567</b>	<b>\$ 106,886</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>

**THINGS TO KNOW**

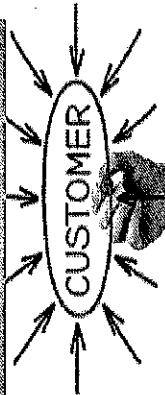
The monthly bills are prepared by the Columbus Utilities located at 950 Maple Avenue. Their telephone number is: (920) 623-5912. Payments can be made either at the Columbus Utilities offices or at City Hall. They are not accepted at the Public Works Department.

A late fee of 1% per month is applied to any payment that is not paid within 20 days of issuance. The late fee is applied to the unpaid balance including any unpaid late payment charges. This late fee is applicable to all customers. A written notice may be given to the customer that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued.

Certain substances are harmful to the sanitary system and have an adverse effect on the Crawfish River, could endanger lives or public property. Do not discharge phosphorus, oils, grease, certain cleaning solutions or things like paint down into your system. When in doubt call the Sewer Utility or the Public Works office and ask. It is much easier to prevent a potential back up or poisoning by calling first.

It is mandatory that each parcel of land with a building used for human occupancy or work be connected to the system. All costs and expenses related to the installation and maintenance are to be borne by the property owner. More information can be obtained by contacting the City building inspector.

All users shall keep their own service pipes (laterals) in good repair and protected from frost at their own risk and expense.



**GENERAL SERVICE**

Sewer services are billed for all properties connected to the sanitary sewer system and served by the water utility.

**BILLING**

Each property is billed monthly — a charge based on use/volume and a service charge also referred to as a fixed rate charge and based on the size of the water meter serving the property.

**MONTHLY FIXED RATE**

**CHARGES:**

Water Meter Size - Charge	
5/8"	\$17.10
3/4"	\$12.10
1"	\$23.00
1 1/4"	\$28.00
1 1/2"	\$53.00
2"	\$44.00
3"	\$71.00
4"	\$110.00
6"	\$207.00

Master Units: \$7.25/unit

**USE/VOLUME CHARGE**

\$6.34 per 100 cubic feet

**CONNECTION FEES**

All new construction shall pay to the City Treasurer a fee to connect to the municipal sewer system based on the size of the water meter. The fees are as listed:

Meter Size:	Fee:
5/8"	\$1,000.00
3/4"	\$1,000.00
1"	\$2,500.00
1 1/4"	\$3,700.00
1 1/2"	\$5,000.00
2"	\$8,000.00
3"	\$15,000.00
4"	\$25,000.00



SETTING A NEW LATERAL—1950's.

**Columbus Sanitary Sewer Utility  
2025 Test Year**

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Revenue Requirement</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Cash</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
<hr/>		Depreciation	406,843
Subtotal	1,628,106	Interest Income	93,000
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Debt Service	(628,129)
Operation	1,708,274	<hr/>	
Depreciation	406,843	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>(615,297)</b>
<hr/>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Subtotal	2,115,117	Projected Income (Loss)	\$ 2,174,000
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	Projected Cash Flow	\$ (615,297)
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Interest Income	93,000	<hr/>	
Other Revenues	3,196,940	Cash Flow as % of Annual O&M	-29%
Debt Principal	(430,727)	Cash Balance as % of Annual O&M	60%
Debt Interest	(197,402)	<hr/>	
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<hr/>			
Subtotal	2,661,011		
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>		

Table 2

## Fixed and Variable Costs

Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) = 0%

Fixed	Unadjusted	Adjustment	Adjusted
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
<b>Variable</b>	<b>999,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>999,977</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

Table 3				
Fixed Charges				
Monthly Fixed Charges				
Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change	
5/8"	\$ 17.10	\$ 17.10	0.0%	
3/4"	\$ 17.10	\$ 17.10	0.0%	
1"	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	0.0%	
1 1/2"	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.00	0.0%	
2"	\$ 44.00	\$ 44.00	0.0%	
3"	\$ 71.00	\$ 71.00	0.0%	
4"	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00	0.0%	
Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges				
Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual	
5/8"	10	\$ 171	\$ 2,052	\$
3/4"	2,162	\$ 36,970	\$ 443,642	\$
1"	59	\$ 1,357	\$ 16,284	\$
1 1/2"	25	\$ 825	\$ 9,900	\$
2"	18	\$ 792	\$ 9,504	\$
3"	6	\$ 426	\$ 5,112	\$
4"	4	\$ 440	\$ 5,280	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>\$ 40,981</b>	<b>\$ 491,774</b>	<b>\$</b>

171.00	\$	2,052.00
36,970.20	\$	443,642.40
1,357.00	\$	16,284.00
825.00	\$	9,900.00
792.00	\$	9,504.00
426.00	\$	5,112.00
440.00	\$	5,280.00
	\$	491,774



Table 4.1

**Fall River Volume Charges**

Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$ 140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$ 196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)	8960771.11

40 percent increase from 2024

Gallons (2024): 67031000.00

**Fall River:**

- The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elbe and Fall River. – Email from Jacob 12/22/2024
- For 2024, estimate of 67,031,000 gallons. – Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

Rate per 100 Cubic Feet	
Proposed	\$ 8.78
Current	\$ 2.00
Change	\$ 6.78
Change	339.0%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates	\$786,755.70

2.67362

**Table 4.2**

Elba Volume Charges	
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$ 13,330.00
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$ 18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)	661680.85
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 8.78
Current	\$ 2.42
Change	\$ 6.36
Change	262.8%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates	\$58,095.58

Elba:

- We have an expected revenue of \$18,380 for 2024. The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. – Email from Jacob 12/2/2024
- For 2024 estimate of 4,949,700 gallons. – Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

40 percent increase from 2024

Gallons (2024) : 4949700

Table 4.3 Waste Haulers Volume Charges		2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)		3005,192
Assumption on Number of Trucks		667
<b>Testing Charges</b>		
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)		\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck		\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck		\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck		\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck if Abnormal		\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)		\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank		\$141,829.80
<b>Septage Waste</b>		
	2025	
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)		600,000
Assumption on Number of Trucks		133
<b>Testing Charges</b>		
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)		\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck		\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck		\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck		\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck if Abnormal		\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)		\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)		\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial Waste (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)		\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength		50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial Strength		50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank		\$59,299.75
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>		\$201,129.55

**Waste Haulers**  
 Assumptions for 2025 R/M - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:  
 Holding Tank waste: Assume 3,005,192 (2023 actual) gallons from holding tanks for 2025  
 Septage: Assume 600,000 gallons of septic per year. This is based on 507,298 gallons received through QS 2024.  
 • Assume 50 percent is Extra Strength at a current charge of \$25/1000 gallons  
 • Assume 50 percent is High Strength at a current charge of \$35/1000 gallons  
 (These changed to High Strength and Industrial Strength as seen in the model.)

2025 Proposed Rates Provided by City - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:  
 Assumption of 5,500 gallons average per truck based on Jacobs comment - Trucks average 3,000 to 6,000 gallons EACH - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

COLUMBUS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY SEPTAGE RECEIVING RATES	
Category/Description	Rate
Septage (all types)	\$25/1000 gal
High Strength Septic Tank Discharge	\$35/1000 gal
Industrial Strength Commercial Holding Tank	\$50/1000 gal
Septage (average 4,000 to 6,000 gallons each)	
TKN Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
Ortho P Multiplier	\$15/1000 gal
TSS (Unfiltered) Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
TKN Test (Gate Fee)	\$30/1000 gal
TKN Test (Unfiltered) Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
High Strength Septic Tank Discharge	\$35/1000 gal
Industrial Strength Commercial Holding Tank	\$50/1000 gal
Septage	
Low Strength Holding Tank Discharge	\$25/1000 gal
High Strength Septic Tank Discharge	\$35/1000 gal
Industrial Strength Commercial Holding Tank	\$50/1000 gal
TKN Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
Ortho P Multiplier	\$15/1000 gal
TSS (Unfiltered) Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
TKN Test (Gate Fee)	\$30/1000 gal
TKN Test (Unfiltered) Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
High Strength Septic Tank Discharge	\$35/1000 gal
Industrial Strength Commercial Holding Tank	\$50/1000 gal
Septage	
Low Strength Holding Tank Discharge	\$25/1000 gal
High Strength Septic Tank Discharge	\$35/1000 gal
Industrial Strength Commercial Holding Tank	\$50/1000 gal
TKN Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
Ortho P Multiplier	\$15/1000 gal
TSS (Unfiltered) Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
TKN Test (Gate Fee)	\$30/1000 gal
TKN Test (Unfiltered) Multiplier	\$30/1000 gal
High Strength Septic Tank Discharge	\$35/1000 gal
Industrial Strength Commercial Holding Tank	\$50/1000 gal

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assume 5% of trucks receive this charge

Assumption of 10% of trucks receiving an extra charge of \$15/1000 gal (0.1\*133\*4500gal/1000gal)

Remaining Vairable Cost	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$491,774
Fall River Volume Charge	\$786,756
Elba Volume Charge	\$58,096
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$931,089</b>

This will not change with rate increase  
 This will not change with rate increase

Gallons (2022) : 109965537.00

**Table 4.4**

Columbus Volume Charges	
Remaining Variable Cost	\$ 931,089
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*	14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 6.34
Current	\$ 6.34
Change	\$ -
Change	0.0%

NOTES:

\* Estimated volume from 2022 Sewer Users and Flows sheet

Table 5

Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Residential Rates</b>						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 17.10	\$ -	0%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 29.81	\$ -	0%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 42.53	\$ -	0%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 59.48	\$ -	0%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 84.90	\$ -	0%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 101.85	\$ -	0%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ -	0%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 35.71	\$ -	0%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 48.43	\$ -	0%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 65.38	\$ -	0%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 90.80	\$ -	0%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 107.75	\$ -	0%

Table 5 (continued)

Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>						
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 383.02	\$ -	0%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 425.39	\$ -	0%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 425.39	\$ -	0%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 138.94	\$ -	0%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 181.32	\$ -	0%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 255.88	\$ -	0%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 325.26	\$ -	0%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 467.77	\$ -	0%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 494.77	\$ -	0%

Year-over-year Increases  
 2025 2026 2027 2028  
 56% 18% 14% 8%

7% 7% 7% 7%  
 3% 3% 3% 3%

**Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year**

		5 Year Forecast				
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>		0%	56%	18%	14%	8%
Revenue	\$	1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,997,017	\$ 3,416,599	\$ 3,689,927
Operation		1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Depreciation		406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Other O&M		-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Expenses		2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>		<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>609,594</b>	<b>879,322</b>	<b>992,823</b>
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>						
Depreciation		406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income		93,000	77,891	78,065	78,383	78,552
Debt Service		(628,129)	(782,611)	(1,106,055)	(1,395,216)	(1,513,783)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow</b>	\$	<b>(615,297)</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>13,224</b>	<b>7,057</b>	<b>15,498</b>
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	\$	<b>1,276,228</b>	<b>1,283,500</b>	<b>1,296,724</b>	<b>1,303,782</b>	<b>1,319,279</b>
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>		60%	57%	54%	51%	49%

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus Fixed Charge.

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Debt Service</b>					
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	(159,967)	(479,277)	(848,687)	(1,002,282)
<b>Total</b>	\$ (628,129)	\$ (782,611)	\$ (1,106,055)	\$ (1,395,216)	\$ (1,513,783)
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>					
	2,174,000	4,339,536	5,020,904	2,087,404	4510,500

<b>Debt Assumptions</b>					
Term (years)		20			
Interest Rate		4%			
<b>Forecast Debt Payments</b>					
2024 Debt	\$	(159,967)	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)
2025 Debt			(319,311)	(319,311)	(319,311)
2026 Debt				(369,410)	(369,410)
2027 Debt					(153,595)
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (479,277)	\$ (848,687)
					(1,002,282)

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
<b>WWTP-SEWER FUND</b>							
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>							
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,657,500	\$ 1,599,674	\$ 1,733,600	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 1,628,106	(105,494)	-6%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>1,657,500</b>	<b>1,599,674</b>	<b>1,733,600</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>(105,494)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
Sewage Treatment	1,979,409	1,010,508	1,677,129	1,415,957	1,708,274	31,145	2%
Depreciation	-	406,843	-	406,843	406,843		
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,979,409</b>	<b>1,417,351</b>	<b>1,677,129</b>	<b>1,822,800</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	<b>437,988</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(321,909)</b>	<b>182,322</b>	<b>56,471</b>	<b>(194,695)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>(543,482)</b>	<b>-962%</b>
Interest Income	20,000	34,620	12,500	112,404	93,000	80,500	644%
Other Revenues	800,864	-	2,272,890	273,942	3,196,940	924,050	41%
Debt Principal	(381,474)	-	(390,929)	-	(430,727)	(39,798)	10%
Debt Interest	(115,981)	(134,718)	(217,667)	(217,667)	(197,402)	20,265	-9%
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(1,500)	(86,592)	(1,500)	(800)	(800)	700	-47%
<b>TOTAL NONOP. REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>321,909</b>	<b>(186,690)</b>	<b>1,675,294</b>	<b>167,880</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>985,717</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TRANSFER FOR DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (4,368)</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,765</b>	<b>\$ (26,815)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>\$ 442,235</b>	<b>-10125%</b>

ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Cash - January 1			1,891,525
Operating Income	56,471	(194,695)	(487,011)
Depreciation	-	406,843	406,843
Interest Income	12,500	112,404	93,000
Debt Repayment (Principal & Interest)	608,596	(217,667)	(628,129)
<b>Cash - December 31</b>	<b>\$ 677,567</b>	<b>\$ 106,886</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>

**THINGS TO KNOW**

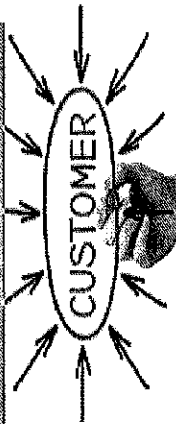
The monthly bills are prepared by the Columbus Utilities located at 950 Maple Avenue. Their telephone number is: (920) 623-5912. Payments can be made either at the Columbus Utilities offices or at City Hall. They are not accepted at the Public Works Department.

A late fee of 1% per month is applied to any payment that is not paid within 20 days of issuance. The late fee is applied to the unpaid balance including any unpaid late payment charges. This late fee is applicable to all customers. A written notice may be given to the customer that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued.

Certain substances are harmful to the sanitary system and have an adverse effect on the Crawfish River, could endanger lives or public property. Do not discharge phosphorus, oils, grease, certain cleaning solutions or things like paint down into your system. When in doubt call the Sewer Utility or the Public Works office and ask. It is much easier to prevent a potential back up or poisoning by calling first.

It is mandatory that each parcel of land with a building used for human occupancy or work be connected to the system. All costs and expenses related to the installation and maintenance are to be borne by the property owner. More information can be obtained by contacting the City building inspector.

All users shall keep their own service pipes (laterals) in good repair and protected from frost at their own risk and expense.



**GENERAL SERVICE**

Sewer services are billed for all properties connected to the sanitary sewer system and served by the water utility.

**BILLING**

Each property is billed monthly charge based on use/volume and a service charge also referred to as a fixed rate charge and based on the size of the water main serving the property.

**MONTHLY FIXED RATE**

**CHARGES**

Water Meter Size/Charge	Charge
5/8"	\$17.10
3/4"	\$17.10
1"	\$23.00
1 1/4"	\$28.00
1 1/2"	\$33.00
2"	\$44.00
3"	\$72.00
4"	\$110.00
6"	\$207.00

Master Units: \$7.25/unit

**USE/VOLUME CHARGE**

\$6.34 per 100 cubic feet

**CONNECTION FEES**

All new construction shall pay to the City Treasurer a fee to connect to the municipal sewer system based on the size of the water meter. The fees are as listed:

Meter Size:	Fee:
5/8"	\$1,000.00
3/4"	\$1,000.00
1"	\$2,500.00
1 1/4"	\$3,700.00
1 1/2"	\$5,000.00
2"	\$8,000.00
3"	\$15,000.00
4"	\$25,000.00



SETTING A NEW LATERAL—1950's.



**Columbus Sanitary Sewer Utility  
2025 Test Year**

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Revenue Requirement</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Cash</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	Depreciation	406,843
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Interest Income	93,000
Operation	1,708,274	Debt Service	(628,129)
Depreciation	406,843	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>(615,297)</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>Projected Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		<b>Projected Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>
Interest Income	93,000	<b>Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>
Other Revenues	3,196,940		
Debt Principal	(430,727)		
Debt Interest	(197,402)		
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>Cash Flow as % of Annual O&amp;M</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>Cash Balance as % of Annual O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>

Table 2

## Fixed and Variable Costs

Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) = 0%

Fixed	Unadjusted	Adjustment	Adjusted
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
<b>Variable</b>	<b>999,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>999,977</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

Table 3				
Fixed Charges				
Monthly Fixed Charges				
Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change	
5/8"	\$ 21.89	\$ 17.10	28.0%	
3/4"	\$ 21.89	\$ 17.10	28.0%	
1"	\$ 29.44	\$ 23.00	28.0%	
1 1/2"	\$ 42.24	\$ 33.00	28.0%	
2"	\$ 56.32	\$ 44.00	28.0%	
3"	\$ 90.88	\$ 71.00	28.0%	
4"	\$ 140.80	\$ 110.00	28.0%	

Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges				
Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual	
5/8"	10	\$ 219	\$ 2,627	\$
3/4"	2,162	\$ 47,322	\$ 567,862	\$
1"	59	\$ 1,737	\$ 20,844	\$
1 1/2"	25	\$ 1,056	\$ 12,672	\$
2"	18	\$ 1,014	\$ 12,165	\$
3"	6	\$ 545	\$ 6,543	\$
4"	4	\$ 563	\$ 6,758	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>\$ 52,456</b>	<b>\$ 629,471</b>	<b>\$</b>

171.00	\$	2,052.00
36,970.20	\$	443,642.40
1,357.00	\$	16,284.00
825.00	\$	9,900.00
792.00	\$	9,504.00
426.00	\$	5,112.00
440.00	\$	5,280.00
	\$	491,774
	\$	137,697

**Table 4.1**

**Fall River Volume Charges**

Fall River Budgeted Valume Revenue 2024	\$ 140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Valume Revenue 2025	\$ 196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)	8960771.11

<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 7.35
Current	\$ 2.00
Change	\$ 5.35
Change	267.5%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates	\$658,616.68

**Fall River:**

40 percent increase from 2024

- The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. – Email from Jacob 12/2/2024
- For 2024 estimate of 67,031,000 gallons. – Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

Gallons (2024) : 67031000.00

2.67362

Table 4.2

**Elba Volume Charges**

Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	13,330.00
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		66,1680.85
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
Proposed	\$	7.35
Current	\$	2.42
Change	\$	4.93
Change		203.7%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$48,633.54

Elba:

- 40 percent increase from 2024
- Gallons (2024): 4949700
- ~~WSS~~ have an expected revenue of \$13, 330 for 2024. The 2025 Budget was prepare and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. – Enc from Jacob 12/2/2024
- For 2024 estimate of 4,949,700 gallons. – Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

Holding Tank Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks	667
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$141,829.80
<b>Septage Waste</b>	
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks	133
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial Waste (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)	\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength	50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial Strength	50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$59,299.75
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>	<b>\$201,129.55</b>

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assumption of this test not being done for low strength waste

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assume 5% of trucks receive this charge

Assumption of 10% of trucks receiving an extra charge of \$15/1000 gal (0.1\*133\*4500gal/1000gal)

**Waste Haulers**

Assumptions for 2025 R/M - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:  
Holding Tank waste. Assume 5,005,192 (2023 actual) gallons from holding tanks for 2025 Septage. Assume 600,000 gallons of septic per year. This is based on 507,298 gallons received through QS 2024.

- Assume 50 percent to Extra Strength at a current charge of \$25/1000 gallons
- Assume 5% percent to High Strength at a current charge of \$35/1000 gallons (These changed to High Strength and Industrial Strength as seen in the models.)

2025 Proposed Rates Provided by City - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:

Assumption of 4,500 gallon average per truck based on Jacobs comment "Trucks average 3,000 to 6,000 gallons EACH" - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

	Rate	Units
Gate Fee/Truck	\$25.00	Per Truck
Low Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	\$30.00	Per Truck
High Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	\$35.00	Per Truck
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	\$50.00	Per Truck
Trucks average 4,500 to 6,000 gallons EACH		
<b>Septage</b>		
Septage P	\$25.00	Per Truck
Septage P (Unfiltered)	\$30.00	Per Truck
TSS (Total Suspended Solids)*	\$15.00	Per Truck
*TSS testing will be implemented if report system is installed		
<b>Testing Charges</b>		
COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand)	\$30.00	Per Truck
Ortho P (Phosphate)	\$15.00	Per Truck
TKN (Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen)	\$30.00	Per Truck
High Strength/Septic Tank/ETC	\$35.00	Per Truck
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	\$50.00	Per Truck
<b>High Strength</b>		
High Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	\$35.00	Per Truck
High Strength/Septic Tank/ETC	\$35.00	Per Truck
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	\$50.00	Per Truck
<b>Low Strength</b>		
Low Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	\$30.00	Per Truck
Low Strength/Septic Tank/ETC	\$30.00	Per Truck
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	\$50.00	Per Truck
<b>Industrial Strength</b>		
Industrial Strength Holding Tank/Septic Tank	\$50.00	Per Truck
Industrial Strength/Commercial Holding Tank	\$50.00	Per Truck

Remaining Vairable Cost	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$629,471
Fall River Volume Charge	\$658,617
Elba Volume Charge	\$48,634
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$930,994</b>

This will not change with rate increase  
 This will not change with rate increase

Table 4.4	
Columbus Volume Charges	
Remaining Variable Cost	\$ 930,994
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*	14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$ 6.34</b>
Current	\$ 6.34
Change	\$ -
Change	0.0%

Gallons (2022) : 109965537.00

NOTES:

\* Estimated volume from 2022 Sewer Users and Flows sheet

Table 5

## Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Residential Rates</b>						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 21.89	\$ 4.79	28%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 34.60	\$ 4.79	16%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 47.31	\$ 4.79	11%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 64.26	\$ 4.79	8%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 89.69	\$ 4.79	6%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 106.64	\$ 4.79	5%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 29.44	\$ 6.44	28%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 42.15	\$ 6.44	18%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 54.87	\$ 6.44	13%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 71.82	\$ 6.44	10%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 97.24	\$ 6.44	7%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 114.19	\$ 6.44	6%

Table 5 (continued)

## Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>						
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 395.34	\$ 12.32	3%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 437.71	\$ 12.32	3%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 437.71	\$ 12.32	3%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 148.18	\$ 9.24	7%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 190.56	\$ 9.24	5%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 268.20	\$ 12.32	5%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 345.14	\$ 19.88	6%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 480.09	\$ 12.32	3%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 514.65	\$ 19.88	4%



Year-over-year Increases

	2025	2026	2027	2028
	56%	18%	14%	8%
	7%	7%	7%	7%
	3%	3%	5%	3%

**Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year**

**5 Year Forecast**

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>	0%	56%	18%	14%	8%
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,997,017	\$ 3,416,599	\$ 3,689,927
Operation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Other O&M	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>609,594</b>	<b>879,322</b>	<b>992,823</b>
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>					
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,383	78,552
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(1,106,055)	(1,395,216)	(1,513,783)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>	<b>\$ 7,272</b>	<b>\$ 13,224</b>	<b>\$ 7,057</b>	<b>\$ 15,498</b>
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,283,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,296,724</b>	<b>\$ 1,303,782</b>	<b>\$ 1,319,279</b>
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus Fixed Charge.

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Debt Service</b>					
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	-	(159,967)	(479,277)	(848,687)	(1,002,282)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (628,129)</b>	<b>\$ (782,611)</b>	<b>\$ (1,106,055)</b>	<b>\$ (1,395,216)</b>	<b>\$ (1,513,783)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	<b>2,173,000</b>	<b>4,339,536</b>	<b>5,020,404</b>	<b>2,087,404</b>	<b>9,510,500</b>

**Debt Assumptions**

Term (years)	20
Interest Rate	4%

**Forecast Debt Payments**

2024 Debt	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)
2025 Debt	\$ (319,311)	\$ (319,311)	\$ (319,311)	\$ (319,311)
2026 Debt	\$ (369,410)	\$ (369,410)	\$ (369,410)	\$ (369,410)
2027 Debt	\$ (153,595)	\$ (153,595)	\$ (153,595)	\$ (153,595)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (848,687)</b>	<b>\$ (848,687)</b>	<b>\$ (848,687)</b>	<b>\$ (848,687)</b>

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
<b>WWTP-SEWER FUND</b>							
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>							
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,657,500	\$ 1,599,674	\$ 1,733,600	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 1,628,106	(105,494)	-6%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>1,657,500</b>	<b>1,599,674</b>	<b>1,733,600</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>(105,494)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
Sewage Treatment	1,979,409	1,010,508	1,677,129	1,415,957	1,708,274	31,145	2%
Depreciation	-	406,843	-	406,843	406,843		
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,979,409</b>	<b>1,417,351</b>	<b>1,677,129</b>	<b>1,822,800</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	<b>437,988</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(321,909)</b>	<b>182,322</b>	<b>56,471</b>	<b>(194,695)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>(543,482)</b>	<b>-962%</b>
Interest Income	20,000	34,620	12,500	112,404	93,000	80,500	644%
Other Revenues	800,864	-	2,272,890	273,942	3,196,940	924,050	41%
Debt Principal	(381,474)	-	(390,929)	-	(430,727)	(39,798)	10%
Debt Interest	(115,981)	(134,718)	(217,667)	(217,667)	(197,402)	20,265	-9%
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(1,500)	(86,592)	(1,500)	(800)	(800)	700	-47%
<b>TOTAL NONOP. REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>321,909</b>	<b>(186,690)</b>	<b>1,675,294</b>	<b>167,880</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>985,717</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TRANSFER FOR DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (4,368)</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,765</b>	<b>\$ (26,815)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>\$ 442,235</b>	<b>-10125%</b>

ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Cash - January 1			1,891,525
Operating Income	56,471	(194,695)	(487,011)
Depreciation	-	406,843	406,843
Interest Income	12,500	112,404	93,000
Debt Repayment (Principal & Interest)	608,596	(217,667)	(628,129)
<b>Cash - December 31</b>	<b>\$ 677,567</b>	<b>\$ 106,886</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>

**THINGS TO KNOW**

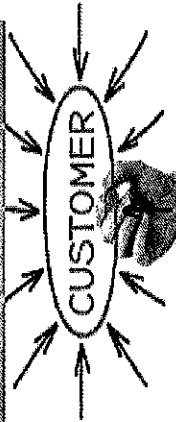
The monthly bills are prepared by the Columbus Utilities located at 950 Maple Avenue. Their telephone number is: (920) 623-5912. Payments can be made either at the Columbus Utilities offices or at City Hall. They are not accepted at the Public Works Department.

A late fee of 1% per month is applied to any payment that is not paid within 20 days of issuance. The late fee is applied to the unpaid balance including any unpaid late payment charges. This late fee is applicable to all customers. A written notice may be given to the customer that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued.

Certain substances are harmful to the sanitary system and have an adverse effect on the Crawfish River, could endanger lives or public property. Do not discharge phosphorus, oils, grease, certain cleaning solutions or things like paint down into your system. When in doubt call the Sewer Utility or the Public Works office and ask. It is much easier to prevent a potential back up or poisoning by calling first.

It is mandatory that each parcel of land with a building used for human occupancy or work be connected to the system. All costs and expenses related to the installation and maintenance are to be borne by the property owner. More information can be obtained by contacting the City building inspector.

All users shall keep their own service pipes (laterals) in good repair and protected from frost at their own risk and expense.



**GENERAL SERVICE**

Sewer services are billed for all properties connected to the sanitary sewer system and serviced by the water utility.

**BILLING**

Each property is billed monthly a charge based on use/volume and a service charge also referred to as a fixed rate charge and based on the size of the water meter serving the property.

**MONTHLY FIXED RATE CHARGES**

Water Meter Size	Charge
5/8"	\$17.10
3/4"	\$17.10
1"	\$23.00
1 1/4"	\$28.00
1 1/2"	\$35.00
2"	\$44.00
3"	\$71.00
4"	\$110.00
6"	\$207.00

Master Units: \$725/unit

**USE/VOLUME CHARGE**

\$6.34 per 100 cubic feet

**CONNECTION FEES**

All new construction shall pay to the City Treasurer a fee to connect to the municipal sewer system based on the size of the water meter. The fees are as listed:

Meter Size:	Fee:
5/8"	\$1,000.00
3/4"	\$1,000.00
1"	\$2,500.00
1 1/4"	\$3,700.00
1 1/2"	\$5,000.00
2"	\$8,000.00
3"	\$15,000.00
4"	\$25,000.00



SETTING A NEW LATERAL.—1950's.

**Columbus Sanitary Sewer Utility  
2025 Test Year**

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Revenue Requirement</b>			
<b>Income</b>		<b>Cash</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	Depreciation	406,843
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Interest Income	93,000
Operation	1,708,274	Debt Service	(628,129)
Depreciation	406,843	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>(615,297)</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>Projected Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		<b>Projected Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>
Interest Income	93,000	<b>Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>
Other Revenues	3,196,940		
Debt Principal	(430,727)		
Debt Interest	(197,402)		
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>Cash Flow as % of Annual O&amp;M</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>Cash Balance as % of Annual O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>

**Table 2****Fixed and Variable Costs**

**Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) = 0%**

<b>Fixed</b>	<b>Unadjusted</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
<b>Variable</b>	<b>999,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>999,977</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

**Table 3**

**Fixed Charges**

**Monthly Fixed Charges**

Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change
5/8" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
3/4" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
1" \$	<b>35.88</b> \$	23.00	56.0%
1 1/2" \$	<b>51.48</b> \$	33.00	56.0%
2" \$	<b>68.64</b> \$	44.00	56.0%
3" \$	<b>110.76</b> \$	71.00	56.0%
4" \$	<b>171.60</b> \$	110.00	56.0%

**Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges**

Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual
5/8"	10 \$	267 \$	3,201
3/4"	2,162 \$	57,674 \$	692,082
1"	59 \$	2,117 \$	25,403
1 1/2"	25 \$	1,287 \$	15,444
2"	18 \$	1,236 \$	14,826
3"	6 \$	665 \$	7,975
4"	4 \$	686 \$	8,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b> \$	<b>63,931</b> \$	<b>767,168</b>

**Table 4.1**

<b>Fall River Volume Charges</b>	
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$ 140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$ 196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)	8960771.11

<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 5.90
Current	\$ 2.00
Change	\$ 3.90
Change	195.0%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates	\$528,685.50

**Fall River:**

- The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. - Email from Jacob 12/2/2024
- For 2024 estimate of 67,031,000 gallons. - Email from Jacob 12/10/2024

40 percent increase from 2024

Gallons (2024): 67031000.00

**Table 4.2**

<b>Elba Volume Charges</b>	
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$ 13,330.00
Elba Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$ 18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)	661680.85

<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 5.90
Current	\$ 2.42
Change	\$ 3.48
Change	143.8%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates	\$39,039.17

Elba:

- We have an expected revenue of \$19,350 for 2024. The 2025 Budget was prepared and accepted with an estimate of 40% rate increase for Elba and Fall River. – Email from Jacob 12/2/2024
- For 2024 estimate of 4,949,700 gallons. – Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

40 percent increase from 2024

Gallons (2024) : 4949700



Holding Tank Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks	667
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck if Abnormal	\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$141,825.80
<b>Septage Waste</b>	<b>2025</b>
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks	133
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck if Abnormal	\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial Waste (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)	\$9000.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength	50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial Strength	50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$59,299.75
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>	<b>\$201,125.55</b>

**Waste Haulers**  
 Assumptions for 2025 R/M - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:  
 Holding Tank waste: Assume 5,035,192 (2023 actual) gallons from holding tanks for 2025  
 Septage: Assume 600,000 gallons of septage per year. This is based on 507,256 gallons received through Q3 2024.  
 • Assume 50 percent is Extra Strength at a current charge of \$25/1000 gallons  
 • Assume 50 percent is High Strength at a current charge of \$35/1000 gallons  
 (These changed to High Strength and Industrial Strength as seen in the model.)

2025 Proposed Rates Provided by City - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024:  
 Assumption of **\$50/gallon** average per truck based on Jacobs comment "Trucks average 9,000 to 6,000 gallons EACH" - Email from Jacob 12/04/2024

Septage Characteristics	Rate
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 1000 Gallons	\$25.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 2000 Gallons	\$30.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 3000 Gallons	\$35.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 4000 Gallons	\$40.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 5000 Gallons	\$45.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 6000 Gallons	\$50.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 7000 Gallons	\$55.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 8000 Gallons	\$60.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 9000 Gallons	\$65.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 10000 Gallons	\$70.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 11000 Gallons	\$75.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 12000 Gallons	\$80.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 13000 Gallons	\$85.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 14000 Gallons	\$90.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 15000 Gallons	\$95.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 16000 Gallons	\$100.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 17000 Gallons	\$105.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 18000 Gallons	\$110.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 19000 Gallons	\$115.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 20000 Gallons	\$120.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 21000 Gallons	\$125.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 22000 Gallons	\$130.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 23000 Gallons	\$135.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 24000 Gallons	\$140.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 25000 Gallons	\$145.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 26000 Gallons	\$150.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 27000 Gallons	\$155.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 28000 Gallons	\$160.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 29000 Gallons	\$165.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 30000 Gallons	\$170.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 31000 Gallons	\$175.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 32000 Gallons	\$180.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 33000 Gallons	\$185.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 34000 Gallons	\$190.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 35000 Gallons	\$195.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 36000 Gallons	\$200.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 37000 Gallons	\$205.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 38000 Gallons	\$210.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 39000 Gallons	\$215.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 40000 Gallons	\$220.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 41000 Gallons	\$225.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 42000 Gallons	\$230.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 43000 Gallons	\$235.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 44000 Gallons	\$240.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 45000 Gallons	\$245.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 46000 Gallons	\$250.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 47000 Gallons	\$255.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 48000 Gallons	\$260.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 49000 Gallons	\$265.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 50000 Gallons	\$270.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 51000 Gallons	\$275.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 52000 Gallons	\$280.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 53000 Gallons	\$285.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 54000 Gallons	\$290.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 55000 Gallons	\$295.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 56000 Gallons	\$300.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 57000 Gallons	\$305.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 58000 Gallons	\$310.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 59000 Gallons	\$315.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 60000 Gallons	\$320.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 61000 Gallons	\$325.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 62000 Gallons	\$330.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 63000 Gallons	\$335.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 64000 Gallons	\$340.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 65000 Gallons	\$345.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 66000 Gallons	\$350.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 67000 Gallons	\$355.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 68000 Gallons	\$360.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 69000 Gallons	\$365.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 70000 Gallons	\$370.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 71000 Gallons	\$375.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 72000 Gallons	\$380.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 73000 Gallons	\$385.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 74000 Gallons	\$390.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 75000 Gallons	\$395.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 76000 Gallons	\$400.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 77000 Gallons	\$405.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 78000 Gallons	\$410.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 79000 Gallons	\$415.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 80000 Gallons	\$420.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 81000 Gallons	\$425.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 82000 Gallons	\$430.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 83000 Gallons	\$435.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 84000 Gallons	\$440.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 85000 Gallons	\$445.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 86000 Gallons	\$450.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 87000 Gallons	\$455.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 88000 Gallons	\$460.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 89000 Gallons	\$465.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 90000 Gallons	\$470.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 91000 Gallons	\$475.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 92000 Gallons	\$480.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 93000 Gallons	\$485.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 94000 Gallons	\$490.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 95000 Gallons	\$495.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 96000 Gallons	\$500.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 97000 Gallons	\$505.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 98000 Gallons	\$510.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 99000 Gallons	\$515.00/gal
Septage from Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICSI) - 100000 Gallons	\$520.00/gal

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assumption of this test not being done for low strength waste

Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck

Assume 5% of trucks receive this charge

Assumption of 10% of trucks receiving a extra charge of \$15/1000 gal (0.1 \* 133 \* 4500gal/1000gal)

Remaining Vairable Cost	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$767,168
Fall River Volume Charge	\$528,685
Elba Volume Charge	\$39,039
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$932,822</b>

This will not change with rate increase  
 This will not change with rate increase

Gallons (2022) : 109965537.00

Table 4.4 Columbus Volume Charges	
Remaining Variable Cost	\$ 932,822
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*	14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
Proposed	\$ 6.35
Current	\$ 6.34
Change	\$ 0.01
Change	0.2%

NOTES:  
 \* Estimated volume from 2022 Sewer Users and Flows sheet

Table 5

Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Residential Rates</b>						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 26.68	\$ 9.58	56%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 39.41	\$ 9.60	32%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 52.14	\$ 9.62	23%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 69.12	\$ 9.64	16%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 94.59	\$ 9.68	11%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 111.56	\$ 9.71	10%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.88	\$ 12.88	56%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 48.61	\$ 12.90	36%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 61.35	\$ 12.92	27%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 78.32	\$ 12.95	20%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 103.79	\$ 12.99	14%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 120.77	\$ 13.01	12%

Table 5 (continued)

Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>						
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 408.19	\$ 25.17	7%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24	6%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24	6%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 157.59	\$ 18.65	13%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 200.03	\$ 18.71	10%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 280.86	\$ 24.97	10%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 365.42	\$ 40.16	12%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 493.08	\$ 25.31	5%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 535.20	\$ 40.43	8%

**Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year**

5 Year Forecast		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>		<b>0%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,844,626	\$ 3,498,890	\$ 3,778,801	
Operation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198	
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905	
Other O&M	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104	
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>457,204</b>	<b>961,613</b>	<b>1,081,697</b>	
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>						
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905	
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,190	78,126	
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(961,688)	(1,487,024)	(1,599,757)	
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>	<b>\$ 7,272</b>	<b>\$ 5,201</b>	<b>\$ (2,653)</b>	<b>\$ 17,972</b>	
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,283,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,701</b>	<b>\$ 1,286,048</b>	<b>\$ 1,304,020</b>	
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>48%</b>	

Year-over-year Increases

2025	2026	2027	2028
56%	12%	23%	8%

7%	7%	7%	7%
3%	3%	5%	3%

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Columbus Fixed Charge.

<b>Debt Service</b>	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	(159,967)	(334,910)	(940,496)	(1,088,257)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (628,129)</b>	<b>\$ (782,611)</b>	<b>\$ (961,688)</b>	<b>\$ (1,487,024)</b>	<b>\$ (1,599,757)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	<b>2,174,900</b>	<b>2,570,536</b>	<b>3,230,116</b>	<b>2,008,116</b>	<b>4,468,116</b>
<b>Debt Assumptions</b>					
Term (years)	20				
Interest Rate	4%				
<b>Forecast Debt Payments</b>					
2024 Debt	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)	\$ (159,967)
2025 Debt		\$ -	\$ (174,943)	\$ (174,943)	\$ (174,943)
2026 Debt			\$ -	\$ (605,586)	\$ (605,586)
2027 Debt				\$ -	\$ (147,761)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (159,967)</b>	<b>\$ (334,910)</b>	<b>\$ (940,496)</b>	<b>\$ (1,088,257)</b>

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
<b>WWTP-SEWER FUND</b>							
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>							
Operating Revenues	\$ 1,657,500	\$ 1,599,674	\$ 1,733,600	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 1,628,106	(105,494)	-6%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>1,657,500</b>	<b>1,599,674</b>	<b>1,733,600</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>1,628,106</b>	<b>(105,494)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>							
Sewage Treatment	1,979,409	1,010,508	1,677,129	1,415,957	1,708,274	31,145	2%
Depreciation	-	406,843	-	406,843	406,843		
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,979,409</b>	<b>1,417,351</b>	<b>1,677,129</b>	<b>1,822,800</b>	<b>2,115,117</b>	<b>437,988</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(321,909)</b>	<b>182,322</b>	<b>56,471</b>	<b>(194,695)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>(543,482)</b>	<b>-962%</b>
Interest Income	20,000	34,620	12,500	112,404	93,000	80,500	644%
Other Revenues	800,864	-	2,272,890	273,942	3,196,940	924,050	41%
Debt Principal	(381,474)	-	(390,929)	-	(430,727)	(39,798)	10%
Debt Interest	(115,981)	(134,718)	(217,667)	(217,667)	(197,402)	20,265	-9%
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(1,500)	(86,592)	(1,500)	(800)	(800)	700	-47%
<b>TOTAL NONOP. REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>321,909</b>	<b>(186,690)</b>	<b>1,675,294</b>	<b>167,880</b>	<b>2,661,011</b>	<b>985,717</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>TRANSFER FOR DEBT SERVICE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (4,368)</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,765</b>	<b>\$ (26,815)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>	<b>\$ 442,235</b>	<b>-10125%</b>

ESTIMATED CASH BALANCE	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Cash - January 1			1,891,525
Operating Income	56,471	(194,695)	(487,011)
Depreciation	-	406,843	406,843
Interest Income	12,500	112,404	93,000
Debt Repayment (Principal & Interest)	608,596	(217,667)	(628,129)
<b>Cash - December 31</b>	<b>\$ 677,567</b>	<b>\$ 106,886</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>

**THINGS TO KNOW**

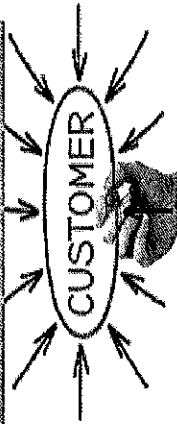
The monthly bills are prepared by the Columbus Utilities located at 950 Maple Avenue. Their telephone number is: (920) 623-6912. Payments can be made either at the Columbus Utilities offices or at City Hall. They are not accepted at the Public Works Department.

A late fee of 1% per month is applied to any payment that is not paid within 20 days of issuance. The late fee is applied to the unpaid balance including any unpaid late payment charges. This late fee is applicable to all customers. A written notice may be given to the customer that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued.

Certain substances are harmful to the sanitary system and have an adverse effect on the Crawfish River, could endanger lives or public property. Do not discharge phosphorus, oils, grease, certain cleaning solutions or things like paint down into your system. When in doubt call the Sewer Utility or the Public Works office and ask. It is much easier to prevent a potential back up or poisoning by calling first.

It is mandatory that each parcel of land with a building used for human occupancy or work be connected to the system. All costs and expenses related to the installation and maintenance are to be borne by the property owner. More information can be obtained by contacting the City building inspector.

All users shall keep their own service pipes (laterals) in good repair and protected from frost at their own risk and expense.



**GENERAL SERVICE**

Sewer services are billed for all properties connected to the sanitary sewer system and served by the water utility.

**BILLING**

Each property is billed monthly — a charge based on use/volume and a service charge also referred to as a fixed rate charge and based on the size of the water meter serving the property.

**MONTHLY FIXED RATE**

**CHARGES**

Water Meter Size/Charge	Water Meter Size/Charge
5/8" \$17.10	1" \$23.00
3/4" \$17.10	1 1/4" \$28.00
1" \$23.00	1 1/2" \$33.00
1 1/4" \$28.00	2" \$44.00
1 1/2" \$33.00	3" \$74.00
2" \$44.00	4" \$110.00
3" \$74.00	6" \$207.00

Master Units \$1.25/unit

**USE/VOLUME CHARGE:**

\$6.34 per 100 cubic feet

**CONNECTION FEES**

All new construction shall pay to the City Treasurer a fee to connect to the municipal sewer system based on the size of the water meter. The fees are as listed:

Meter Size:	Fee:
5/8"	\$1,000.00
3/4"	\$1,000.00
1"	\$2,500.00
1 1/4"	\$3,700.00
1 1/2"	\$5,000.00
2"	\$8,000.00
3"	\$15,000.00
4"	\$25,000.00



SETTING A NEW LATERAL—1950's

# Sanitary Sewer Rate Study



## 2025 Columbus Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

### Final Selected Alternative

*February 2025*

#### PREPARED FOR:

**City of Columbus**

105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Columbus, WI 53925

#### PREPARED BY:

**Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.**

4630 S. Biltmore Lane

Madison, WI 53718



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## 2025 SANITARY SEWER RATE STUDY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

**Background** – The City of Columbus Sewer Utility (Utility) furnishes sanitary sewer service to over 2,300 customers, along with service to the Village of Fall River, Elba Sanitary District 1, and waste haulers. The Utility is responsible for the capital cost and the operation and maintenance cost and activities involving the sanitary sewer collection system, lift stations and wastewater treatment plant.

**Purpose** – The purpose of this study is to review and either confirm or recommend changes to the Utility’s sewer rates. The City of Columbus sewer utility has seen increased operation and maintenance expenses since its last sewer update in 2018. Beyond the operation and maintenance cost increases, the utility also has numerous capital projects planned over the upcoming years. To provide funding for the necessary expenditures, a rate increase is needed to achieve a sustainable financial position. This report and the accompanying schedules describe the Utility’s 2025 revenue requirement and proposed sewer rates. Overall revenue for 2025 from sewer rates needs to increase by \$900,000 or 56 percent of revenue at present rates.

#### KEY FINDINGS

**Revenue Requirements and Projected Rates:** This study proposes fixed and volume rate changes for 2025 based on revenue and cash-flow needs projected in the 2024 City budget process. The sewer cost of service study is newly designed to provide a simple model that can easily be updated. It maintains historical rate practices.

**Revenues vs Debt Service:** Current sewer revenues are insufficient to meet the rising debt service obligations. Due to recent projects, debt service costs have increased to \$628,129 for 2024, with a projected additional increase of over \$150,000 in 2025 resulting from upcoming capital improvement projects. Similar increases in debt service are anticipated annually as more capital improvement projects are taken on. Additionally, combined residential and commercial revenue for 2024 is nearly 13% lower than in 2023, further underscoring the need for a review of the revenue structure.

**Alternative Solutions:** Six alternative solutions have been developed for the City to address the rate case, each presenting a unique approach to achieving the necessary revenue increases. While all alternatives require rate adjustments, they differ in how the increases are distributed among customer groups and the extent to which the capital improvement plan influences the adjustments. Alternative 2 was recommended since it provides the most balanced and equitable impact across all customers.

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### RATE STUDY METHODOLOGY SELECTED ALTERNATIVE (ALTERNATIVE 2)

Alternative 2 was created for the City to evaluate the impact if the Village of Fall River and the Town of Elba were assigned a comparable volume charge rate to Columbus. To develop this alternative, we calculated the additional revenue Fall River and Elba would need to generate if Columbus maintained its current rate of \$6.34 per 100 cubic feet. This analysis resulted in proposed volume charge rates of \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet for both Fall River and Elba. Additional details on these proposed rates are provided in the schedules below.

## 2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

Revenue Requirements

The starting point of our model is a balance sheet summarizing the City's 2024 budgeted financials. Table 1 offers context and data for other parts of the model, including projected revenue and expenditures for the current year. It is a foundation for determining the necessity of a rate study, which is to provide for cash flows that enable your utility to pay for current operational and maintenance expenses along with principal and interest payments for capital projects. Table 1 below shows the budgeted income and cash flow for 2024. The utility is forecast to lose almost \$615,129 in cash this year in 2024. With no increase the city cash reserve would be depleted by 2026 without including planned debt service from future capital improvement projects.

Table 1

## Revenue Requirement

Income		Cash	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
<hr/>		Depreciation	406,843
Subtotal	1,628,106	Interest Income	93,000
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Debt Service	(628,129)
Operation	1,708,274	<hr/>	
Depreciation	406,843	<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>(615,297)</b>
<hr/>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Subtotal	2,115,117	Projected Income (Loss)	\$ 2,174,000
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	Projected Cash Flow	\$ (615,297)
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Interest Income	93,000	Cash Flow as % of Annual O&M	-29%
Other Revenues	3,196,940	Cash Balance as % of Annual O&M	60%
Debt Principal	(430,727)		
Debt Interest	(197,402)		
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<hr/>			
Subtotal	2,661,011		
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>		

Fixed & Volume Cost for 2024

Table 2 presents the City's estimated fixed charges for 2024. The fixed charges were set at the current debt service and the remainder of costs were variable (volume) charges.

**Table 2**

**Fixed and Variable Costs**

Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) = 0%

Fixed	Unadjusted	Adjustment	Adjusted
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
Variable	999,977	-	999,977
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

Fixed Meter Charges for 2025

Table 3 adjusts the monthly fixed meter charges until the total annual fixed revenue for 2023 aligns with the 2025 projected debt service. The projected debt service considers existing and projected debt from capital improvement projects. Our calculations indicate an increase of 56% in proposed rates per meter size to meet the City’s anticipated fixed costs. The total annual revenue from proposed meter charges of \$767,168 aligns closely with the 2025 projected debt service of \$782,611.

## 2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

Table 3

## Fixed Charges

## Monthly Fixed Charges

Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change
5/8" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
3/4" \$	<b>26.68</b> \$	17.10	56.0%
1" \$	<b>35.88</b> \$	23.00	56.0%
1 1/2" \$	<b>51.48</b> \$	33.00	56.0%
2" \$	<b>68.64</b> \$	44.00	56.0%
3" \$	<b>110.76</b> \$	71.00	56.0%
4" \$	<b>171.60</b> \$	110.00	56.0%

## Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges

Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual
5/8"	10 \$	267 \$	3,201
3/4"	2,162 \$	57,674 \$	692,082
1"	59 \$	2,117 \$	25,403
1 1/2"	25 \$	1,287 \$	15,444
2"	18 \$	1,236 \$	14,826
3"	6 \$	665 \$	7,975
4"	4 \$	686 \$	8,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284</b> \$	<b>63,931</b> \$	<b>767,168</b>

Volume Charges for 2025

4.1 Fall River Volume Charge:

For Table 4.1, the budgeted revenue for Fall River is disregarded. Instead, the projected revenue is calculated based on Fall River's provided volume and our determined rate of \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet. This calculation results in a total projected revenue of \$528,686 for Fall River, reflecting a 296% increase compared to the current rate being charged.

**Table 4.1**

<b>Fall River Volume Charges</b>		
Fall River Budgeted Valume Revenue 2024	\$	140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Valume Revenue 2025	\$	196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		8960771.11
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
<b>Proposed</b>	\$	<b>5.90</b>
Current	\$	1.49
Change	\$	4.41
Change		296.0%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$528,685.50

4.2 Elba Volume Charge

Similarly, to Fall River in Table 4.2, the budgeted revenue for Elba is disregarded. Instead, the projected revenue is calculated based on Elba's provided volume and our determined rate of \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet. This calculation results in a total projected revenue of \$39,039 for Elba, reflecting a 247% increase compared to the assumed current rate being charged. Based off data provided, it is unclear what volume rate is currently being charged to Elba, \$2.42 per 100 cubic feet is the rate proposed in the 2022 rate study.

**Table 4.2**

<b>Elba Volume Charges</b>		
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	13,330.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		661680.85
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5.90</b>
Current	\$	1.70
Change	\$	4.20
Change		247.1%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$39,039.17

4.3 Waste Haulers Volume Charge

This table remains the same as Alternative 1.

Table 4.3 calculates the total projected revenue for waste haulers. Assumptions that were made beyond what was discussed with the City are outlined below for clarity.

- Assumption of 4,500 gallons per truck.
- Assumption that the TSS test will not be done for low strength holding tank waste.
- Assumption that 5% of septage waste trucks will receive the TSS test.
- Assumption that 10% of trucks will receive Ortho P, TKN, or TSS multiplier.

At proposed rates, a total revenue from waste haulers of roughly 200,000 is projected for 2025. This is about a 100 percent increase from the 2024 budget of 100,000 for waste haulers. There is no real data from the City to back up the assumptions made above. With that being said, until real data can be recorded, the below revenues are mere estimates and are subjected to volatility.

**Table 4.3**  
**Waste Haulers Volume Charges**

<u>Holding Tank Waste</u>		2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)		3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks		667
<b>Testing Charges</b>		
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)		\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck		\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck		\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck		\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal		\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)		\$25.00
<b>Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank</b>		<b>\$141,829.80</b>
<u>Septage Waste</u>		2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)		600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks		133
<b>Testing Charges</b>		
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)		\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck		\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck		\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck		\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal		\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)		\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)		\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)		\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength		50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial		50.00%
<b>Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank</b>		<b>\$59,299.75</b>
<b>Total Revenue from Waste Haulers</b>		<b>\$201,129.55</b>

**4.4 Columbus Volume Charge**

With fixed charges, Fall River, Elba, and waste hauler volume charges addressed, Table 4.4 focuses on determining volume-based charges related to variable costs for Columbus in 2025. Using the total 2025 revenue requirement from the five-year forecast, we subtract the projected revenue from fixed charges, Fall River volume charge, Elba volume charge, waste haulers volume charge, and the 2024 budgeted yearly sewer fees and connection fees. The estimated volume is based on 2022 data from sewer users and flows provided to us, 2022 was chosen as a conservative estimate for 2025 as it was the lowest annual flow from last three years. This results



2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

in a proposed rate are per 100 cubic feet as shown. As shown on the next page, by raising Fall River and Elba rates to \$5.90 per 100 cubic feet, Columbus proposed rate for this alternate solution remains close to their current rate. Meaning no volume-based rate increase for Columbus residents would be necessary.

<b>Remaining Vairable Cost</b>	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$767,168
Fall River Volume Charge	\$528,685
Elba Volume Charge	\$39,039
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$932,822</b>

**Table 4.4**

<b>Columbus Volume Charges</b>	
Remaining Variable Cost	\$ 932,822
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*	14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>	
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$ 6.35</b>
Current	\$ 6.34
Change	\$ 0.01
Change	0.2%

Customer Analysis

The analysis in Table 5 presents sample bills to illustrate typical charges for customers with Alternative 2 rate structure. Currently, the demand increments are based on estimated average values, not specific to Columbus. To produce customer-specific examples, additional data would be necessary to evaluate on a per customer basis.

**Table 5**  
**Customer Bill Analysis**

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Residential Rates</b>						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 26.68	\$ 9.58	56%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 39.41	\$ 9.60	32%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 52.14	\$ 9.62	23%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 69.12	\$ 9.64	16%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 94.59	\$ 9.68	11%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 111.56	\$ 9.71	10%
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.88	\$ 12.88	56%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 48.61	\$ 12.90	36%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 61.35	\$ 12.92	27%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 78.32	\$ 12.95	20%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 103.79	\$ 12.99	14%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 120.77	\$ 13.01	12%

2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

Table 5 (continued)

Customer Bill Analysis

Customer Type	Meter Size	Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)	Bill with Current Rates	Bill with Proposed Rates	Increase	
<b>Non-Residential Rates</b>						
Multi-family	2"	53	\$ 383.02	\$ 408.19	\$ 25.17	7%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24	6%
Multi-family	2"	60	\$ 425.39	\$ 450.63	\$ 25.24	6%
Commercial	1 1/2"	17	\$ 138.94	\$ 157.59	\$ 18.65	13%
Commercial	1 1/2"	23	\$ 181.32	\$ 200.03	\$ 18.71	10%
Commercial	2"	33	\$ 255.88	\$ 280.86	\$ 24.97	10%
Commercial	3"	40	\$ 325.26	\$ 365.42	\$ 40.16	12%
Public Authority	2"	67	\$ 467.77	\$ 493.08	\$ 25.31	5%
Public Authority	3"	67	\$ 494.77	\$ 535.20	\$ 40.43	8%

Expenses and/or revenues may differ significantly from the forecast. The Village should revisit this forecast each year and adjust its planning as needed.

Five-Year Forecast

The five-year forecast in Table 6 projects the rate adjustments required annually to maintain a near-zero to slightly positive cash flow. The rest of the model is built around these increases. Part of this increases stems from capital improvement projects, which elevate fixed costs due to associated debt, thus increasing the required fixed income. The rest of the required income will be made up of the variable volume charges. We also assumed a year-after-year increase of 7% for operation expenses and 3% for depreciation. The overall revenue increase is shown in red, and the capital improvement plan is in yellow.

2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year

	5 Year Forecast				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,844,626	\$ 3,498,890	\$ 3,778,801
Operation	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Other O&M	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>457,204</b>	<b>961,613</b>	<b>1,081,697</b>
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>					
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,190	78,126
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(961,688)	(1,487,024)	(1,599,757)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>	<b>\$ 7,272</b>	<b>\$ 5,201</b>	<b>\$ (2,653)</b>	<b>\$ 17,972</b>
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,283,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,701</b>	<b>\$ 1,286,048</b>	<b>\$ 1,304,020</b>
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>48%</b>

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Colun

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Debt Service</b>					
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (334,910)	\$ (940,496)	\$ (1,088,257)
Total	\$ (628,129)	\$ (782,611)	\$ (961,688)	\$ (1,487,024)	\$ (1,599,757)
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	<b>2,174,000</b>	<b>2,377,536</b>	<b>8,230,116</b>	<b>2,008,116</b>	<b>4,468,116</b>

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) provides guidance for utilities for cash balances. Although the AWWA does not offer a one-size-fits-all cash-reserve number for all utilities, it does list a full year's worth of operating expenses as a suitable general target.

Ruekert & Mielke (R/M) recommends a target cash balance for the City of 50 percent or more of its annual operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses. Because the City does maintain its own wastewater treatment facility, it does need a large cash balance compared to other utilities. The cash balance can be used as the sanitary sewer utility fund for other needs, such as emergency main replacements, unexpected shortfalls in revenue, and any other unforeseen issues. The proposed increases would enable the Utility to achieve this recommended target cash balance.

2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

Expenses and/or revenues may differ significantly from the forecast. The Utility should revisit this forecast each year and adjust its planning as needed.

NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES RATES

This is a table comparing City of Columbus’s proposed 2025 rates to its neighboring municipalities. All fixed and volume rates are taken directly from the respective municipalities website.

Meter Size	Beaver Dam	Marshall	Waterloo	Portage	Proposed Columbus	Average *
5/8"	\$ 28.35	\$ 12.48	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.44	\$ 26.68	\$ 17.57
3/4"	\$ 38.35	\$ 12.48	\$ 15.00	-	\$ 26.68	\$ 21.94
1"	\$ 43.05	\$ 21.84	\$ 35.05	\$ 33.75	\$ 35.88	\$ 33.42
1 1/2"	\$ 96.60	\$ 37.60	\$ 68.46	\$ 62.50	\$ 51.48	\$ 66.29
2"	\$ 165.90	\$ 56.30	\$ 108.57	\$ 81.25	\$ 68.64	\$ 103.01
3"	\$ 263.55	\$ 100.90	\$ 202.13	\$ 145.00	\$ 110.76	\$ 177.90
4"	\$ 508.20	-	\$ 335.79	\$ 237.50	\$ 171.60	\$ 360.50

\* Average is taken of Beaver Dam, Marshall, Waterloo, and Portage.

Volume Charge (\$ per 100 cubic feet)	Beaver Dam	Marshall	Waterloo	Portage	Proposed Columbus Alternative 1	Proposed Columbus Alternative 2
	\$ 2.71	\$ 10.49	\$ 12.75	\$ 5.63	\$ 8.75	\$ 6.34

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

R/M evaluated six alternatives based on feedback received from the Utility.

The selected alternative (Alternative 2) provides a volume-based rate structure for Fall River, Elba that is closer to volume charges being made by Columbus Rate Payers. The Utility in this alternative is still receiving an increase in fixed meter charges, whereas Columbus volume rates stayed the same. The proposed rate structure for both Fall River and Elba should be lower than the Utility as Columbus is paying for operation and maintenance expenses for their collection system. This rate structure appears the most just and reasonable.

Additional information would be needed for R/M to look further into this model:

The City's requirements for maintaining cash reserves as a percentage of O&M.

The maximum viable reduction to the CIP budget for the next few years.

This data will be essential for determining whether Alternative 2 is a realistic and sustainable option.

The Utility provided R/M with a proposed rate structure and septage volumes that are anticipated to be charged to waste haulers in 2025. R/M incorporated that into both models with the assumptions made (described above). This new rate structure will help reduce the impact of the rate increase for the Utility, Village of Fall River, and Elba Sanitary District. The estimates in the data provided for waste haulers presented a challenge in this study by not being able to calculate an accurate revenue estimate. The

2025 Sanitary Sewer Rate Study

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estimates we used in this model reflect R/M's best efforts based on the information that is available. To enhance the accuracy of future rate studies, data related to waste haulers should begin to be recorded as soon as possible.

# COLUMBUS UTILITIES SEWER RATE STUDY





# Columbus' Sewer Utility Background

- Village furnishes sanitary sewer to over 2,300 users, along with services to Village of Fall River, Elba Sanitary District 1, and Waste Haulers
- Responsible for:
  - Capital Costs
  - Operation and Maintenance Costs
  - Activities involving the sanitary sewer collection system and lift station and wastewater treatment plant



# Purpose of the Study

- To review and confirm or recommend changes to the Village's sewer rates
- Summary of the Study
  - Revenue from rates increased \$900,000 or 56 percent
  - Sewer rates last increased in 2018
  - Drivers
    - Operation & maintenance expense increases
    - Numerous capital projects planned in the upcoming years

# Study Purpose

- Develop a rate structure that ensures adequate revenues to meet operating, maintenance and capital expenditures for 2025
- Develop rate projections for the next 5-years to ensure rates developed now will lead to smaller, inflationary increases in the future
- Develop rate structure with fair allocation of costs for all user groups

# Key Findings

## ■ Revenue on Projected Rates

- Study proposes fixed and volume rates based on revenue and cash-flow needs
- Sewer cost-of-service was re-designed to provide a more simplistic model that can be easily updated and maintains historical rate practices

## ■ Revenue vs Debt Service

- Current sewer revenue insufficient to meet debt service obligations
- Additional capital improvement projects are being taken on
- Combined residential and commercial revenue in 2024 is lower than 2023, underscoring the need for a review of the revenue structure

## ■ Alternative Solutions

- Six alternatives evaluated
- Designed to impact all customers uniformly

# Key Findings (Cont.)

## ■ Impact on Customers

### ■ Proposed Rate Increase

- Fixed meter charges increase 56 percent
- Fall River volume charges increased 195 percent
- Elba volume charges increase by 143.8 percent
- Columbus volume charges increased by 0.2 percent

# Alternative 2

## Selected Alternative

- Provides a volume-based rate structure for Fall River, Elba that is closer to volume charges being made by Columbus Rate Payers
- Columbus residents in this alternative will receive an increase in fixed meter charges, but volume rates stayed the same.
- This rate structure appears the most just and reasonable.

# Revenue Requirement

**Table 1**

**Revenue Requirement**

Income		Cash	
<b>Revenue</b>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2024	\$ 1,891,525
2024 Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	Operating Income (Loss)	(487,011)
<hr/>		Depreciation	406,843
Subtotal	1,628,106	Interest Income	93,000
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenses</b>		Debt Service	(628,129)
Operation	1,708,274	<hr/>	
Depreciation	406,843	Cash Flow	(615,297)
<hr/>		Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Subtotal	2,115,117	Projected Income (Loss)	\$ 2,174,000
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	Projected Cash Flow	\$ (615,297)
<b>Other Revenue (Expenses)</b>		Projected Cash Balance as of Jan 1, 2025	\$ 1,276,228
Interest Income	93,000	Cash Flow as % of Annual O&M	-29%
Other Revenues	3,196,940	Cash Balance as % of Annual O&M	60%
Debt Principal	(430,727)		
Debt Interest	(197,402)		
ISSUANCE/PREMIUM/PAYING AGENT	(800)		
<hr/>			
Subtotal	2,661,011		
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 2,174,000</b>		

# Fixed and Variable Costs

**Table 2**

**Fixed and Variable Costs**

<b>Adjustment (Fixed Portion Moved to Variable) =</b>			<b>0%</b>
<b>Fixed</b>	<b>Unadjusted</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>
Debt Service	628,129	-	628,129
<b>Subtotal Fixed</b>	<b>628,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>628,129</b>
<b>Variable</b>	<b>999,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>999,977</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>		<b>\$ 1,628,106</b>

# Fixed Meter Charges

**Table 3**

**Fixed Charges**

**Monthly Fixed Charges**

Meter Size	Proposed	Current	Percent Change
5/8" \$	26.68 \$	17.10	56.0%
3/4" \$	26.68 \$	17.10	56.0%
1" \$	35.88 \$	23.00	56.0%
1 1/2" \$	51.48 \$	33.00	56.0%
2" \$	68.64 \$	44.00	56.0%
3" \$	110.76 \$	71.00	56.0%
4" \$	171.60 \$	110.00	56.0%

**Revenue from Proposed Meter Charges**

Meter Size	Meter Count	Monthly	Annual
5/8"	10 \$	267 \$	3,201
3/4"	2,162 \$	57,674 \$	692,082
1"	59 \$	2,117 \$	25,403
1 1/2"	25 \$	1,287 \$	15,444
2"	18 \$	1,236 \$	14,826
3"	6 \$	665 \$	7,975
4"	4 \$	686 \$	8,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,284 \$</b>	<b>63,931 \$</b>	<b>767,168</b>



# Fall River Volume Charges

**Table 4.1**

**Fall River Volume Charges**

Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	140,000.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	196,000.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		8960771.11

**Rate per 100 Cubic Feet**

<b>Proposed</b>	\$	<b>5.90</b>
Current	\$	1.49
Change	\$	4.41
Change		296.0%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$528,685.50

# Elba Volume Charges

**Table 4.2**

**Elba Volume Charges**

Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2024	\$	13,330.00
Fall River Budgeted Volume Revenue 2025	\$	18,662.00
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)		661680.85

**Rate per 100 Cubic Feet**

<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5.90</b>
Current	\$	1.70
Change	\$	4.20
Change		247.1%
Projected Revenue with Proposed Rates		\$39,039.17

# Waste Haulers Volume Charges

Table 4.3

## Waste Haulers Volume Charges

Holding Tank Waste	2025
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	3005192
Assumption on Number of Trucks	667
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$25.00
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$141,829.80
<b>Septage Waste</b>	
2025	
Assumption on Total Volume (Gallons)	600000
Assumption on Number of Trucks	133
<b>Testing Charges</b>	
Fixed Charge Per Truck (Gate Fee)	\$25.00
COD Test Per Truck	\$30.00
Ortho P Test Per Truck	\$15.00
TKN (Unfiltered) Test Per Truck	\$30.00
TSS Test Per Truck If Abnormal	\$15.00
High Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$50.00
Industrial Strength Rate (\$/1000 Gal)	\$100.00
Assumption on Total Extra Charges For Industrial (Ortho P, TKN, and TSS Multipliers)	\$900.00
Assumption on Percentage of Septage High Strength	50.00%
Assumption on Percentage of Septage Industrial	50.00%
Proposed Revenue from Holding Tank	\$59,299.75
Total Revenue from Waste Haulers	\$201,129.55

# Columbus Volume Charge

<b>Remaining Vairable Cost</b>	
Total 2025 Rev Requirement	\$2,539,845
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fixed Revenue From Meter Charges	\$767,168
Fall River Volume Charge	\$528,685
Elba Volume Charge	\$39,039
Waste Haulers Total Volume Charge	\$201,130
Sewer Fees From Budget	\$66,000
Sewer Connection Fees From Budget	\$5,000
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$932,822</b>

**Table 4.4**

## Columbus Volume Charges

Remaining Variable Cost	\$	932,822
Estimated Volume (cubic feet)*		14,700,303
<b>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</b>		
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6.35</b>
Current	\$	6.34
Change	\$	0.01
Change		0.2%

Table 5

## Customer Bill Analysis

# Customer Bill Analysis

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Demand (Per 100 Cubic Feet)</u>	<u>Bill with Current Rates</u>	<u>Bill with Proposed Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	
<b>Residential Rates</b>						
No Consumption	3/4"	-	\$ 17.10	\$ 26.68	\$ 9.58	56%
Small Residential	3/4"	2	\$ 29.81	\$ 39.41	\$ 9.60	32%
Average Residential	3/4"	4	\$ 42.53	\$ 52.14	\$ 9.62	23%
Large Residential	3/4"	7	\$ 59.48	\$ 69.12	\$ 9.64	16%
Large Residential	3/4"	11	\$ 84.90	\$ 94.59	\$ 9.68	11%
Large Residential	3/4"	13	\$ 101.85	\$ 111.56	\$ 9.71	10%
<b>Commercial Rates</b>						
No Consumption	1"	-	\$ 23.00	\$ 35.88	\$ 12.88	56%
Small Residential	1"	2	\$ 35.71	\$ 48.61	\$ 12.90	36%
Average Residential	1"	4	\$ 48.43	\$ 61.35	\$ 12.92	27%
Large Residential	1"	7	\$ 65.38	\$ 78.32	\$ 12.95	20%
Large Residential	1"	11	\$ 90.80	\$ 103.79	\$ 12.99	14%
Large Residential	1"	13	\$ 107.75	\$ 120.77	\$ 13.01	12%

# Five-Year Forecast

Table 6 -- Increases Every Second Year

	5 Year Forecast				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>Required Revenue Increase*</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Revenue	\$ 1,628,106	\$ 2,539,845	\$ 2,844,626	\$ 3,498,890	\$ 3,778,801
Operation	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,708,274	1,827,853	1,955,803	2,092,709	2,239,198
Other O&M	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Subtotal Expenses	2,115,117	2,246,901	2,387,422	2,537,277	2,697,104
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(487,011)</b>	<b>292,943</b>	<b>457,204</b>	<b>961,613</b>	<b>1,081,697</b>
<b>Cash Adjustments</b>					
Depreciation	406,843	419,048	431,620	444,568	457,905
Interest Income	93,000	77,891	78,065	78,190	78,126
Debt Service	(628,129)	(782,611)	(961,688)	(1,487,024)	(1,599,757)
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$ (615,297)</b>	<b>\$ 7,272</b>	<b>\$ 5,201</b>	<b>\$ (2,653)</b>	<b>\$ 17,972</b>
<b>End-of-year Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,228</b>	<b>\$ 1,283,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,701</b>	<b>\$ 1,286,048</b>	<b>\$ 1,304,020</b>
<b>Cash Reserve as % O&amp;M</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>48%</b>

\* Required Revenue Increase from Fall River, Elba, Waste Haulers, Columbus Volume Charges and Colun

<b>Debt Service</b>	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Existing	\$ (628,129)	(622,644)	(626,778)	(546,528)	(511,500)
Forecast	\$ -	\$ (159,967)	\$ (334,910)	\$ (940,496)	\$ (1,088,257)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (628,129)</b>	<b>\$ (782,611)</b>	<b>\$ (961,688)</b>	<b>\$ (1,487,024)</b>	<b>\$ (1,599,757)</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	<b>2,174,000</b>	<b>2,377,536</b>	<b>8,230,116</b>	<b>2,008,116</b>	<b>4,468,116</b>

# Five-Year Forecast

Meter Size	Beaver Dam		Marshall		Waterloo		Portage		Proposed Columbus		Average *	
5/8"	\$	28.35	\$	12.48	\$	15.00	\$	14.44	\$	26.68	\$	17.57
3/4"	\$	38.35	\$	12.48	\$	15.00	-		\$	26.68	\$	21.94
1"	\$	43.05	\$	21.84	\$	35.05	\$	33.75	\$	35.88	\$	33.42
1 1/2"	\$	96.60	\$	37.60	\$	68.46	\$	62.50	\$	51.48	\$	66.29
2"	\$	165.90	\$	56.30	\$	108.57	\$	81.25	\$	68.64	\$	103.01
3"	\$	263.55	\$	100.90	\$	202.13	\$	145.00	\$	110.76	\$	177.90
4"	\$	508.20	-		\$	335.79	\$	237.50	\$	171.60	\$	360.50

\* Average is taken of Beaver Dam, Marshall, Waterloo, and Portage.

Volume Charge (\$ per 100 cubic feet)	Beaver Dam		Marshall		Waterloo		Portage		Proposed Columbus Alternative 1	Proposed Columbus Alternative 2		
	\$	2.71	\$	10.49	\$	12.75	\$	5.63	\$	8.75	\$	6.34



# Questions?



**Bridgot Gysbers**  
Economic Consultant  
Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.  
[bgysbers@ruekert-mielke.com](mailto:bgysbers@ruekert-mielke.com)  
262-953-4156



**Zach Schinke**  
Economic Consultant  
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[zschinke@ruekert-mielke.com](mailto:zschinke@ruekert-mielke.com)  
608-504-2420





## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type: Utility Commission**

**Meeting Date: Thursday February 27, 2025**

---

**Item Title:** Action Item from January 23, 2025 Columbus Utility Commission Meeting - Vacation Accrual Balances

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Previous Commission Meeting provided an action Item that was to be completed by the next scheduled Columbus Utility Commission Meeting in regards to excessive vacation accrual for two Utilities Employees. Both Employees have made efforts to reduce their vacation accruals, and both are now within normal standing per the Columbus Utilities Department Employee Handbook.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. J.Boness & M.Kaltenberg - Vacation Balance and Requested Vacations as of 2/21/2025

**Action Requested of Council:**

Review and Acknowledgement of Completed Deadline.

**Jake Boness**

**Michelle Kaltenberg**

**Scheduled Vacation Hours**

**Scheduled Vacation Hours**

30-Jun	9
1-Jul	9
2-Jul	9
3-Jul	9
28-Mar	4
21-Mar	4
28-Feb	4
7-Mar	4
14-Feb	4
7-Feb	4
18-Apr	4
2-May	4
9-May	4
23-May	4
30-May	4
13-Jun	4
20-Jun	4
17-Feb	9
11-Jul	4
3-Feb	9
1-May	9
5-May	9
14-Apr	9
15-Apr	9
16-Apr	9
17-Apr	9
26-May	9
16-Jun	9
23-Jun	9
2-Jun	9
10-Feb	9
3-Mar	9
24-Mar	9
31-Mar	9
4-Mar	9
27-Mar	9
1-Apr	9
18-Jul	4

29-Jan	9
30-Jan	9
31-Jan	4
3-Feb	9
20-Feb	9
21-Feb	4
24-Feb	9
25-Feb	9
26-Feb	9
21-Apr	9
23-May	4
27-May	9
3-Jun	9
3-Jul	9
7-Jul	9
16-Jul	9
8-Aug	4
11-Aug	9
29-Aug	9
2-Sep	9
11-Sep	9
1-Dec	9
26-Dec	4
29-Dec	9
30-Dec	9
1/2/2026	4

**Total** **267**

**Total** **204**

**2/21/2025**

**2/21/2025**

**Total Vacation Remaining** **229**

**Total Vacation Remaining** **252**



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type: Utilities Commission**

**Meeting Date: Thursday February 27, 2025**

---

**Item Title:** Elimination of Exempt Utilities Employees Compensation Time, and Addition of Flex Time for Exempt Utilities Employees

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Per letter drafted February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Policy to be Implemented on March 3, 2025 Exempt Utilities will no longer accumulate compensatory time when working over 40 hours per week. The time will be provided as flex time which is a 1 to 1 vs compensatory time which is 1.5 to 1.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Exempt Utilities Employees Flex Time Memo
2. Exempt Utilities Employees Flex Time Policy

**Action Requested of Council:**

Discussion and Approval of policy changes.



## CITY OF COLUMBUS

105 N. DICKASON BOULEVARD COLUMBUS, WISCONSIN 53925-1565  
920.623.5900 FAX 920.623.5901 [www.cityofcolumbuswi.com](http://www.cityofcolumbuswi.com)

*Discover!*  
COLUMBUS

TO: Matt Amundson

FROM: Stephanie Masché, Human Resources Administrator

DATE: February 13, 2025

RE: Elimination of Compensation Time for Exempt Utilities Employees

Consideration should be made in changing the current practice of allowing the Utilities exempt employees to accrue compensatory time at the rate of 1.5 per one hour worked and instead offer an accumulation of flexible time as per the current policy for all other city employees. We currently have fourteen salaried employees and only two are being allowed to accrue compensatory time.

Overtime and compensatory time are typically associated with employees who are considered non-exempt, or hourly employees. Exempt employees are compensated with a set annual wage that is typically at a higher rate of pay than non-exempt employees in recognition of the varying, and at times substantial, workloads that their positions dictate. It is not considered best practice to extend compensatory time to exempt employees.

To be consistent with all other exempt employees, the two employees from the Utilities Department should be allowed to accumulate a bank of flexible time on an hour for hour basis for hours worked above 40 in any given workweek. This flex time bank can accrue up to a maximum total of 40 hours. Flexible time is not eligible to be paid out and has no cash value.

## **Columbus Utilities Exempt Employees Flexible Time Policy**

Beginning March 3, 2025, Columbus Utilities salaried employees will no longer earn compensatory time (time and one half for each hour worked) for hours worked over forty (40) in any given week.

It is the policy of the City of Columbus to permit exempt employees who work more hours than regularly scheduled to receive flexible time off on a pro-rata basis. Therefore, a bank of flex time will be allowed for time worked above forty (40) hours in any given week. Salaried employees shall not be allowed to accumulate more than forty (40) hours of flexible time at any given time and usage is to be scheduled at the mutual convenience of the employer and employee. The City Administrator reserves the right to determine when use of flex time may be permitted.

Any existing accumulated compensatory time must be converted to flexible time prior to March 3, 2025.

No payment shall be made for accrued but unused flex time upon termination of employment.



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type: Utilities Commission**

**Meeting Date: Thursday February 27, 2025**

**Item Title:** Purchase of Midwest Chemical & Equipment Polymer Skid

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

### Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

Columbus Wastewater Utility has been renting this chemical make-down skid for polymer since mid-2024. This was an experimental system that we were using to assist in obtaining higher cake solids with our vendors various polymer blends.

The system worked and greatly improved our ability to adjust chemical dosing as needed. We have been renting the unit for \$350 a month and I was approached about the future of our system and what we feel our need would be moving forward.

We will for sure need this polymer skid through the remainder of 2025 and into 2026 until our Biosolids project is completed, and since this polymer skid is modular it can be utilized with the valute press technology that we will be installing in 2026. So this skid would be placed in layup with mineral oil and would be available as a viable backup for our polymer delivery needs in the event we have a failure of the system in the future.

If we buy it now (February) the cost will be \$9,813. If we rent through the end of 2025 the cost in December would be \$8,763. With a savings of only \$1050 for the purchase when we would have paid over \$3500 in additional rent.

### List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

1. Email communication on the subject

### Action Requested of Council:

Request permission to purchase the Midwest Chemical & Equipment Polymer make-down skid for \$9,813.

**Jacob Holbert**

**From:** Andrew Rossetti <ajrossetti@midwestce.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:34 PM  
**To:** Jacob Holbert  
**Cc:** 'David Olson'  
**Subject:** Re: Columbus Polymer Skid Quote

Likewise!

Per the rental agreement, price would be \$8,763 in December.

When will the volute press project begin?

Thanks,

*\$9,813*  
*- 8,763*  
*-----*  
*\$1,050*  
*RENT: \$350/mo*

**Andrew Rossetti**



**MidWest Chemical & Equipment – Authorized Solenis Sales Agent**

**5338 State Hwy. 57**  
**De Pere WI 54115**

**920-634-9201**

---

**From:** Jacob Holbert <jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:38 AM  
**To:** Andrew Rossetti <ajrossetti@midwestce.com>  
**Cc:** 'David Olson' <djolson@midwestce.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Columbus Polymer Skid Quote

Andrew,

It was great to catch up! I very much enjoyed the opportunity to sit down and have a meal with you all. Thank you again!

Just out of curiosity.

Could you put together the price for purchase if we rented it until November and Purchased it in December 2025?

Just curious as I know we have the rental budgeted as part of the chemical cost, I just don't want to pull the trigger now and in the future have a shortage due to an increased chemical need.

Also I just want to ensure we are making the best choice.

Thank you,



**Jacob R. Holbert**

**UTILITIES DIRECTOR**  
950 Maple Avenue  
P.O. Box 228  
Columbus, WI 53925

O: 920.623.5912  
C: **920.763.3471**  
[jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com](mailto:jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com)

**From:** Andrew Rossetti <ajrossetti@midwestce.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:24 AM  
**To:** Jacob Holbert <jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com>  
**Cc:** 'David Olson' <djolson@midwestce.com>  
**Subject:** Columbus Polymer Skid Quote

Hi Jacob,

Good to see you at the WWOA show this week. We enjoyed the conversation.

Here is the quote from last summer on the polymer skid. The price would now be \$9,813 for purchase.

Thanks,

**Andrew Rossetti**



**MidWest Chemical & Equipment – Authorized Solenis Sales Agent**

**5338 State Hwy. 57**  
**De Pere WI 54115**

**920-634-9201**



Jacob Holbert,  
Columbus Utilities

6/21/24

Thank you for allowing Midwest Chemical to provide this proposal for a polymer make-down system. In our experience the Norchem units are the most effective and cost-efficient systems on the market. Their Sharpshooter models offer a small footprint and use a high-pressure booster pump, patented mixing block, and reliable Pulsatron diaphragm pumps to fully activate the emulsion polymer.

See the specified make-down unit below which is appropriately sized for Columbus WWTP's BFP Application.

**Make-down Unit: Norchem Sharpshooter Liquid Polymer System – SHP 448 (w/4-20 mAMP signal)**



**Price: \$10,548.00, FOB**

Lead Time: On-hand, delivery 6/26 available.

Liquid Polymer: Up to 48 Gallons per day

Utilities: Electrical-115VAC, 1 Phase, Standard      Water- *potable* 40-100 PSI, 4 GPM

**Rental: \$350/month**

30% of rental fee credited to price, if Columbus chooses to purchase after trial period.

Feel free to call with any questions.

Thanks,

Andrew Rossetti  
(920)634-9201



## Agenda Item Report

**Meeting Type: Utilities Commission**

**Meeting Date: Thursday February 27, 2025**

---

**Item Title:** Final Closeout Packet for Waterloo Street and Meister Park Lift Station Capital Projects

**Submitted By:** Jacob R. Holbert, Utilities Director

**Detailed Description of Subject Matter:**

Final Payment and Closeout for all change orders associated with this Capital Project. Final Payment of \$322,860.75 will be needed to finalize payout of this project.

Final Payment of \$322,860.75 will need to be bonded for by the Treasurer for Final Payment.

**List all Supporting Documentation Attached:**

1. Closeout Letter to Owner

**Action Requested of Council:**

Discussion and Approval of policy changes.

February 24, 2025

Matt Amundson,  
City of Columbus  
Administrator  
105 N. Dickason Boulevard  
Columbus, WI 53925

Re: Meister Park and Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades  
Final Payment

Dear Mr. Amundson:

Enclosed with this letter please find Change Order No. 1. This Change Order serves to adjust the final Contract Price to reflect the actual completed Work. Please have Change Order No. 1 signed and dated by the appropriate individual and return an executed copy to our office for further distribution.

In accordance with the Contract Documents, the Contractor for this Project, Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc. has submitted a final Application for Payment and has furnished the enclosed Contract-required items:

1. Maintenance and operating instructions. (Delivered separately)
2. Consent of Surety to Final Payment.
3. Releases or waivers of lien from the General Contractor and first tier Subcontractors and Suppliers.
4. Certificate or other evidence of completed operations insurance.

You may want to have your legal counsel and insurance advisor review the respective lien waivers, bonding, and insurance documents to verify legal effectiveness. If all are satisfactory, we recommend final payment, and give notice (enclosed), that the completed Work is acceptable subject to the provisions of General Conditions paragraph 15.07.

In accordance with paragraph 15.08 of the General Conditions, the Contractor is required to promptly repair or correct defective Work for a period of one year from the date of Substantial Completion which was December 18, 2024. You may wish to review the Project a month or so before the anniversary date to check for any warranty items. If we can be of assistance to you in this regard, please contact us.

Respectfully

RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC.

Andrew W. Burt   
Digitally signed by Andrew W. Burt  
DN: C=US,  
E=aburt@ruekert-mielke.com,  
O="Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.",  
CN=Andrew W. Burt  
Date: 2025.02.24 15:12:39-06'00'

Andrew W. Burt

AWB:ied  
Enclosure(s)

cc: Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc w/Notice of Acceptability  
Jason P. Lietha, P.E., Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.

Date of Issuance: January 24, 2025      Effective Date: January 24, 2025  
 Contract: Meister Park and Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades      Owner: City of Columbus  
 Contractor: Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc.      Engineer: Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.  
 Address: W8583 Finch Brothers Road, Lake Mills, WI 53551      Engineer's Project No.: 8117-10072  
 Effective Date of Contract: May 17, 2023

The Contract is modified as follows upon execution of this Change Order:

MP = Meister Park Lift Station; WS = Waterloo Street Lift Station

Description: (1) repair of water main at MP; (2) concrete chunk removal at MP; (3) import backfill at MP; (4) storm sewer repair at MP; (5) additional lift station piping at WS; (6) additional clear stone backfill at MP; and (7) new force main across Crawfish River at MP; and (8) removal of allowance items for both MP and WS.

Reason for Change Order: (1) existing water main was located incorrectly by USIC; (2) concrete chunks were found in excavation and had to be loaded and hauled offsite; (3) import material was required to replace the volume of removed concrete; (4) storm sewer required removal and replacement in order to repair water main; (5) building location shifted which required additional piping to connect to wet well; (6) provide additional separation between new sanitary sewer pipe and poor spoil backfill; (7) existing force main was found to be leaking in the river and required immediate replacement; and (8) allowance items were billed directly to Columbus Utilities. Allowance items include new gas and electric services and remote telemetry.

Attachments: (1) Summary of changes and costs associated with items above; (2) Request for Change Order from contractor including breakdown of equipment, materials, and labor associated with emergency force main installation.

CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE	CHANGE IN CONTRACT TIMES
Original Contract Price \$ 1,499,750.00	Original Contract Times: Substantial Completion: _____ Ready for Final Payment: _____ days or dates
Increase/Decrease from previously approved Change Orders No. ___ to No. ___: \$ _____	●Increase● ●Decrease● from previously approved Change Orders No. ___ to No. ___: Substantial Completion: _____ Ready for Final Payment: _____ days
Contract Price prior to this Change Order: \$ 1,499,750.00	Contract Times prior to this Change Order: Substantial Completion: _____ Ready for Final Payment: _____ days or dates
Increase of this Change Order: \$ 54,316.00	●Increase● ●Decrease● of this Change Order: Substantial Completion: _____ Ready for Final Payment: _____ days or dates
Contract Price incorporating this Change Order: \$ 1,554,066.00	Contract Times with all approved Change Orders: Substantial Completion: _____ Ready for Final Payment: _____ days or dates

RECOMMENDED:

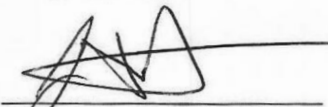
ACCEPTED:

ACCEPTED:

Digitally signed by Andrew W. Burt  
 DN: c=US,  
 E=aburt@ruekert-mielke.com,  
 O=Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.,  
 CN=Andrew W. Burt  
 Date: 2025.01.24 10:22:48-0600

Signature: Andrew W. Burt  
 Engineer (Authorized Signature)

Signature:   
 Owner (Authorized Signature)

Signature:   
 Contractor (Authorized Signature)

Date: 1/24/25

Date: 1/30/25

Date: 2/24/25





Summary of Changes  
Forest Landscaping & Construction  
Columbus Lift Stations - Meister Park & Waterloo St.

1 Incorrect locates led to watermain hit at Meister Park	1 LS	\$ 10,192.00	\$ 10,192.00
2 Concrete removal in pipe backfill at Meister Park	15 LDS	\$ 265.00	\$ 3,975.00
3 Replacement of concrete removal with screenings	322 CY	\$ 12.00	\$ 3,864.00
4 Storm sewer repair at Meister Park due to watermain hit - incl new manhole installation	1 LS	\$ 7,242.00	\$ 7,242.00
5 Additional lift station piping at Waterloo St. & winter conditions	1 LS	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 5,800.00
6 An additional 1' of clear stone over the sanitary pipe at Meister Park	66 TON	\$ 18.00	\$ 1,188.00
7 PENDING - Directional drill, support, connection, restoration, etc. across the Crawfish River	1 LS	\$ 62,055.00	\$ 62,055.00
		TOTAL	\$ 94,316.00

### Contractor's Application for Payment No. 5 (Final)

<b>Application Date:</b> 1/16/2025		<b>Application Period:</b> December 6, 2024 to December 31, 2025	
<b>To (Owner):</b> City of Columbus	<b>From (Contractor):</b> Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc.	<b>Via (Engineer):</b>	Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.
<b>Contact:</b> Jacob Holbert	<b>Contact:</b> Jason Forest, President	<b>Contact:</b>	Dave Arnott
<b>Project:</b> Meister Park and Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades	<b>Address:</b> W8583 Finch Brothers Rd. Lake Mills, WI 53551	<b>Address:</b>	W233 N2080 Ridgeview Parkway Waukesha, WI 53188
<b>Owner's Contract No.:</b> N/A	<b>Contractor's Project No.:</b>	<b>Engineer's Project No.:</b>	8117-10072

#### Change Order Summary

Approved Change Orders				
Number	Additions	Deductions (Enter as Positive Number)		
1	\$94,316.00	\$40,000.00	1. ORIGINAL CONTRACT PRICE .....	\$ 1,499,750.00
			2. Net change by Change Orders .....	\$ 54,316.00
			3. CURRENT CONTRACT PRICE (Line 1 + Line 2) .....	\$ 1,554,066.00
			4. TOTAL COMPLETED AND STORED TO DATE (Column G Total on Progress Estimates) .....	\$ 1,554,066.00
			5. RETAINAGE:	
			a. X \$777,033.00 Work Completed .....	\$
			b. 5% X Stored Material .....	\$
			c. Total Retainage (Line 5a + Line 5b) .....	\$
			6. RETAINAGE REDUCTION TO DATE (Enter as Positive Number) .....	\$
			7. AMOUNT ELIGIBLE TO DATE (Line 4 - Line 5c + Line 6) .....	\$ 1,554,066.00
			8. LESS PREVIOUS PAYMENTS (Line 7 from Prior Application) .....	\$ 1,231,205.25
			9. AMOUNT DUE THIS APPLICATION (Line 7 - Line 8).....	\$ 322,860.75
			10. BALANCE TO FINISH, PLUS RETAINAGE (Column I Total on Progress Estimates + Line 5c - Line 6) .....	\$
TOTALS	\$94,316.00	\$40,000.00		
NET CHANGE BY CHANGE ORDERS		\$54,316.00		

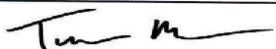
**Contractor's Certification**

The undersigned Contractor certifies that to the best of its knowledge:

(1) all previous progress payments received from Owner on account of Work done under the Contract have been applied on account to discharge Contractor's legitimate obligations incurred in connection with Work covered by prior Applications for Payment;

(2) title to all Work, materials and equipment incorporated in said Work or otherwise listed in or covered by this Application for Payment will pass to the Owner per Article 15 of the General Conditions; and

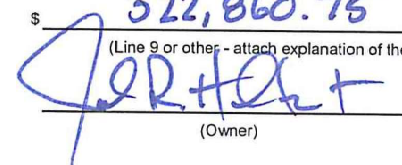
(3) all Work covered by this Application for Payment is in accordance with the Contract Documents and is not defective.

By:  Date: 2/3/25

Payment of: \$ 322,860.75  
(Line 9 or other - attach explanation of the other amount)

Recommended by: Andrew W. Burt  
Digitally signed by Andrew W. Burt  
DN: cn=US, e=aburt@ruekertmielke.com,  
o=Ruekert & Mielke, Inc., ou=Andrew W. Burt  
Date: 2025.01.24 10:22:11-0500 1/24/25  
(Engineer) (Date)

Payment of: \$ 322,860.75  
(Line 9 or other - attach explanation of the other amount)

Approved by:  1/30/25  
(Owner) (Date)



Progress Estimate - Lump Sum Work

Contractor's Application for Payment No. 5 (Final)

Item #8.

For (Project): Meister Park and Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades						Application Date: 1/16/2025		
Application Period: December 6, 2024 to December 31, 2025						8117-10072		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Specification Section No.	Description	Scheduled Value (\$)	Work Completed to Date		Materials Presently Stored (not in D or E)	Total Work Completed & Stored to Date (D + E + F)	% Complete (G / C)	Balance to Finish (C - G)
			From Previous Applications	This Period				
	Bonds & Permits	\$ 30,665.00	\$ 26,065.25	\$ 4,599.75		\$ 30,665.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Mobilization & Bypassing	\$ 87,325.00	\$ 65,493.75	\$ 21,831.25		\$ 87,325.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Site Grading & Excavation	\$ 176,500.00	\$ 150,025.00	\$ 26,475.00		\$ 176,500.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Concrete Work	\$ 25,355.00	\$ 25,355.00	\$ -		\$ 25,355.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Site Piping	\$ 174,485.00	\$ 148,312.25	\$ 26,172.75		\$ 174,485.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Site Electrical	\$ 81,265.00	\$ 60,948.75	\$ 20,316.25		\$ 81,265.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Lift Station Building & Generator (Waterloo)	\$ 389,075.00	\$ 389,075.00	\$ -		\$ 389,075.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Lift Station Building & Generator (Meister)	\$ 391,540.00	\$ 364,154.00	\$ 27,386.00		\$ 391,540.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Start Up	\$ 78,540.00	\$ 39,270.00	\$ 39,270.00		\$ 78,540.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Restoration	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Allowance - New Natural Gas Service	\$ 8,000.00						\$ 8,000.00
	Allowance - New Electric Service	\$ 8,000.00						\$ 8,000.00
	Allowance - Remote Facilities Telemetry	\$ 24,000.00						\$ 24,000.00
	CHANGE ORDER 1							\$ -
	Water Main Repair	\$ 10,192.00		\$ 10,192.00		\$ 10,192.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Remove Concrete Chunks	\$ 3,975.00		\$ 3,975.00		\$ 3,975.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Import Backfill	\$ 3,864.00		\$ 3,864.00		\$ 3,864.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Storm Sewer Repair and Manhole	\$ 7,242.00		\$ 7,242.00		\$ 7,242.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Additional Lift Station Piping	\$ 5,800.00		\$ 5,800.00		\$ 5,800.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Additional Clear Stone Backfill	\$ 1,188.00		\$ 1,188.00		\$ 1,188.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Emergency Force Main Installation	\$ 62,055.00		\$ 62,055.00		\$ 62,055.00	100.0%	\$ -
	Removal of Allowance Items	\$ (40,000.00)				\$ -		\$ (40,000.00)
						\$ -		\$ -
						\$ -		\$ -
						\$ -		\$ -
						\$ -		\$ -
						\$ -		\$ -
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,554,066.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,268,699.00</b>	<b>\$ 285,367.00</b>		<b>\$ 1,554,066.00</b>		<b>\$ -</b>



**CONSENT OF SURETY COMPANY TO FINAL PAYMENT**

AIA DOCUMENT G707

OWNER	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARCHITECT	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
SURETY	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bond # GRWI32157B

**PROJECT:**

(name, address)

Meister Park and Waterloo Street Lift Station Improvements

**TO (Owner)**

City of Columbus

105 N Dickason Blvd

Columbus, WI 53925

**ARCHITECT'S PROJECT NO:**

**CONTRACT FOR:** General Construction

**CONTRACT DATE:** 5/17/2023

**CONTRACTOR:** FOREST LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION, INC.

In accordance with the provisions of the Contract between the Owner and the Contractor as indicated above, the  
(here insert name and address of Surety Company)

Granite Re, Inc.

14001 Quailbrook Drive

Oklahoma City, OK 73134

,SURETY COMPANY,

on bond of (here insert name and address of contractor)

FOREST LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION, INC.

W8583 Finch Brothers Rd

Lake Mills, WI 53551

,CONTRACTOR,

hereby approves of the final payment to the Contractor, and agrees that final payment to the Contractor shall  
not relieve the Surety company of any of its obligations to (here insert name and address of Owner)

City of Columbus

105 N Dickason Blvd

Columbus, WI 53925

,OWNER,

as set forth in the said Surety Company's bond

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,**

The Surety Company has hereunto set its hand this 4th day of February 2025

Granite Re, Inc.

Surety Company

Signature of Authorized Representative

Attorney-in-Fact

Attest

Witness

(seal): Kaleigh Sansone

Title Connie Smith

NOTE: This form is to be used as a companion document to AIA DOCUMENT G706, CONTRACTOR'S AFFIDAVIT OF PAYMENT OF DEBT AND CLAIMS.  
Current Edition

AIA DOCUMENT G707 \* CONSENT OF SURETY COMPANY TO FINAL PAYMENT \* APRIL 1970 EDITION \* AIA  
1970 THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 1735 NEW YORK AVE. NW WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
WARNING: Unlicensed photocopying violates U.S. copyright laws and is subject to legal prosecution.

GRANITE RE, INC.  
GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all Men by these Presents:

That GRANITE RE, INC., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of MINNESOTA and having its principal office at the City of OKLAHOMA CITY in the State of OKLAHOMA does hereby constitute and appoint:

MICHAEL J. DOUGLAS; CHRIS STEINAGEL; CHRISTOPHER M. KEMP; KARLA HEFFRON; SAMUEL DUCHOW; ROBERT DOWNEY; JULIA DOUGLAS; CONNIE SMITH; KORY MORTEL; ELIOT MOTU its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact(s) for the following purposes, to wit:

To sign its name as surety to, and to execute, seal and acknowledge any and all bonds, and to respectively do and perform any and all acts and things set forth in the resolution of the Board of Directors of the said GRANITE RE, INC. a certified copy of which is hereto annexed and made a part of this Power of Attorney; and the said GRANITE RE, INC. through us, its Board of Directors, hereby ratifies and confirms all and whatsoever the said:

MICHAEL J. DOUGLAS; CHRIS STEINAGEL; CHRISTOPHER M. KEMP; KARLA HEFFRON; SAMUEL DUCHOW; ROBERT DOWNEY; JULIA DOUGLAS; CONNIE SMITH; KORY MORTEL; ELIOT MOTU may lawfully do in the premises by virtue of these presents.

In Witness Whereof, the said GRANITE RE, INC. has caused this instrument to be sealed with its corporate seal, duly attested by the signatures of its President and Assistant Secretary, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2023.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA )  
                                  ) SS:  
COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA )



*Kenneth D. Whittington*  
Kenneth D. Whittington, President

*Kyle P. McDonald*  
Kyle P. McDonald, Assistant Secretary

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2023, before me personally came Kenneth D. Whittington, President of the GRANITE RE, INC. Company and Kyle P. McDonald, Assistant Secretary of said Company, with both of whom I am personally acquainted, who being by me severally duly sworn, said, that they, the said Kenneth D. Whittington and Kyle P. McDonald were respectively the President and the Assistant Secretary of GRANITE RE, INC., the corporation described in and which executed the foregoing Power of Attorney; that they each knew the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said Power of Attorney was such corporate seal, that it was so fixed by order of the Board of Directors of said corporation, and that they signed their name thereto by like order as President and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of the Company.

My Commission Expires:  
April 21, 2027  
Commission #: 11003620



*Bethany J. Alred*  
Notary Public

GRANITE RE, INC.  
Certificate

THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly elected and acting Assistant Secretary of Granite Re, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation, HEREBY CERTIFIES that the following resolution is a true and correct excerpt from the July 15, 1987, minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Granite Re, Inc. and that said Power of Attorney has not been revoked and is now in full force and effect.

"RESOLVED, that the President, any Vice President, the Assistant Secretary, and any Assistant Vice President shall each have authority to appoint individuals as attorneys-in-fact or under other appropriate titles with authority to execute on behalf of the company fidelity and surety bonds and other documents of similar character issued by the Company in the course of its business. On any instrument making or evidencing such appointment, the signatures may be affixed by facsimile. On any instrument conferring such authority or on any bond or undertaking of the Company, the seal, or a facsimile thereof, may be impressed or affixed or in any other manner reproduced; provided, however, that the seal shall not be necessary to the validity of any such instrument or undertaking."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has subscribed this Certificate and affixed the corporate seal of the Corporation this

4 day of February, 2025.



*Kyle P. McDonald*  
Kyle P. McDonald, Assistant Secretary



### Waiver of Lien

Date: 12/5/2024

For value received, \$ 9704.55, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Schweighardt Concrete LLC Contractor

For: Concrete foundation/pad (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street  
Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 10/16/2024, except None - Final Invoice 23199

Schweighardt Concrete  
Company or Contractor

S. Schweighardt owner  
Signature/Title

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 1/27/2025

For value received, \$ 128,666.86, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Hady Electric Inc. Contractor

For: electrical services (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 12/19/2024, except None - Final

Hady Electric Inc.  
Company of Contractor

Monica R. Hady, President  
Signature/Title

Pay Application #4 \$127,480.96  
Invoice 40658 \$1185.90

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 1/20/2025

For value received, \$ 10689.25, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Hady Electric Inc. Contractor

FOR: Electrical Services (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 11/22/2024, except none

Hady Electric, Inc.  
Company or Contractor

Monica R. Hady  
Signature/Title

Pay Application #1 - \$2459.99  
Pay Application #3 - \$8229.26 )ok

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 12/5/2024

For value received, \$ 7429.79, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus (Hady - Pay App # 2) Owner,

By: Hady Electric Inc. Contractor

For: Electrical Services (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street  
Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 10/24/2024, except None

Hady Electric, Inc  
Company or Contractor

Monica R Hady, President  
Signature/Title



### Waiver of Lien

Date: 3/26/24

For value received, \$ 2459.99, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Hady Electric Inc. Contractor

For: electrical materials (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park + Waterloo St. lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 2/29/24, except None - inv. 40392

Hady Electric, Inc.

Company or Contractor

Monica R. Hady President  
Signature/Title

**FINAL WAIVER OF LIEN**

STATE OF Wisconsin  
COUNTY OF: Columbia

WHEREAS the undersigned has been employed by Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc.  
to furnish Infrastructure Products  
for the premises known as Meister Park & Waterloo St, Columbus, WI. 53925  
of which City of Columbus

The undersigned, for and in consideration of Twenty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Twenty Four Dollars and Ten Cents  
(\$ \$29,524.10 Dollars, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and release any and all lien or claim of, or right to lien, under the statutes of the State of Wisconsin, relating to mechanics' liens, with respect to and on s and the improvements thereon, and on the material, fixtures, apparatus or machinery furnished, and on the moneys, funds or other considerations due or owner, on account of all labor, services, material, fixtures apparatus or machinery, heretofore furnished, or which may be furnished at any time hereafter, above described premises, INCLUDING EXTRAS.\*

DATE January 31, 2025 COMPANY NAME Concrete Specialities/Oldcastle Infrastructure  
ADDRESS PO Box 402721, Atlanta, GA 30384

SIGNATURE AND TITLE *Kelvin M. Walker* Kelvin M. Walker / AR Specialist

Given under my hand and seal 31st day of Jan-25  
DocuSigned by: *Maria J. Prosperi*  
508F401E1FE9445 Notary Signature



\*EXTRAS INCLUDED BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO CHANGE ORDERS, BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN TO THE CONTRACT.



### Waiver of Lien

Date: 12/5/2024

For value received, \$ 29524.10, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Oldcastle Infrastructure Contractor

For: concrete structures & pipe (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street  
Lift Station Upgrades. Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 9/30/2024, except None - Order No. S023696

Oldcastle Infrastructure, Inc.  
Company or Contractor

Kate Haus AR Specialist  
Signature/Title

invoice 270063107	\$9079.10
invoice 270063108	\$9823.40
invoice 270063109	\$10621.60

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 1/27/2025

For value received, \$ 2961.95, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Great Lakes TV Seal Inc Contractor

For: clean & televise (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 12/31/2024, except None - Final

Great Lakes TV Seal, Inc  
Company or Contractor

  
Signature/Title President

invoice 23203 paid 1/27/25  
Joust Landscape

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 12/5/2024

For value received, \$ 275,366.00, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Usemco, Inc. Contractor

For: walk in pump mates (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street  
Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 10/24/2024, except None

USEMCO, Inc  
Company or Contractor

Cheryl A Jensen CFO  
Signature/Title

invoice 15069 \$136968.50  
invoice 15362 \$138397.50 } holding retainage of \$ 20,000.00



### Waiver of Lien

Date: 10/15/24

For value received, \$ 255,366.00, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: USEMCO Inc. Contractor

For: Walk in pumpmats (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park + Waterloo St. Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 9/30/24, except None

job PS8726, PS8725

USEMCO, Inc.

Company or Contractor

Cheryl A Jenner, CFO

Signature/Title

AR 00881 27,393.70

AR 00880 27,679.50

AR 00917 100,718.00 - holding #10,000 retainage

AR 00918 99,574.80 - holding 10,000 retainage

\$255,366.00 pd to date

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 1/27/2025

For value received, \$ 824.21, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Linck Aggregates Inc. Contractor

For: stone (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 12/31/2024, except None - Final

Linck Aggregates, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company or Contractor

*Ruth Gruenberg - Admin*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Title

invoice 24211

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 1/20/2025

For value received, \$ 1184.15, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Linck Aggregates Inc. Contractor

For: stone (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 11/30/2024, except none - invoice 24170

Linck Aggregates Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company or Contractor

*Ruth Gruenberg - Admin*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Title



Waiver of Lien

Date: 12/4/2024

For value received, \$ 4937.53, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: linck aggregates Inc. Contractor

For: Stone (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as Meister Park + Waterloo St. Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 10/31/24, except None

Linck Aggregates Inc.  
Company or Contractor

[Signature] Admin 12/5/24  
Signature/Title

invoice	23990	\$ 373.25
invoice	24078	\$ 4564.28
		<hr/>
		\$ 4937.53

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 1/27/2025

For value received, \$ 332.90, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Ferguson Waterworks Contractor

For: pipe and supplies (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 12/31/2024, except None - Final

Ferguson Enterprises LLC DBA Ferguson Waterworks

Company or Contractor

Kathleen Stobba Credit Coordinator, Kathleen Stobba 1/27/25

Signature/Title

invoice 0435900

customer #20661



### Waiver of Lien

Date: 12/5/2024

For value received, \$ 7550.88, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Ferguson Waterworks Contractor

For: pipe & supplies (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park & Waterloo Street  
Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 10/31/2024, except None

Ferguson Enterprises LLC DBA Ferguson Waterworks 12/6/24  
Company or Contractor

Kathleen Stobba Credit Coordinator, Kathleen Stobba  
Signature/Title

invoice 0429868	\$183.59
invoice 0429223	\$1985.76
invoice 0429472	\$228.80
invoice 0432028	\$5152.73

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 5/1/24

For value received, \$ 2483.48, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Ferguson Waterworks Contractor

For: pipe & supplies (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park + Waterloo St. Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 3/29/24, except None

FERGUSON ENTERPRISES LLC

Company or Contractor

Julie Brown CREDIT COORDINATOR  
Signature/Title

0395056-1      \$2054.48

0409344-2      429.00

### Waiver of Lien

Date: 3/26/24

For value received, \$ 30,261.42, the undersigned hereby waive all rights and claims for lien on land and on buildings about to be erected, being erected, erected, altered or repaired and to the appurtenances thereunto,

For: City of Columbus Owner,

By: Ferguson Waterworks Contractor

For: pipe + supplies (materials/services provided)

The land referred to herein is described as, Meister Park + Waterloo St. Lift Station Upgrades, Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

This waiver applies to all labor performed and for all material furnished for the erection, construction, alteration or repair of said buildings and appurtenances through

Date: 2/29/24, except None

Ferguson WATERWORKS  
Company or Contractor

Emily Gillespie 4/1/2024  
Signature/Title Emily Gillespie, Credit Coordinator

#### Invoices

040 9344	\$10,915.52
039 5056	18,408.90
0409344-1	937.00





# CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE	Item #8.
9/	

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

**IMPORTANT:** If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

<b>PRODUCER</b> R & R Insurance Services, Inc P.O. Box 1610  Waukesha WI 53187-1610	<b>CONTACT NAME:</b> Peggy Bradley <b>PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):</b> (262) 574-7000 <b>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</b> Peggy.Bradley@rrins.com	<b>FAX (A/C, No):</b> (262) 574-7080
	<b>INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE</b>	
<b>INSURED</b> Forest Landscaping & Construction Inc W8583 Finch Brothers Rd  Lake Mills WI 53551	<b>INSURER A:</b> Selective Insurance Co. of America	<b>NAIC #</b> 12572
	<b>INSURER B:</b> Selective Insurance Co. of South Caroli	<b>NAIC #</b> 19259
	<b>INSURER C:</b>	
	<b>INSURER D:</b>	
	<b>INSURER E:</b>	
	<b>INSURER F:</b>	

**COVERAGES** **CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 24-25** **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY</b>						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR			S2548518			DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 500,000
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Blkt AI/Ongoing/Comp Ops</b>		X	CG7988	9/27/2024	9/27/2025	MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 15,000
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Blkt Addtl Insured when</b>			required by contract CG7300			PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000
	GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER:						GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC						PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ 2,000,000
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER: Blanket PNC &amp; Waiver</b>			CG7300			\$
A	<b>AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY</b>						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ 1,000,000
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO			S2548518	9/27/2024	9/27/2025	BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS	<input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS	X				BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS		CA7809 and CA7816			PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blkt Addtl Insured	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blanket Waiver				\$	
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>UMBRELLA LIAB</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR		S2548518			EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 6,000,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>EXCESS LIAB</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE		Blanket Waiver CXL456			AGGREGATE \$ 6,000,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> DED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$ 0		X	Blanket PNC CXL4409	9/27/2024	9/27/2025	\$
B	<b>WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY</b>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PER STATUTE <input type="checkbox"/> OTH-ER
	ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH)	Y/N					E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ 500,000
	If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		WC9104626	9/27/2024	9/27/2025	E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ 500,000
							E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ 500,000
A	<b>Installation Floater</b>			S2548518	9/27/2024	9/27/2025	\$500 Deductible \$175,000

**DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)**  
Project: Meister Park & Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades. City of Columbus, Ruekert & Mielke along with any others required by the contract are included as additional insureds on a primary and noncontributory basis for General Liability, including ongoing and completed operations, Automobile and Umbrella policies per forms listed above when required by written contract. Umbrella is excess over the underlying policies, General Liability, Automobile and Employers Liability. Jason Forest has elected to be excluded from Workers Compensation coverage.

<b>CERTIFICATE HOLDER</b>  City of Columbus 105 N. Dickason Blvd. Columbus, WI 53925	<b>CANCELLATION</b>  SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.
	<b>AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE</b>  Thomas McInerny/PB707

NOTICE OF ACCEPTABILITY OF WORK

**PROJECT:** Meister Park and Waterloo Street Lift Station Upgrades  
**OWNER:** City of Columbus  
**CONTRACTOR:** Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc.  
**EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT:** May 17, 2023  
**ENGINEER:** Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.  
**NOTICE DATE:** February 24, 2025

**To:** City of Columbus  
**Owner**

**And To:** Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc.  
**Contractor**

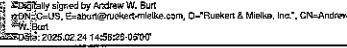
**From:** Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.  
**Engineer**

The Engineer hereby gives notice to the above Owner and Contractor that the completed Work furnished and performed by Contractor under the above Contract is acceptable expressly subject to the provisions of the related Contract Documents, the Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services and the terms and conditions set forth as follows:

**CONDITIONS OF NOTICE OF ACCEPTABILITY OF WORK**

The Notice of Acceptability of Work ("Notice") is expressly made subject to the following terms and conditions to which all those who receive said Notice and rely thereon agree:

1. This Notice is given with the skill and care ordinarily used by members of the engineering profession practicing under similar conditions at the same time and in the same locality.
2. This Notice reflects and is an expression of the professional judgment of Engineer.
3. This Notice is given as to the best of Engineer's knowledge, information, and belief as of the Notice Date.
4. This Notice is based entirely on and expressly limited by the scope of services Engineer has been employed by Owner to perform or furnish during construction of the Project (including observation of the Contractor's work) under Engineer's Agreement with Owner and under the Construction Contract referred to in this Notice, and applies only to facts that are within Engineer's knowledge or could reasonably have been ascertained by Engineer as a result of carrying out the responsibilities specifically assigned to Engineer under such Agreement and Construction Contract.
5. This Notice is not a guarantee or warranty of Contractor's performance under the Construction Contract referred to in this Notice, nor an assumption of responsibility for any failure of Contractor to furnish and perform the Work thereunder in accordance with the Contract Documents.

**By:** Andrew W. Burt 

**Title:** Senior Project Manager

**Dated:** January 21, 2025



# LIVE Lines

Volume 74, Issue 2 • February 2025

## Munis, co-ops network, learn together at EOCE 25

The annual Electric Operations Conference & Expo (EOCE) brings together municipal and electric cooperative employees from across Wisconsin, and this year's gathering — which took place Jan. 15–17 — drew nearly 500 utility attendees and exhibitors to the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Asked what they “liked” about the conference, those who responded to a post-event survey highlighted the opportunities for networking, the great tradeshow, and a very “well-balanced” set of topical presentations.

Attendees and exhibitors alike provided positive feedback on the event, with 92% of those who responded to a post-event survey saying they were “quite” or “extremely satisfied” with the conference, and 97% said they are “very” or “extremely likely” to attend next year.

The conference agenda offered something for everyone — municipal and cooperative leaders and employees of all experience levels and backgrounds — including a wide

range of timely and relevant presentations. Wednesday's session included an appearance by Commissioner Marcus Hawkins of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC). Hawkins shared his background and focus areas, including regional grid reliability, wholesale electricity markets, and transmission planning.

Dave Krause, PE, a recognizable face and regular presenter at the conference, shared his insights about how utilities

can improve their systems and also his “keys to better sleep,” which included a recommendation to “cut, cut, cut, and cut some more trees.” MEUW Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations Tyler Vorpagel led a panel discussion about the importance of political advocacy, which included highlights from Rep. Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer) who talked about how much lawmakers

depend on feedback from their constituents, especially when considering controversial pieces of legislation.

Stuart Campbell, Director of Strategic Relations & Commercial Marketing with Irby Utilities, reflected on hot topics within the utility industry, including load forecasts, impacts of supply chain time-

*Continued on page 3*



*Top:* New this year, cohort discussions gave participants a chance to share and learn with each other in a smaller discussion setting, like these folks in the “Future Workforce” cohort group. *Bottom left:* FBI Supervisory Special Agent Amanda Knutson shared information critical to maintaining grid security. *Bottom right:* Expo attendees got a chance to talk directly with representatives from more than 110 utility suppliers, and get “hands-on” exposure to their products and services.

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# Scenes from EOCE 25



This year's trade show, which sold out more than a month before the event, allowed attendees plenty of time for networking with vendors and with each other. The day included one-on-one connections, as well as vendor demos on the "Supplier Showcase" stage. A group of CVTC lineworker apprentice students helped staff their booth and experience the show. Playing "Expo Bingo" encouraged interactions between the utility attendees and suppliers.



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## Special thanks

*to these exhibitors who provided door prizes for the Expo Bingo*

<p>4-Control Almetek Industries Bashlin Industries Border States Clearline Innovation, LLC Crescent Electric Supply Co. Edge Consulting G.E.T. Utility Sales Hess Schweitzer Hubbell Power Systems Irby Utilities ISG JJ Kane KW Associates</p>	<p>MJ Electric Northeast Wisconsin Technical College The Okonite Company R&amp;D Utility Products Radian Research RESCO SCS Engineers Star Energy Services TE / Connectivity Utility Sales &amp; Service Vermeer Wisconsin The VON Corporation Wolf Line Construction</p>
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Continued from page 1

lines, and world trade implications, wrapped up day one of the event.

Thursday’s session kicked off with two informative sessions focused on reducing risk and damage. Supervisory Special Agent Amanda Knutson at the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation shared information about what the federal government is doing to reduce and address



cyber risks and attacks on the electrical grid and how utilities can aid the effort. Mike Meyer from Digger’s Hotline, returned again this year to provide an update on the Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council’s progress toward improving utility locate deficiencies and problems. And Ben Bella, Electric Co-operative Safety & Loss Control Manager, explained how the “devil is in the details” when it comes to working with and sharing responsibilities with electrical contractors. Breakout sessions gave attendees an opportunity to learn about ATC’s recent activities and future plans, how global navigational satellite technology can be used to more accurately locate utilities, and how local nuances can impact the Department of Transportation’s flagging rules and safety

requirements. Much of the program ran concurrently with the Expo that featured more than 110 exhibitors showcasing a wide variety of utility-related services and supplies. This year, the Exhibit Hall had a “Supplier Showcase” stage (see photo at left), with vendors demonstrating new tools, processes, and services for Expo attendees. Cohort discussions were also new, giving both muni and co-op attendees the opportunity to participate in facilitated discussions on a topic of interest — mutual aid, new facility construction projects, and planning for the future workforce. The program concluded with a keynote presentation by Green Bay Packers legend Gilbert Brown (below), who entertained the audience with tales from his time on the team and with his teammates, and since his retirement. ●



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If you have ideas for potential topics or speakers, we’d love to hear from you. Please send an email to [info@meuw.org](mailto:info@meuw.org).

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# MEUW NEWS Monitor

## Keep up with the rules to stay a well-run utility

Understanding the complexities of utility regulation and the variety of rules required to comply with state and federal safety and employment laws is essential to effectively managing a utility every day. As part of MEUW's "Fundamentals of Utility Management" training program, this one-day course explores the rules and regulations, the reasons many of those rules exist, and the risks and consequences when utilities fail to follow them. The class will be held in Mauston on Wednesday, Feb. 12. An outline of the training topics, the instructors, and registration details are [here](#).

## Apparatus Workshop scheduled for mid-February

Learn new skills through classroom and hands-on training at this two-day workshop, co-presented by MEUW and Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). Scheduled for Feb. 18-19 at the CVTC campus in Eau Claire, planned topics include jobsite safety, capacitors, voltage regulators, reclosers, trip savers, meters, and connectors/connections. Registration information can be found [here](#).

## Credit and Collections Seminar is March 19

Every other year, MEUW hosts a seminar to share information about the rules and regulations for utility collections and provide attendees with tips and techniques to make the process more effective and efficient. The program is designed to help strengthen the public power utilities' collection process, with timing targeted at the end of the cold weather moratorium on electric service disconnections.

This year's seminar is planned for Wednesday, March 19 in Mauston. The agenda includes a refresher from the Public Service Commission (PSC) about disconnections, deferred payment agreements, deposits, and foreclosures. There will be updated details about resources available to help customers who qualify for energy assistance, and discussions of best practices. Details and registration are available [here](#).

## Mark your calendars for April 2 "coaching" class

High performing leaders develop the skills to coach others effectively. Knowing how and when to coach is an essential leadership quality that can benefit both you and your organization. Save the date for the next class in MEUW's "Municipal Utility Leadership Certificate Program"—Leading Through Coaching—which will be held Wednesday, April 2. Registration and details are available [here](#). ●

## Virtual training session will explore the value of Emotional Intelligence

How strong is your "Emotional Intelligence"? Interacting with people can sometimes be challenging — we all have different personalities, perspectives, and emotional triggers. But by developing your Emotional Intelligence (EI), you can strengthen your ability to connect with others on a deeper, more empathetic level. This not only helps you navigate difficult conversations with ease, but it also fosters trust and collaboration, leading to more positive, productive relationships both personally and professionally.



Join this 90-minute virtual workshop planned for Thursday, Feb. 20, at 10:00 a.m., focusing on building self-awareness, recognizing and understanding the emotions of others, and effectively managing emotional responses in various situations.

Through this session, participants will gain valuable insights into how emotional intelligence plays a crucial role in personal and professional interactions. You'll learn techniques to manage emotions, ask thoughtful questions, and approach challenges with empathy and understanding.

The Feb. 20 session is the second of six in the Power of One training series, which explores essential skills like EI that contribute to a positive work environment and successful interactions with both internal and external customers. You can choose to enroll in this session alone or commit to the full series, and there are options to participate individually or register for small group viewing from your municipality.

The Power of One emphasizes the impact of each person's emotional awareness and how individual actions can make a difference in creating a positive impression and experience for others. This program is open to employees at all levels, regardless of their role or department.

For more details, including registration options and fees, visit [www.meuw.org/powerofone](http://www.meuw.org/powerofone).

**POWER** of 1

## Share and learn at Foreman's Roundtable on March 19

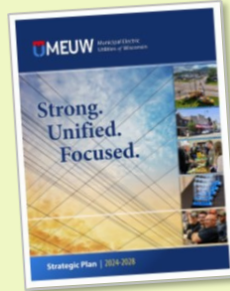
The foreman role is important to safety and efficiency when operating a utility. The people leading utility line crews face common challenges and often don't have an opportunity to talk with others facing those same challenges. This meeting will enable electric utility foremen to share ideas, learn from one another, and develop leadership and communication skills, especially regarding safety.

The Roundtable will be held at [Milford Hills](#) in Johnson Creek on Wednesday, March 19. Following the discussion, attendees will have the chance to take part in an optional teambuilding and networking activity at the hunt club. Registration and details are [here](#). ●



## Board approves "refresh" of MEUW long-term strategy

During the last year, MEUW has dedicated resources to revisiting the mission, vision, and strategic priorities that will guide the association through to the 100th anniversary of MEUW's founding in 2028. The Board of Directors formally approved the updated strategy at its Jan. 17 meeting.



The plan is intended to guide the collective work of staff, member committees, and the Board of Directors, and was developed collaboratively with input and direction from members, staff leadership, and the full Board, with guidance from a professional facilitator. This plan will serve as a dynamic, "living document," regularly reviewed and adjusted to reflect the evolving needs of MEUW members and the industry.

The updated plan includes a large number of action items. In the short term, the plan calls for the formation

of two ad hoc committees: one will focus on developing a three-year member engagement cam-



Marshfield Utilities Commission President Mike Eberl and Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss were among those who took part in a strategic planning prioritization exercise during MEUW's Annual Conference in May 2024.

campaign to foster higher levels of participation and the second will develop targeted advocacy training.

In addition to a revised vision statement, the plan highlights three key priorities for MEUW:

- Maximize value to our members
- Maintain operational excellence and continuity
- Elevate and advocate for the value of public power

The updated strategy document is available for download [here](#).

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## LIVE Lines

Official monthly publication of **Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin, Inc.**, the statewide trade association representing the interests of Wisconsin's public power providers since 1928.

This e-newsletter is distributed to more than 1,200 utility professionals and leaders throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest on the first Tuesday of every month.

*LIVE LINES* has been published continuously for many decades and provides useful information, news on emerging utility issues and legislation, updates on events, training programs and member services, as well as engaging feature stories spotlighting utilities, communities and leaders.

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome — send by email to [news@meuw.org](mailto:news@meuw.org)

### MEUW Office Staff

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President and CEO

**Mike Czuprynko**  
Director of Safety Services  
and Operations

**Tyler Vorpapel**  
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An archive of past issues of *Live Lines* is available at [www.issuu.com/meuw](http://www.issuu.com/meuw)

## MEUW Safety Award applications due March 3

**W**orker safety is a focus of the services and support MEUW provides its members, so it's only fitting that the association recognizes municipal utilities for taking steps to improve their overall safety performance. MEUW is currently accepting applications based on 2024 performance measures. Each utility is asked to take time to compile the necessary information and submit the application spreadsheet, which is available [here](#), along with step-by-step instructions. (Note: Utilities that are part of MEUW's Regional Safety Management Program can expect to have their Regional Safety Coordinator complete the application spreadsheet.)

The MEUW Safety Achievement Award was developed to recognize safety performance and to encourage proactive safety activities by member utilities; awards are given based on voluntary reporting. Utilities receive recognition for their dedication to employees' on-the-job focus: following safety rules, using safe work practices, and watching out for one another. MEUW has been providing safety awards for more than a decade. In 2024, MEUW recognized 43 municipal utilities for their individual 2023 safety records.

The Award also acknowledges the commitment of management and the utility governing board to ensuring an environment that supports safe operations. This includes providing employees with the equipment they need to do the job safely, as well as the training to maintain or improve skills.

Award recipients are placed in categories — gold, silver and bronze — based on scoring against key criteria that promote a strong safety culture. The criteria were developed several years ago and have remained constant. The deadline to submit the application spreadsheet and the required documentation is March 3. Awards will be presented at MEUW's Annual Conference in May.

If you have questions about the Safety Awards, please contact Director of Safety Services and Operations Mike Czuprynko at [mzczuprynko@meuw.org](mailto:mczuprynko@meuw.org).



Menasha Utilities General Manager Melanie Krause (left) accepts the utility's Safety Achievement Award from MEUW's Mike Czuprynko at the 2024 Awards Ceremony.



# PSC Chair reflects on an eventful and productive 2024

By Summer Strand, Chairperson  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

2024 was an eventful and productive year at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) that included leadership changes, the addition of new team members, robust stakeholder and public engagement, historic project approvals, and abundant grant funding awards in new and existing programs. Diligently working together, we achieved significant accomplishments that align with the PSC's mission to ensure the provision of safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible utility services and equitable access to telecommunications and broadband services.

In early 2024, I was honored to be appointed PSC Chairperson by Gov. Tony Evers. I am very grateful for the opportunity to lead the agency and work with my colleagues to reach our goals, deliver impactful results, and help move Wisconsin forward.

Gov. Evers also appointed two new commissioners to our three-member panel early last year. Commissioners Kristy Nieto and Marcus Hawkins both possess the requisite experience and sound judgment necessary for this important role. Their expertise and professionalism have helped foster constructive open meeting discussions and decisions, and the Commission and our state are fortunate for their commitment to public service.

In 2024, the Commission reviewed and issued decisions in the public interest on approximately 500 dockets that included construction projects, rate cases, the development of new programs, grant funding awards, and more. Throughout these proceedings, new and recurring stakeholders alike had a seat at the table, providing valuable input and feedback. Our process also benefited from testimony and written comments provided by members of the public. This robust

stakeholder and public engagement helped guide and inform our decision-making and led to balanced and reasonable decisions in the cases before the Commission.

For example, in December 2024, the Commission approved the application for the Vista Sands Solar Project — the largest solar project ever approved in Wisconsin. Stakeholder and public engagement were essential to the development of the project's voluminous record which ultimately included over 1,100 public comments, and helped demonstrate the clear economic, environmental, and reliability benefits the project will provide the state.

In our rate case proceedings, we heard from customers about the importance of keeping the lights on, bolstering affordability, and meeting shared sustainability goals. In issuing decisions that reflect those priorities, the Commission took reasonable steps to control costs while ensuring utilities continue to strategically invest in safety, reliability, and environmental responsibility. In 2024, the Commission completed 10 municipal electric and natural gas rate cases. In addition, the Commission approved several new or expanded tariff programs for municipal utilities related to time-of-use rates and electric vehicle charging.

I am grateful for the extensive stakeholder engagement and public involvement that occurred last year and look forward to similarly high levels of participation in 2025.

In August, I was honored to join Gov. Evers and U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm for the roll out of the Inflation Reduction Act's Home Efficiency Rebate (HOMES) Program. Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to launch the HOMES Program, which delivers rebates to households undertaking whole-home, energy-saving improvements. In De-

cember, the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program, which provides instant discounts to eligible households installing energy-efficient appliances and equipment, also became available in Wisconsin. Both of these important new programs help reduce energy usage, which in turn will lower energy bills for participating residents.

In addition, the Commission awarded grants across the state to help bolster clean energy, resiliency, and reliability. In March, the Commission awarded more than \$1 million under the Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP) to support rural local governments implementing comprehensive energy planning, renewable resource planning, and energy efficiency audits and projects. In April, Gov. Evers and the PSC announced the award of \$7.8 million from the Energy Innovation Grant Program to 28 projects that will expand access to clean energy and invest in the adoption of innovative technologies and processes. And in May, the Commission awarded \$8.5 million under the Grid Resilience Program to 19 projects to improve the resiliency and reliability of the electric grid, with an emphasis on projects that support small utilities and improve service in rural areas.

In 2024, the PSC successfully navigated change and worked tirelessly and collaboratively to achieve significant accomplishments. While we have a lot on the horizon this year, I am confident that the same drive and determination will lead us to continued success in 2025. •

**Summer Strand** was appointed by Gov. Tony Evers to a six-year term as a PSC Commissioner in March 2023, and was appointed Commission Chair in January 2024.



*The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Public Service Commission or any other individual Commissioner.*

# Help MEUW honor those who help public power thrive

By Brian Rhodes

For nearly three decades, MEUW has recognized a variety of industry leaders for contributions to the success of public power in Wisconsin. These individuals have come from utilities both small and large, and from outside the membership as well. The list includes member employees, governing body officials, partners, and legislators.

Since the mid-1990s, when MEUW provided its first and highest honor, the Donald L. Smith Distinguished Service Award, an emphasis has been placed on honoring key contributors to public power. In the years that followed, other categories were added and some awards have come and gone. Through it all, the goal of the awards program has not

changed — we want to celebrate people for their key contributions to public power in our communities, the state, and for some, at the national level as well.

Each award has criteria that should be achieved for a candidate to be considered for the award. The criteria includes: (1) achievements or sustained performance in showing commitment to their community and/or MEUW, (2) exceptional leadership and substantial contributions toward attaining the vision and mission of MEUW, (3) enhancing the public image of public power, (4) recognition by peers of work completed for public power, and (5) key involvement in local, state, and national industry issues benefiting public power.

In recent years, we have experienced a decline in the number of nominations submitted. As Awards Committee Chair, I have been on a mission to reverse that trend. I know from talking to my peers that there is much good happening among our municipal utilities — in all corners of the state and by a wide variety of individuals who support public power.

I believe it's important to recognize people for their contributions to public power. There is no cost for members to apply for the awards; all that is needed is some time and a little commitment to complete the relatively easy and short application forms. You don't even need to worry about selecting the right category — simply submit the information and the

Awards Committee will determine which award fits best. I encourage you to look at your utility, your public power peers, and our business partners for potential nominees.

The full list of awards and criteria are posted on the MEUW [website](#), along with the easy-to-use application form. Nominations for this year's awards are due by March 31. Honors will be presented during a special luncheon at the Annual Conference on Thursday, May 15 in La Crosse. Thanks for helping us honor the individuals who keep our municipal utilities going strong!



**Brian Rhodes**  
is Utility Director  
for Hartford  
Utilities and  
serves on  
MEUW's Board.

## MEUW is seeking nominations for these awards by March 31:

### *To recognize municipal utility leaders*

**Distinguished Service Award:** The highest honor bestowed by MEUW, the award recognizes exceptional leadership in and dedication to public power. A nominee must be an employee of a MEUW member system and active in MEUW for at least 10 years.

### *To recognize public officials*

**Public Official Award:** Presented to individuals who have made a significant impact on public power through an extraordinary commitment to service. Recipients are honored based on years of service.

**Pillar of Public Power Award:** Presented to individuals who have served a minimum of 10 years as a member of a public power governing body (e.g., utility com-

mission, city council, or village board). Recognizes those who support public power ideals, but do not directly work in or for a public power utility.

### *To honor service by municipal employees*

**Exemplary Service Award:** Recognizes outstanding service/achievement or other recognizable acts, including contributions to MEUW through committee meetings and groups. Awarded to a municipal utility employee who has made substantial contributions toward the overall success of their member utility.

**Excellence in Line Work Award:** Celebrates individuals who consistently demonstrate dedication to linework.

### **Next Generation Leader Award:**

Recognizes employees who may be relatively new to public power and have made significant contributions to their municipality; awarded to individuals with fewer than eight years of service to their utility to showcase emerging leaders.

### *To honor others*

**Friend of Public Power Award:** Honors individuals and organizations whose work supports the principles and ideals of public power, but who do not work in or for a community-owned utility.

**MEUW Meritorious Service Award:** Presented to individuals to recognize outstanding service/achievement, or other recognizable acts while an employee of an MEUW member utility, or in service to MEUW.



# Graduating apprentices honored at January banquet

Each year, the municipal and cooperative utilities in Wisconsin honor the apprentices who have completed their training and graduated to journeymen. At a special banquet held in conjunction with the Electric Operations Conference & Expo on Jan. 16 in Wisconsin Dells, the Class of 2024 was recognized. MEUW's Randy Larson served as

master of ceremonies for the banquet, which included a talk by Jason Bessette, General Manager of New London Utilities, who reflected on his long career and offered advice to the new group of individuals who have earned their journeyman cards (portions of Jason's speech are excerpted below). ●

## Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC)

### Electric Line Apprenticeship

Nathan C. Borofka – Marshfield Utilities  
Benji Ronald Gindt – Jump River Electric Cooperative  
Lane Henneman – Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Trevor J. Koopmann – Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Austin P. Miller – Push Inc  
Quentin J. Muska – Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Nathan C. Radtke – Rock Energy Electric Cooperative  
Collin Riley – Dunn Energy Electric Cooperative  
Peyton Rupp – Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Brad Schowalter – Dairyland Power Electric Cooperative  
Zachary Sonntag – Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Tyler B. Strey – New London Utility  
Trent Thole – Barron Electric Cooperative

## Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC)

### Lineworker Apprenticeship

Leo Berg – Upper Peninsula Power Co.  
Nathan Boehnlein – New Holstein Utilities  
Logan Boldt – Hustisford Utilities  
Bailey Buschke – Waunakee Utilities  
Derek Draganowski – Rice Lake Utilities  
Kyran Horkan – Reedsburg Utility Commission  
Nathan Kaczmarek – Sturgeon Bay Utilities  
Alexander Karsten – Boscobel Utilities  
Jessie Knoll – Taylor Electric Cooperative  
Terrence Kuenzel – Superior Water, Light & Power Co.  
Trent Lehrkind – Kaukauna Utilities  
Orion Loukopoulos – Cedarburg Light & Water  
Jack Nytes – New London Utility  
Marcus Perkins – Rock Energy Cooperative  
Nathan Porter – City of Elkhorn Electric Dept  
Tanner Riley – Oconto Falls Electric Cooperative  
Taylor Robinson – Vanguard Electric Commission  
Tim Will – Oconomowoc Utilities

*When I started working for New London as a lineman, I never imagined the path that lay ahead of me. My primary focus back then was simple: do the job right, get the lights back on, and contribute my best. It was the kind of work that was very rewarding, the kind of work that allowed me to learn, grow, and understand the value of teamwork.*

*For the first few years, I was just like everyone else—learning the ropes, developing my skills, and slowly earning the trust and respect of my peers. But as I spent more time on a pole or in a bucket, I started to realize something important. I realized that being a lineman was just the beginning of my journey — not the end. I understood that to truly make an impact, I needed to think bigger, to look beyond my day-to-day tasks and start understanding the bigger picture. ...*

*Along the way, I embraced every chance to learn — whether it was picking up new technical skills, pursuing safety training, or tackling another journeyman card. Each experience taught me something invaluable about not just how things worked, but how people worked — how different departments, personalities, and challenges all had to come together for the greater good. ...*

*[Becoming] General Manager wasn't just a personal achievement; it was a reflection of the values that New London Utilities had instilled in me. ... If I have one message I want to leave with you today, it's this: No matter where you start, or where you are right now in your career, your potential is limitless. The road to leadership is not always straightforward, and it doesn't come without its challenges, but with determination, the willingness to learn, and the courage to step outside your comfort zone, you can achieve things you never imagined.*

*Embrace every opportunity to learn, to grow, and to contribute. And always remember, leadership isn't just about a title. It's about how you inspire and elevate those around you.*



**Jason Bessette**

started his career at New London Utilities in 1997. He became a Journeyman Lineworker in 2002, completed his Metering Apprenticeship in 2009, and Substation Electrician Apprenticeship in 2018. Jason then became Assistant General Manager in 2019 before being named General Manager in 2020.

# Get to know a little about some Wisconsin lawmakers



*This regular feature helps readers get to know Wisconsin elected officials and better understand their views on policies that may impact municipal utilities.*

## Rep. Brill represents 27th Assembly District



Lindee Rae Brill (R-Sheboygan Falls) is Representative for Wisconsin's 27th Assembly Dis-

trict. She was elected in 2024, and now represents portions of Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Manitowoc counties, including the cities of Sheboygan Falls, Plymouth, and Kiel.

Brill replaced Amy Binsfeld in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Due to the 2024 redistricting act, the districts in the Sheboygan area were dramatically redrawn, and Binsfeld was drawn out of the district.

Brill serves as the Vice Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention. She is also a member of the Committee on Children and Families, Constitution and Ethics, Consumer Protection, Education, and State and Federal Relations.

Brill was born and raised in Kohler and graduated from Oostburg High School in 1999. She earned her bachelor's degree in management and Span-

ish from Hope College in Holland, Mich.

After college, Brill had a successful career in marketing and human resources. She worked in various roles for several businesses and nonprofits in the Sheboygan area. Some of her notable positions included working in marketing at Oostburg State Bank, Anchor of Hope Health Center, and Samaritan's Hand. She was also Human Resources Director for Dutchland Plastics.

Brill's campaign was built on a foundation of conservative values. She is pro-life and a strong advocate for economic responsibility, public safety, and election integrity. As an adoptive mother, she is also passionate about supporting families and removing financial barriers for those looking to adopt.

Brill has been married to Eric Brill since 2013. They live in Sheboygan Falls with their three school-aged children.

## Sen. Feyen serves as Vice Chair of Utilities and Tourism Committee



Daniel Feyen (R-Fond du Lac) has been a member of the Wisconsin State Senate since

2017, representing the 18th Senate District until 2025, and now representing the 20th Senate District, which includes portions of Dodge, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington Counties. This change was a result of the redistricting process implemented in 2024.

Feyen is serving as the Assistant Majority Leader of the Wisconsin State Senate for the 2025-2026 legislative session. He was unanimously re-elected to this leadership position by his Republican Senate colleagues.

He serves on several Senate committees, including the Vice Chair of the Utilities and Tourism Committee. He is also the Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Technical Colleges, Vice Chair of the Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections, and Consumer Protection, and member of the Committee on Organization. Furthermore, he is a member of the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and the Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.

Feyen says his approach to utility and energy-related policies balances the need for sustainable energy solutions with practical regulatory measures to ensure reliable and efficient utility services.

Born and raised in New Holstein, Feyen credits his strong sense of community and values to growing up in a small Wisconsin town. He graduated from New Holstein High School in 1986 and earned a diploma in printing from Fox Valley Technical College. For nearly 30 years, he built a successful career in the printing and bindery business. Feyen's involvement in local organizations, such as the United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees), and his leadership role in the Fond du Lac County Republican Party laid the foundation for his political career.

Feyen currently lives in Fond du Lac with his wife, Lori. They have two adult children.

## Rep. Subeck is ranking member of Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities



Lisa Subeck (D-Madison) has represented the 78th District in the Wisconsin State Assem-

bly since January 2015. This district is in south-central Wisconsin, covering central Dane County. It includes parts of Madison, the city of Monona, and most of the village of McFarland.

Subeck is the Chair of the Assembly Democratic Caucus and is the ranking member on the Committee on Energy and Utilities. She is also the ranking member of the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care, and is a member of the Committee on Rules and the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

In her work on the Energy and Utilities Committee, Subeck has supported efforts to expand renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency in Wisconsin. She has also worked to enhance the infrastructure for electric vehicles across the state. She has emphasized the importance of transitioning to clean energy to protect the environment and public health.

Before joining the State Assembly, Subeck served two terms on the City of Madison Common Council.

*Continued on page 11*

# Understanding ECM pumps and how they save energy, money

**E**lectronically Commutated Motor (ECM) pumps are a type of water pump using advanced motor technology to improve efficiency and performance. Unlike traditional pumps operating at a constant speed, ECM pumps can adjust their speed based on the demand, leading to significant electric energy savings. These pumps are equipped with a built-in microprocessor that continuously monitors the system's requirements and adjusts the motor speed accordingly. This not only reduces electric energy consumption but also extends the lifespan of the pump by minimizing wear and tear. ECM pumps are becoming increasingly popular in various applications due to their ability to provide optimal performance while reducing operational costs. Eligible customers with a well pump, boiler pump, or pool pump in their homes can help lower their energy and water bills by taking advantage of the Focus on Energy efficient residential water pump rebate. Focus on Energy offers up to \$320 in rebates for ECM variable-speed water pumps to help customers improve their efficiency with upgraded equipment.

## Well Pumps

In Wisconsin, roughly 900,000 households rely on private wells for drinking water instead of a municipal water supply. This means about one-third of Wisconsin residents get their drinking water from private wells, with many of them located in rural areas. A well pump extracts water from the underground well and pumps it into a home's plumbing system. Efficient well pumps with ECM technology can adjust their speed to match the water demand. This means the pump only uses the necessary amount of energy to deliver the required water, resulting in energy savings. Additionally, efficient well pumps often come with features such as variable frequency drives (VFDs) to further enhance their performance and efficiency.



## Boiler Pumps

A boiler heats water, which it then circulates (often as steam) through conventional radiators, baseboards, or underfloor radiant heating. Boiler systems are common in Wisconsin homes, especially in multifamily buildings. The boiler pumps circulate hot water or steam throughout a building heated by a boiler. Traditional boiler pumps can be energy intensive, especially if they run continuously at a fixed speed. Efficient boiler pumps adjust their speed based on the heating demand. This allows the pump to operate more efficiently, reducing energy consumption and lowering heating costs. Efficient boiler pumps also contribute to a more comfortable indoor environment by ensuring consistent and even heating.

## Pool Pumps

The days of lounging by a pool in the hot sun may seem a lifetime away in these frigid winter months. However, it is never too soon for customers to start thinking about how to save on energy costs when warmer days arrive. One of the biggest opportunities for customers with a pool to save electricity is with their pool pump. Pool pumps are crucial for maintaining clean and safe swimming pool water. However, they can also be one of the largest energy consumers in a household. Efficient pool pumps with ECM technology, can adjust their speed based on the pool's filtration needs and use 60% less energy than their single-speed counterparts. This means the pump can run at a lower speed when less filtration is required, significantly reducing energy consumption. Efficient pool pumps also tend to be quieter, require less filter replacements, and have a longer lifespan compared to traditional pumps.



Investing in efficient water pumps can lead to significant energy and cost savings for customers. Whether it's a well pump, boiler pump, or pool pump, these advanced pumps can adjust their speed based on demand, reducing energy consumption and operational costs. Eligible residential customers can apply for Focus on Energy's efficient residential water pump rebate [online](#) or with a [paper application](#) found on the Focus [website](#). •



## Political Profiles

*Continued from page 10*

Prior to entering politics, Subeck had a career in social services and advocacy. She worked on programs for children and young mothers as a Dane County program director for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. She helped start Hope House, a housing program for young mothers of infants and toddlers in Madison. Subeck also taught early education courses at Madison Area Technical College and later became a program coordinator for the Madison YWCA.

She was born and raised in Chicago and graduated from Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields, Ill. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1993.

Subeck now lives in Madison, where she's an active community member. She also enjoys spending time outdoors, taking advantage of Madison's natural beauty. •



# Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

## Utility owners announce plans to extend life of state's largest coal-fired generating plant

The three investor-owned utilities that own the Columbia Energy Center made public their plans to delay until 2029 the suspension of coal operations at the facility in Portage. This shift from the previous date of 2026 provides the plant's co-owners — Alliant Energy, Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE) and Wisconsin Public Service Corp. (WPS) — with more time to explore converting at least one of Columbia's units to natural gas before the end of 2029.

The detailed plan was announced in December 2024 and allows the companies to continue leveraging current generation assets to enhance system reliability while addressing changing market conditions, and maintaining the co-owners' commitment to carbon reduction goals. Multiple reports have documented the industry is facing unprecedented circumstances, including changes implemented by the Midcon-

tinental Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional system operator. Recently, MISO changed the accreditation levels for different generation resources and made the direct recommendation that there's a "need to accelerate resource additions, monitor large load additions, and delay resource retirements to reliably manage the anticipated growth in electricity demand" to support reliability and load growth.

## Xcel Energy exploring plans for large-scale solar farm

Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy said it expects to file an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) in mid-2025 for its Ten Mile Creek Solar Project in St. Croix County, Wisconsin. The project includes an up-to-650-megawatt solar farm along with an approximately 15-mile transmission



line to connect to the existing grid. Ten Mile Creek is expected to be built in phases, with the first phase being up to 350 megawatts.

The proposed project will connect to the existing regional power grid connection at the Allen S. King Power Plant, which is located across the river in Bayport, Minn., and is scheduled to be retired in 2028. Xcel said it is in the process of working with private landowners interested in participating in the project. If eventually approved, the first phase of the project could begin in late 2027, with a goal of starting service by late 2029.

The St. Croix County Board of Supervisors held an informational session regarding the project during its regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 7. Among other issues, area landowners and residents expressed concerns about wildlife, the loss of agricultural land, and possible impacts to property values, during the packed, two-hours-plus meeting. Nearly 5,000 people have signed an online petition opposing the project.

## LIVELines Classifieds

MEUW is pleased to promote job openings with its member utilities across Wisconsin. New positions are regularly added to our website — check them out [here](#). Here are some current opportunities available:

**City of River Falls**  
[Journeyman Lineworker](#)

**City of Lake Mills**  
[Utility Billing Clerk](#)

**Waupun Utilities**  
[Accounting Coordinator](#)

When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to [office@meuw.org](mailto:office@meuw.org).

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# Municipal Case Study

Biogas → RNG → Pipeline Injection

Item #10.

Tim Runde, Des Moines WRA



# Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA)

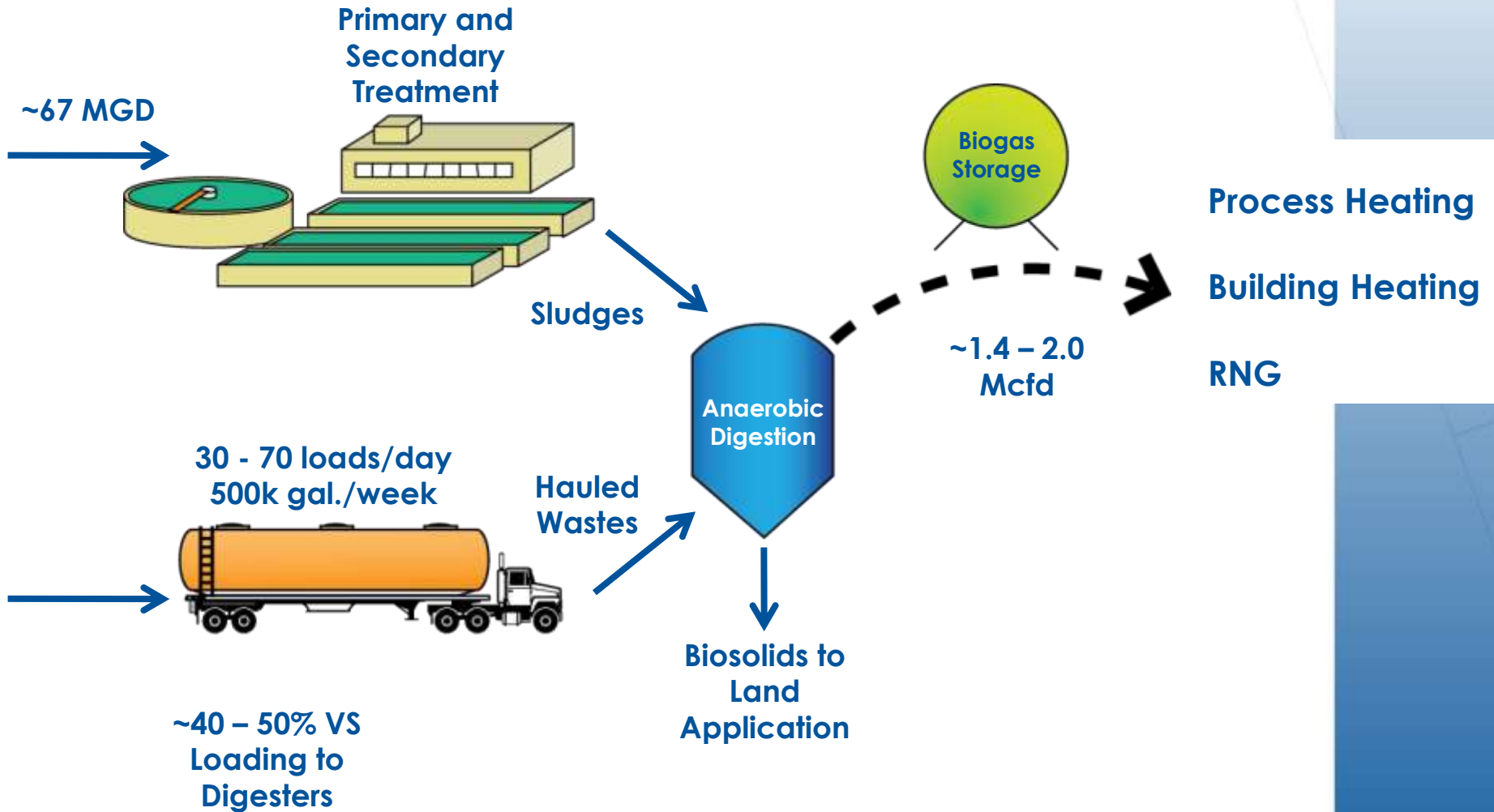


- WRA Serves 18 member agencies in three counties
- City of Des Moines is the contract operator of the WRA's wastewater reclamation facility (WRF)
- Average dry-weather flows of ~67 million gallons per day (MGD)
- Serves >600,000 residents in greater metro Des Moines area
- Completed \$20M Anaerobic Digestion Improvements Project in Spring 2014
- Completed \$19M Biogas Injection Project in October 2020



# Des Moines WRF Flow Schematic:

Item #10.



# Co-Digestion Waste Sources

- Restaurant Grease Trap / Interceptor Waste
- Dairy Waste
- Biodiesel Waste
- Slaughterhouse / Meat Processing Waste
- Lutein / Protein Waste
- Waste Soy Oil
- Sewage Sludge
- Sugar Waste
- Rendering / Gelatin Waste
- Corn Syrup / Mash



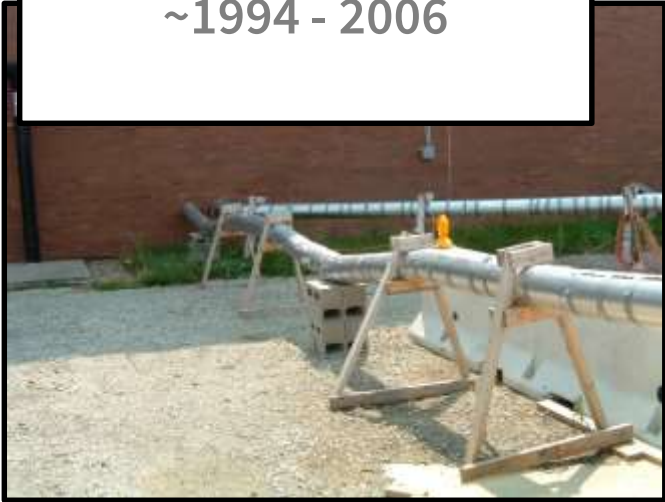
# Evolution of Hauled Waste Receiving



Simple pipe offloading  
~1994 - 2006



Below grade 170k gal.  
Receiving Tank  
~2007





# A Wastewater and Hauled Organic Waste Treatment Center

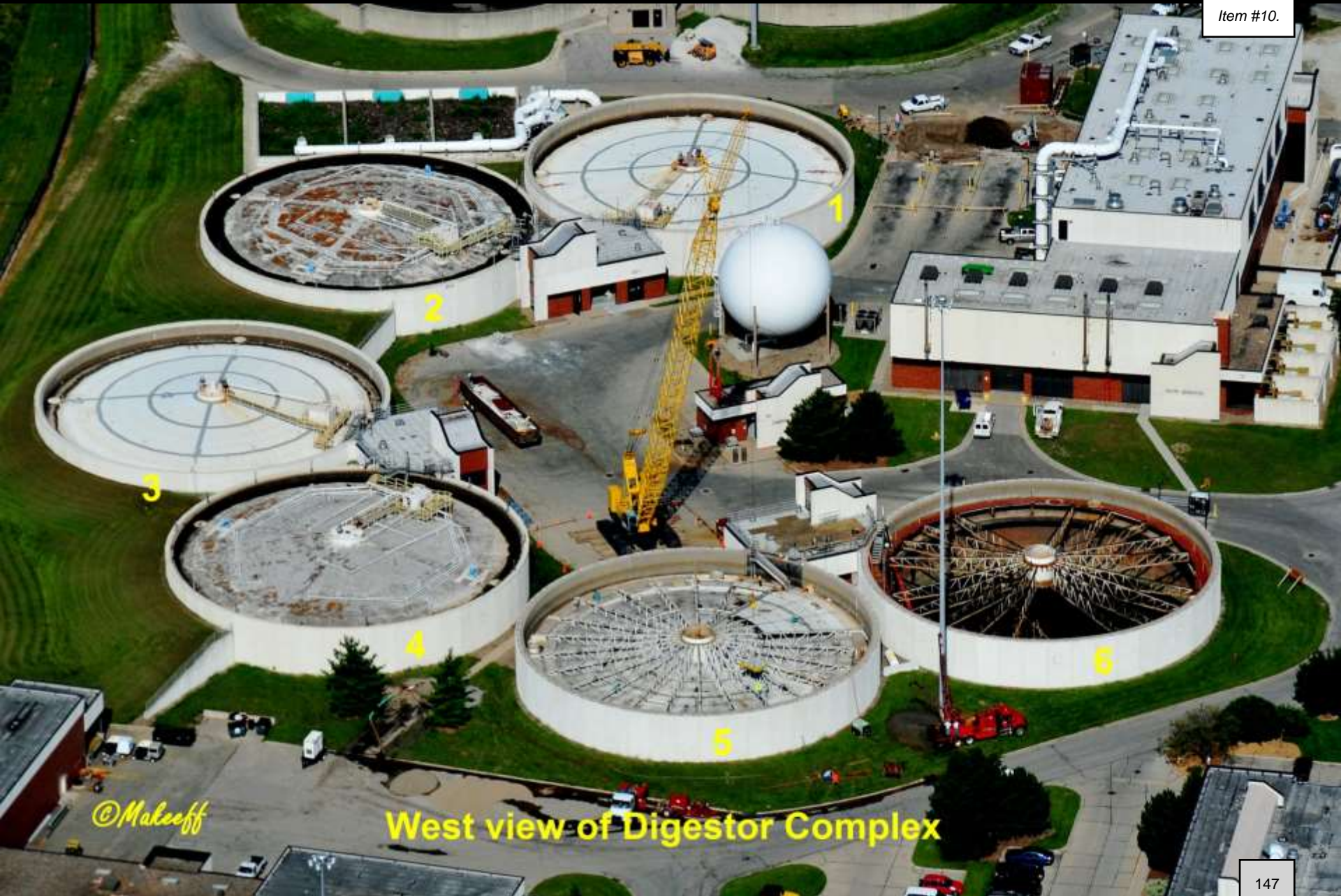




Item #10.







©Makeeff

West view of Digester Complex





# Biogas Production at Des Moines



- WRA is producing a significant amount of renewable fuel in digesters
- Capacity to increase biogas production with more hauled waste
- Changes in federal legislation are establishing renewable fuel standards, particularly for use in transportation fuels
- Environmental impacts of biogas
  - Biomethane production is carbon-neutral (does not add to greenhouse gas emissions)
  - Reduces consumption of natural gas, thus lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Supports sustainability initiatives and goals of City of Des Moines and WRA

# Project Organizational Chart





# Development of Bioenergy Model

Financial Inputs	
Electricity Cost, \$/kwh	\$0.0616
Natural Gas Purchased, \$/MMBtu	\$6.86
Labor, \$/hr	\$60
Water, \$/100 gal	\$0.40
Lube Oil, \$/gal	\$15
Polymer, \$/5 gal	\$700
Air Emissions Fee, \$/ton	\$56
Discount Factor	5%
RIN Inflation, %/yr	5%
Utilities Inflation, %/yr	5%
Labor Inflation, %/yr	5%
Maintenance Inflation, %/yr	5%
MidAmerican Tariff Inflation, %/yr	5%
Air Emissions Fee Inflation, %/yr	5%

Process Information				
	PSA 1500	PSA 2250	WS 1500	WS 2250
% Recovery	95%	95%	98%	98%
Sales Gas %CH <sub>4</sub>	97%	97%	96.2%	96.2%
Sales Gas HHV, BTU/cf	980	980	970	970
Water, gpm	0	0	2.7	4.4
Connected Load, hp	948	1294	842.9	1216.3
Natural Gas, MMBtu/day	48	72	0	0
Polymer, gal/yr	0	0	5	7.5
Compressor Heat Recovery, MMBtu/hr	0	0	0.0	0.0
Tail Gas Heat Recovery, MMBtu/hr	3.4	5.1	0.0	0
Lube Oil, gpd	Included below		4	6.5
Preventative Maintenance, \$/yr	\$72,000	\$91,260	\$50,500	\$50,500
Labor, hr/yr	0	0	0.0	0.0
Downtime, hr/yr	0	0	0	0

20-Year Economics, Present Value				
	PSA 1500	PSA 2250	WS 1500	WS 2250
Capital	\$9,855,000	\$11,921,000	\$9,475,000	\$12,086,000
Total Annual Costs	\$36,304,000	\$52,772,000	\$33,288,000	\$36,665,000
Total Annual Revenue	\$100,162,000	\$103,050,000	\$98,914,000	\$99,784,000
20 Year Overall Revenue	\$54,003,000	\$38,357,000	\$56,151,000	\$51,033,000
Payback Period, months	37	57	35	46

Raw Gas Data	
Raw Gas, %CH <sub>4</sub>	65%
Raw Gas, H <sub>2</sub> S ppmv	4000
Raw Gas Flow Growth, %	0%

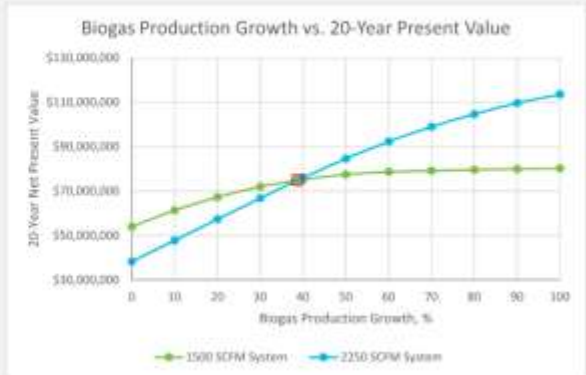
Initial Investment				
	PSA 1500	PSA 2250	WS 1500	WS 2250
Equipment Capital, \$	\$2,350,000	\$3,042,000	\$2,556,000	#####
Thermal Oxidizer, \$	\$497,000	\$643,351	\$350,055	\$477,696

See "Capital" tab for more details

Sales Gas Economics	
Renewable Gas Sold, \$/MMBtu	\$5.00
Monthly Customer Charge, \$/month	\$1,315
Commodity Charge, \$/therm transported	\$0.00495
Demand Charge, \$/MDR therms/month	\$0.52886

Environmental Attributes	
RIN Value, \$/RIN	\$0.65
RIN Conversion, RIN/MMBtu	11.727
RIN Value, \$/MMBtu	\$7.62

Percent of Gas Accepted	
1500 SCFM System	99.1%
2250 SCFM System	100.0%





# Design Criteria

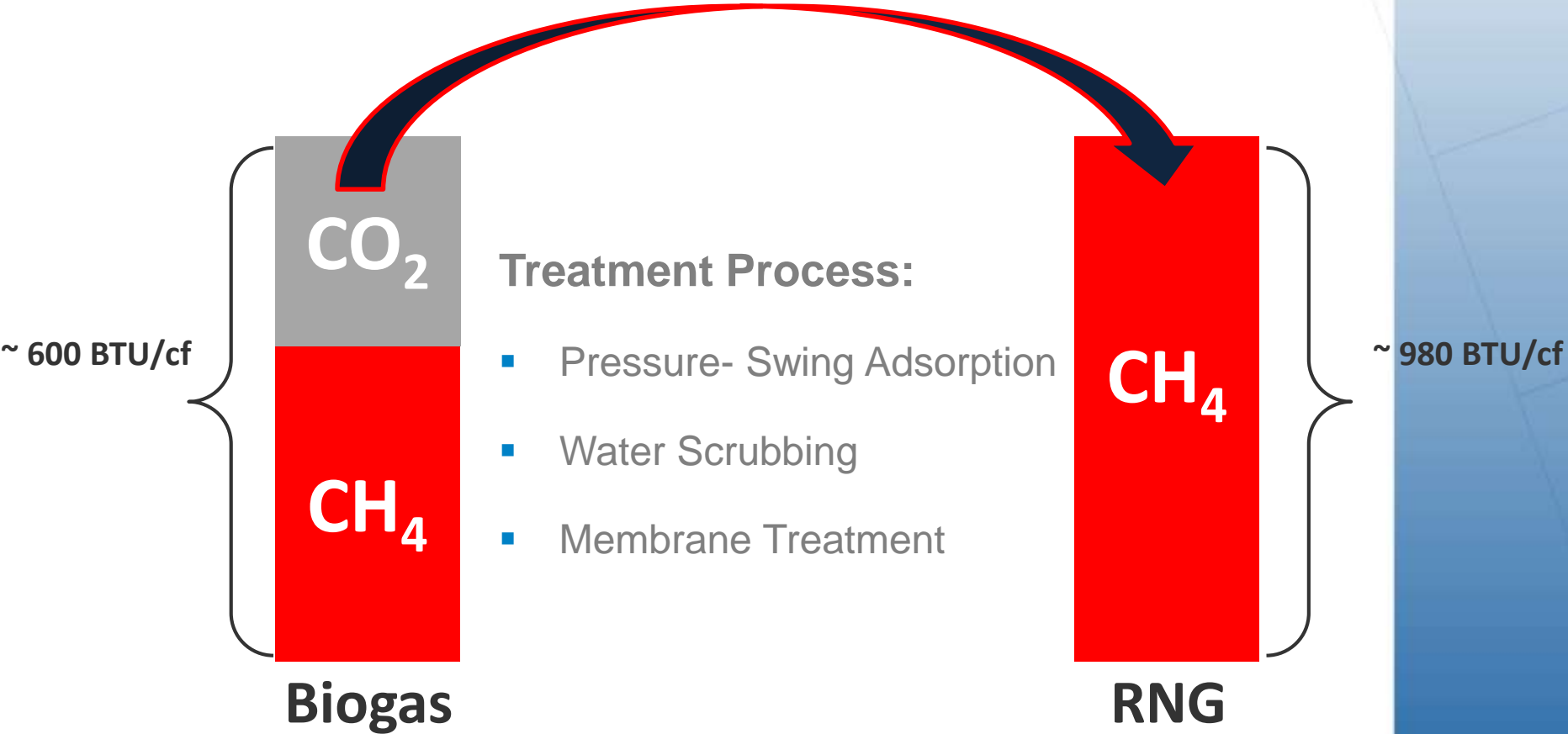


- Inlet Biogas Flow: 2250 SCFM

Component	Digester Gas	Pipeline Specification
BTU Content	~660 BTU/scf	> 950 BTU/scf
Carbon dioxide	35%	< 3% by volume
Nitrogen	0.7%	< 4% by volume
Total Inerts (N <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub> )	~36%	< 5% by volume
Oxygen	<0.2%	< 0.3% by volume
Water	Saturated	< 5 lb/mmscf
Hydrogen sulfide	Actual: 50-600 ppm Design: 6,000 ppm	< 0.25 grain/Ccf
Total Sulfur	N/A	< 20 grain/Ccf
Volatile Organic Compounds	10-30 ppm	0 ppm

# Technology Comparison

# Biogas → Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)



# Membrane Scrubbing System

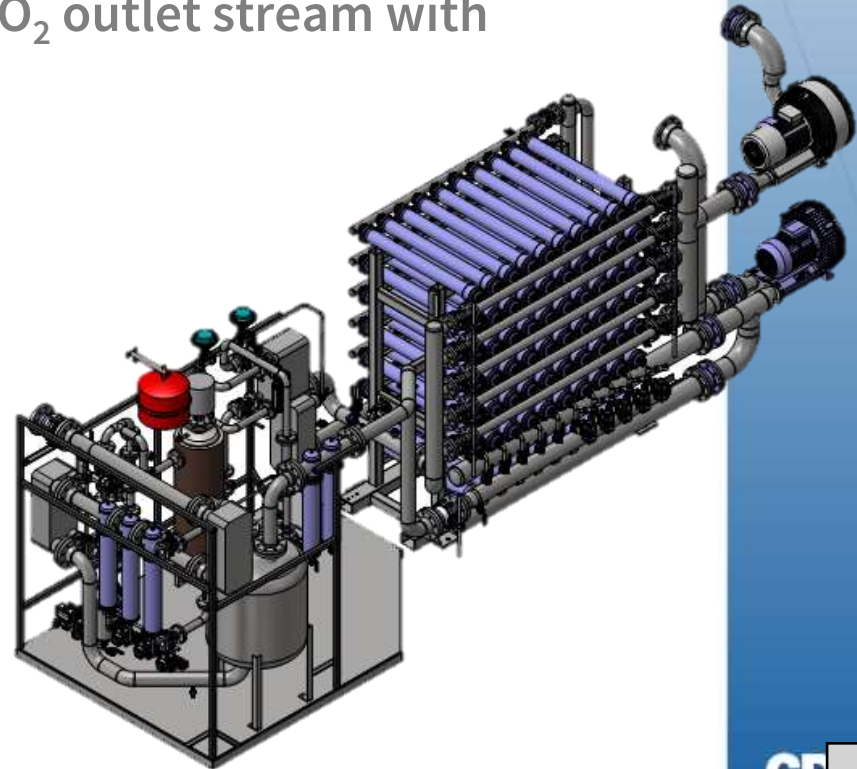
Item #10.

## ■ System Description

- Utilizes physical diffusion process through membranes which use a thin polymer film. Membrane selectively retains  $\text{CH}_4$  and some  $\text{N}_2$  (~20%) and  $\text{O}_2$  (~50%)
- Generates very high quality  $\text{CO}_2$  outlet stream with approximately 1-2%  $\text{CH}_4$

## ■ Typical Components

- Compressor
- Gas Heat Exchanger
- $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  Scrubbing System
- Siloxane Carbon Filters
- Chiller
- Final Polishing Filters
- Membranes



# Membrane Scrubbing System



- **Manufacturers**
  - DMT Environmental Solutions (Joure, Netherlands)
  - Unison Solutions (Dubuque, Iowa)
  - Greenlane (New Zealand, USA)
  
- **Advantages**
  - Removes some O<sub>2</sub> (~50%) and N<sub>2</sub> (~20%)
  - High CH<sub>4</sub> recovery (97-99.5%)
    - *Depending on the number of stages*
  - High level of turndown (~10%)
  - Dry process
  
- **Disadvantages**
  - No U.S. Installations
  - H<sub>2</sub>S and siloxane pretreatment required
  - Limited data on membrane life and fouling

# Liquid Scrubber System

Item #10.

- System Description
  - Separation by physical adsorption in scrubber
  - Water is transfer solvent; performance follows Henry's Law- $\text{CO}_2$  is more soluble in water than  $\text{CH}_4$
  - Upflow packed towers with polypropylene media
  - Solvent regenerates in stripping tower and only small daily make-up water demand
- Typical Components
  - Compressor
  - Scrubber Vessel
  - Flashing Vessel
  - Stripping Vessel
  - Compressor Radiator Skid
  - PSA/TSA Adsorber (gas drier)
  - Process Water Chiller





# Liquid Scrubber System



- **Manufacturers**
  - Greenlane (New Zealand, USA)
  - DMT (Netherlands, USA)
  - Malmberg (Sweden)
  
- **Advantages**
  - Proven technology – multiple installations globally and in USA
  - Non-toxic solvent (water)
  - Also removes  $H_2S$  in inlet biogas
  - Moderate  $CH_4$  losses (~2% slip)
  
- **Disadvantages**
  - Increases  $H_2O$ ,  $O_2$ , and  $N_2$
  - Tail gas treatment is required
  - Very tall outdoor vessels

# Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA)

- System Description
  - Biogas is pressurized to flow up through the adsorption vessels
  - Contaminants are trapped by media designed to not capture CH<sub>4</sub>
  - Vacuum is applied to depressurize (i.e.; pressure swing) after adsorption to purge contaminants from vessel in tail gas stream
  - Process is batch but use of multiple vessels and rotary valve allow continuous flow
- Typical Components
  - Compressor
  - Water Separator
  - Air Fan Cooler
  - Adsorber Vessels and Valve Skid
  - Vacuum Pumps
  - Buffer Tanks



*Zeolite Media*

# Pressure Swing Adsorption

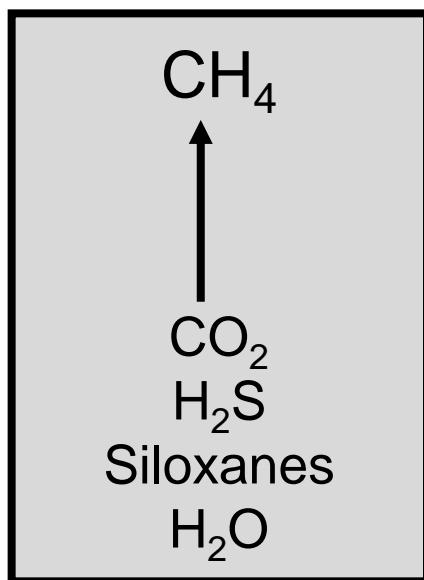


- **Manufacturers**
  - Guild Associates Inc. (Dublin, Ohio)
  - Xebec Adsorption Inc. (Quebec, Canada)
  
- **Advantages**
  - No H<sub>2</sub>S pretreatment required for <6,000 ppm (Guild only)
  - Simple, one step, dry process that is proven technology
  - Media is regenerative
  - Spare parts are generic. Can be serviced by plant operators or local mechanic
  
- **Disadvantages**
  - Methane recovery is lower (95%)
  - Additional PSA vessels required for O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> removal if air is in the biogas
  - Tail gas treatment is required

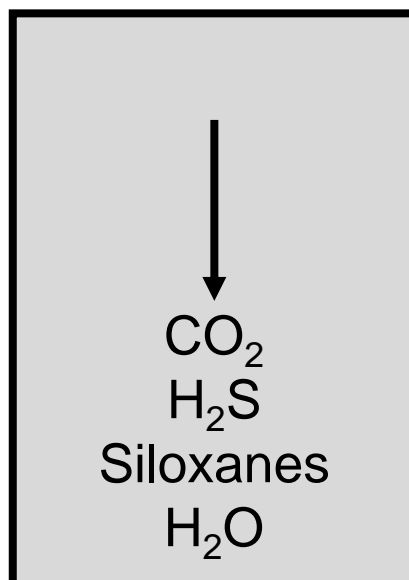
# PSA Flow Schematic

Adsorption  
Cycle

Purified Gas



Small Methane  
Purge



Regen  
Cycle

# PSA Batch Cycles



ADSORPTION	DEPRESSURIZE	VACUUM & PURGE	REPRESSURIZE
REPRESSURIZE	ADSORPTION	DEPRESSURIZE	VACUUM & PURGE
VACUUM & PURGE	REPRESSURIZE	ADSORPTION	DEPRESSURIZE
DEPRESSURIZE	VACUUM & PURGE	REPRESSURIZE	ADSORPTION

# Technology Comparison & Selection



- Hydrogen Sulfide Considerations
  - Membranes: pre-treatment required
  - Water Scrubber: maximum inlet ~2,500 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S
    - Tail gas treatment required (biofilter or RTO)
  - PSA: maximum inlet ~ 6,000 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S
    - Tail gas treatment required (TO)
  
- System Recovery Performance
  - Membranes: high methane recovery
  - Water scrubber: high methane recovery, increases oxygen
  - PSA: lower methane recovery
  
- Technology Selection:
  - PSA System
  - Capacity of 2,250 scfm inlet biogas flows
  - Thermal Oxidizer with heat recovery



# Project Design

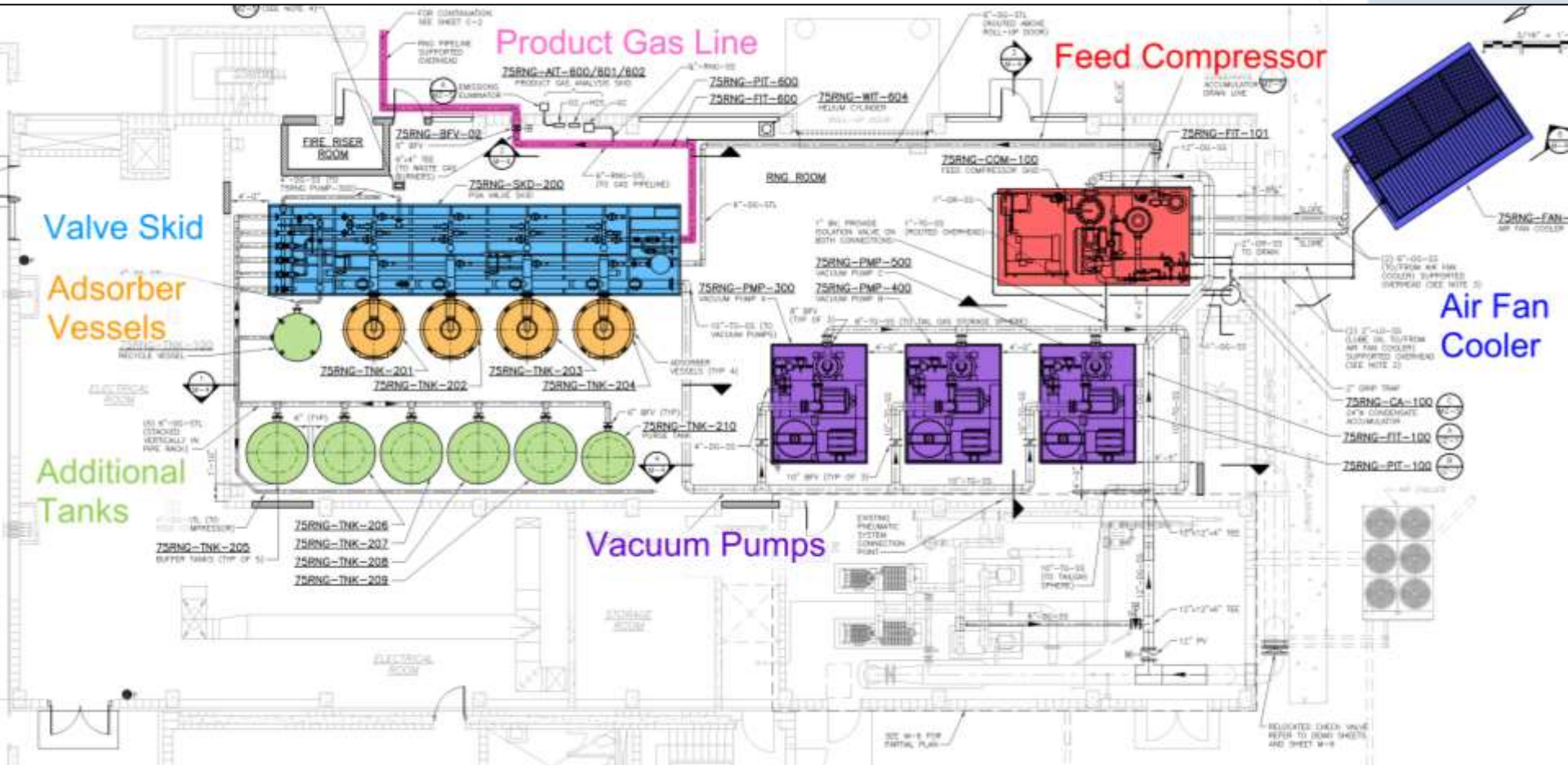






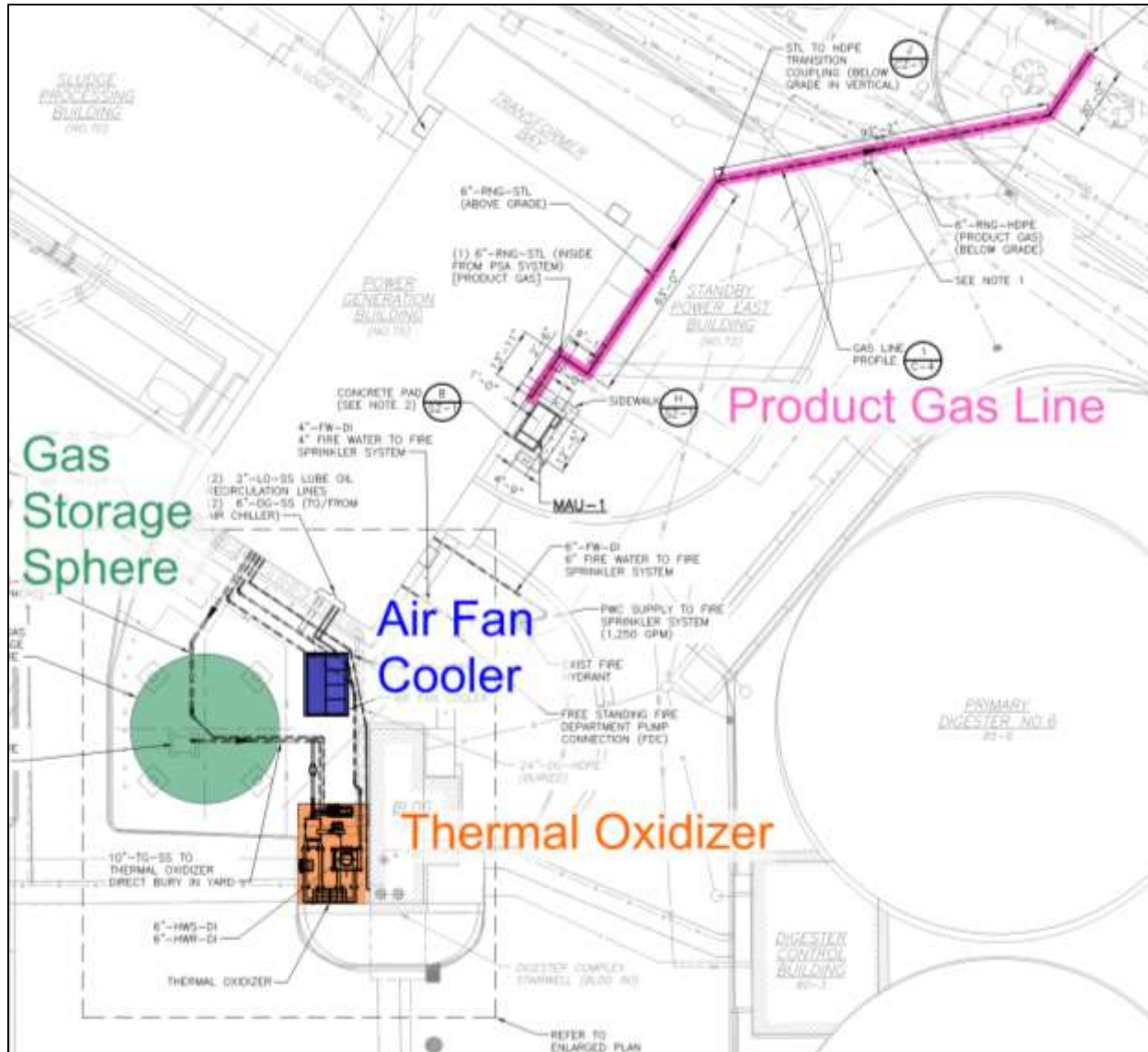
# System Layout

Item #10.





# Site Plan



# Area Classification & Building Modifications



- NFPA defines requirements of “Digester Gas Processing Rooms” involving biogas compression, handling, and processing equipment

Row	Location and Function	Ventilation Rate	Extent of Classified Area	NEC Area Electrical Classification	Material of Construction & Fire Protection Measures (2)
Row 18a	DIGESTER GAS PROCESSING ROOMS (Gas compression,	No ventilation or ventilated at less than 12 air changes per hours	Entire room	Class 1, Division 1, Group D	NC, CGD, H, FE
Row 18b	handling, and processing)	Continuously ventilated at 12 air changes per hour	Within 1.5m (5-ft) of equipment	Class 1, Division 1, Group D	NC, LC, CGD, H, FE
Row 18c		Continuously ventilated at 12 air changes per hour	Entire Room	Class 1, Division 2, Group D	NC, LC, CGD, H, FE

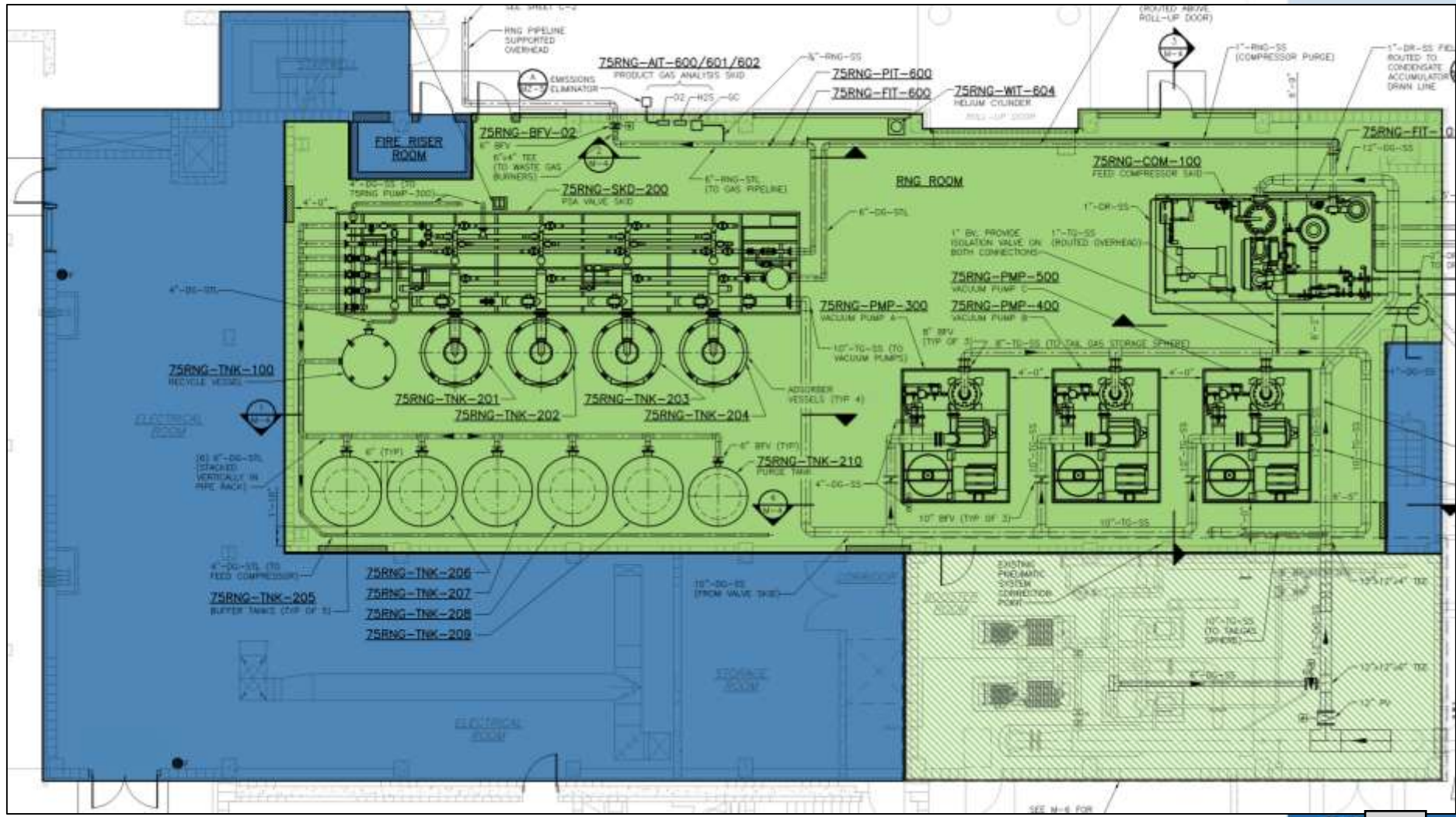
NC – Noncombustible Material; LC – Limited-combustible material; CGD – Combustible Gas Detection System; H – Hydrant Protection; FE – Portable Fire Extinguisher





# Area Classification Plan

Item #10.



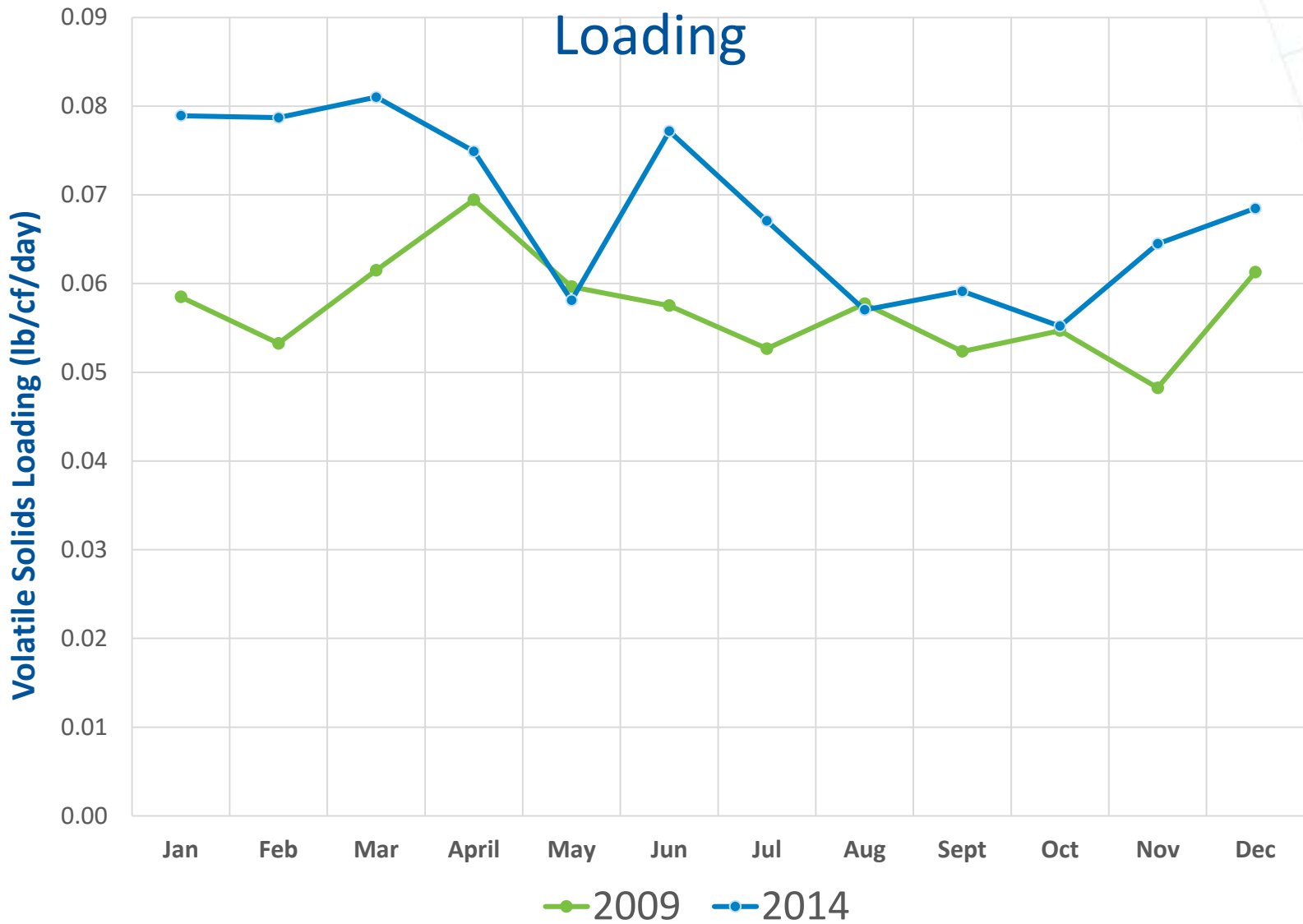
# Current Project Status



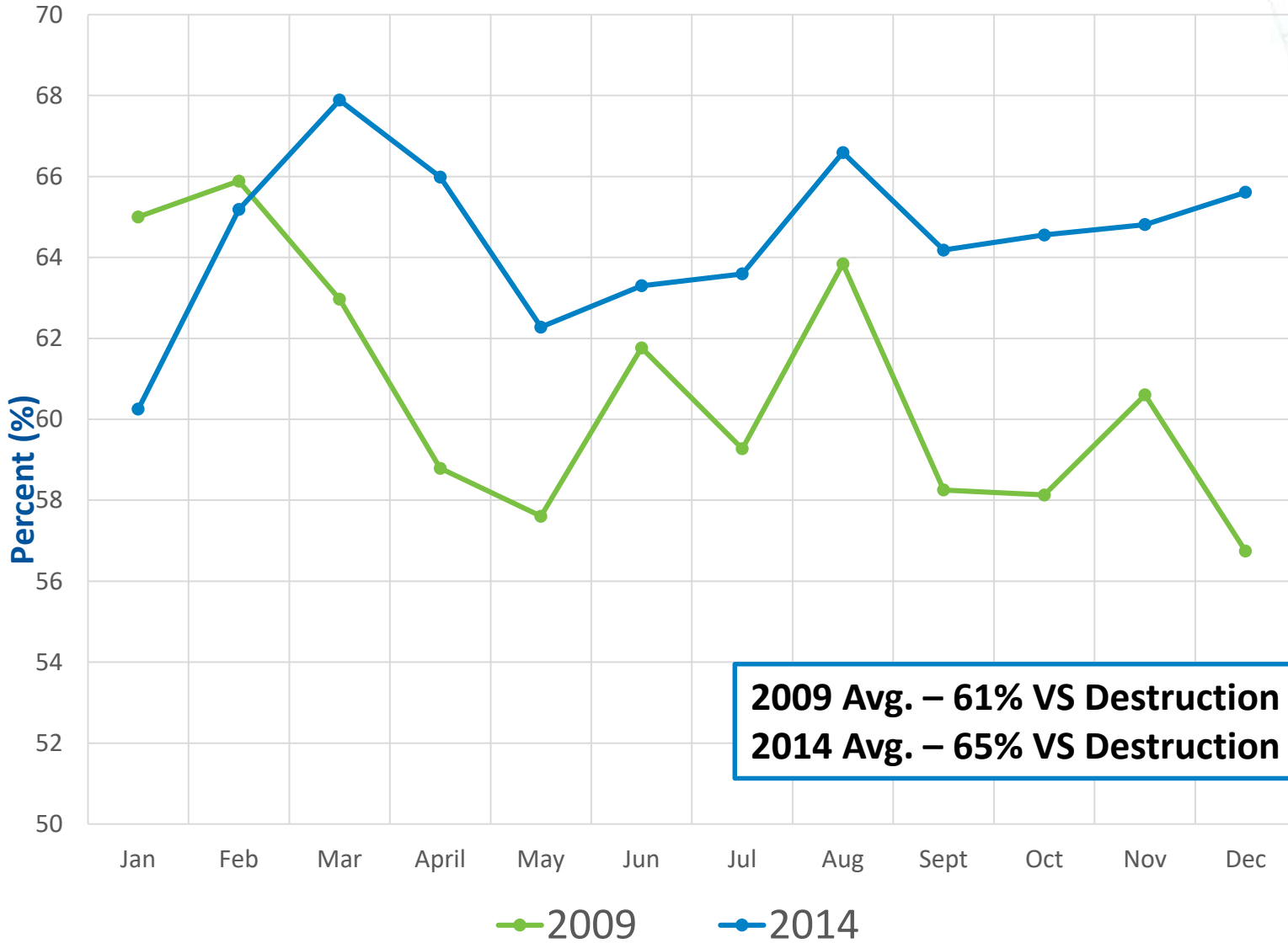
- 100%: October 2016
- Construction duration: approximately 1 year
- Construction Capital Costs ~\$12M
- Project Payback of ~4yrs
- Current value of RNG Injection + RIN credits is \$10k a DAY!

# Blended Sludge Feed – Volatile Solids

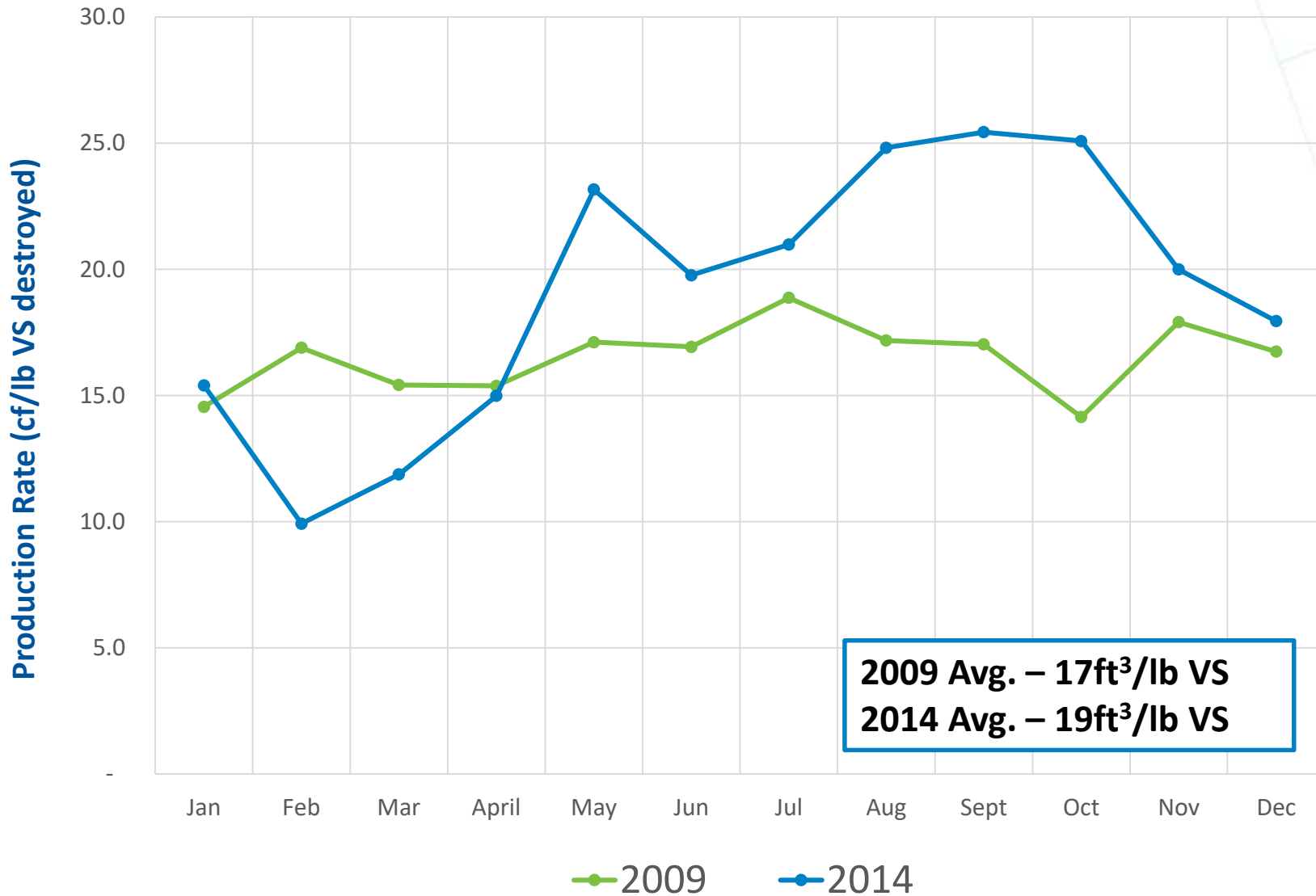
## Loading



# Volatile Solids Reduction

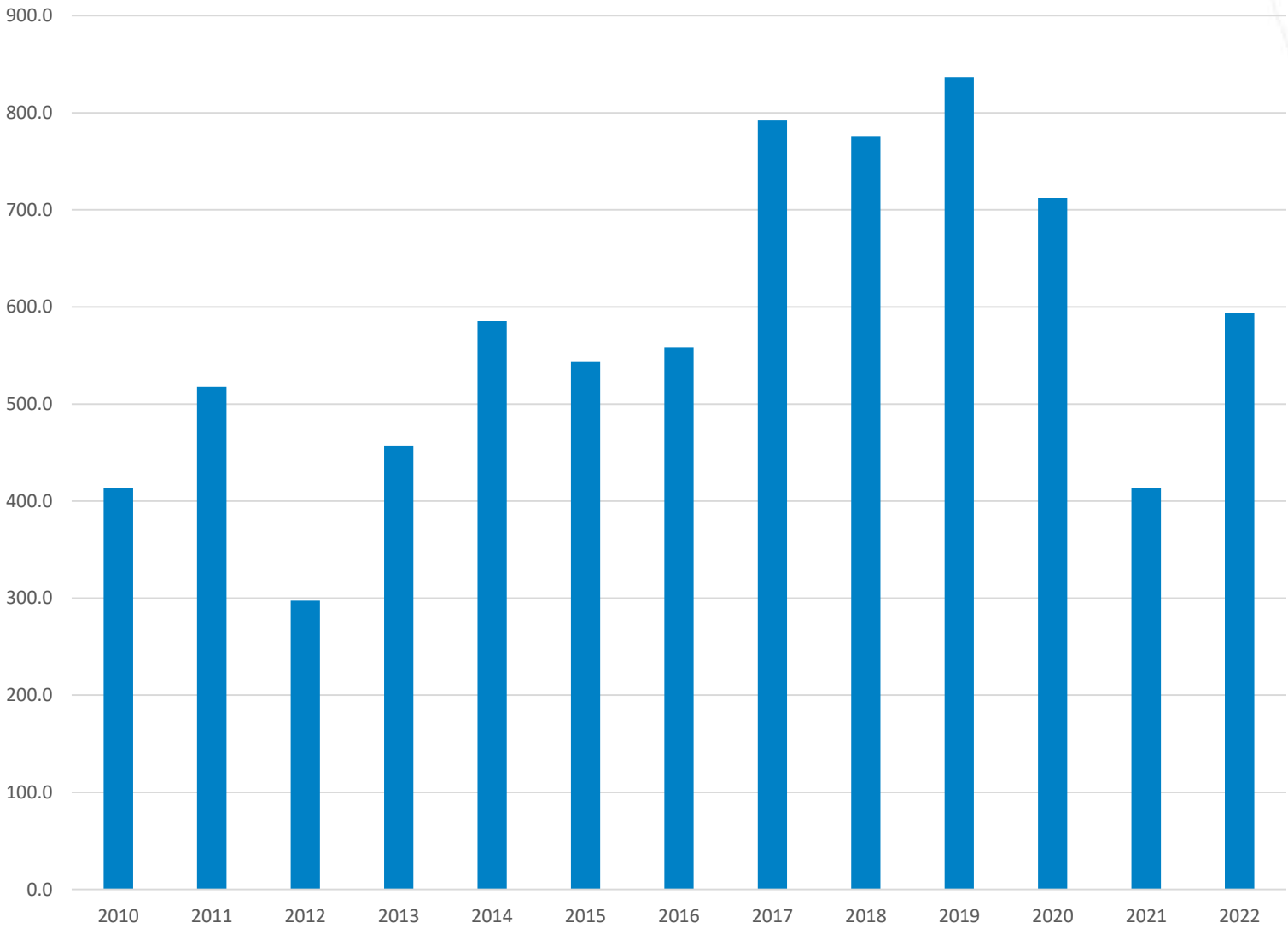


# Average Biogas Production Rate



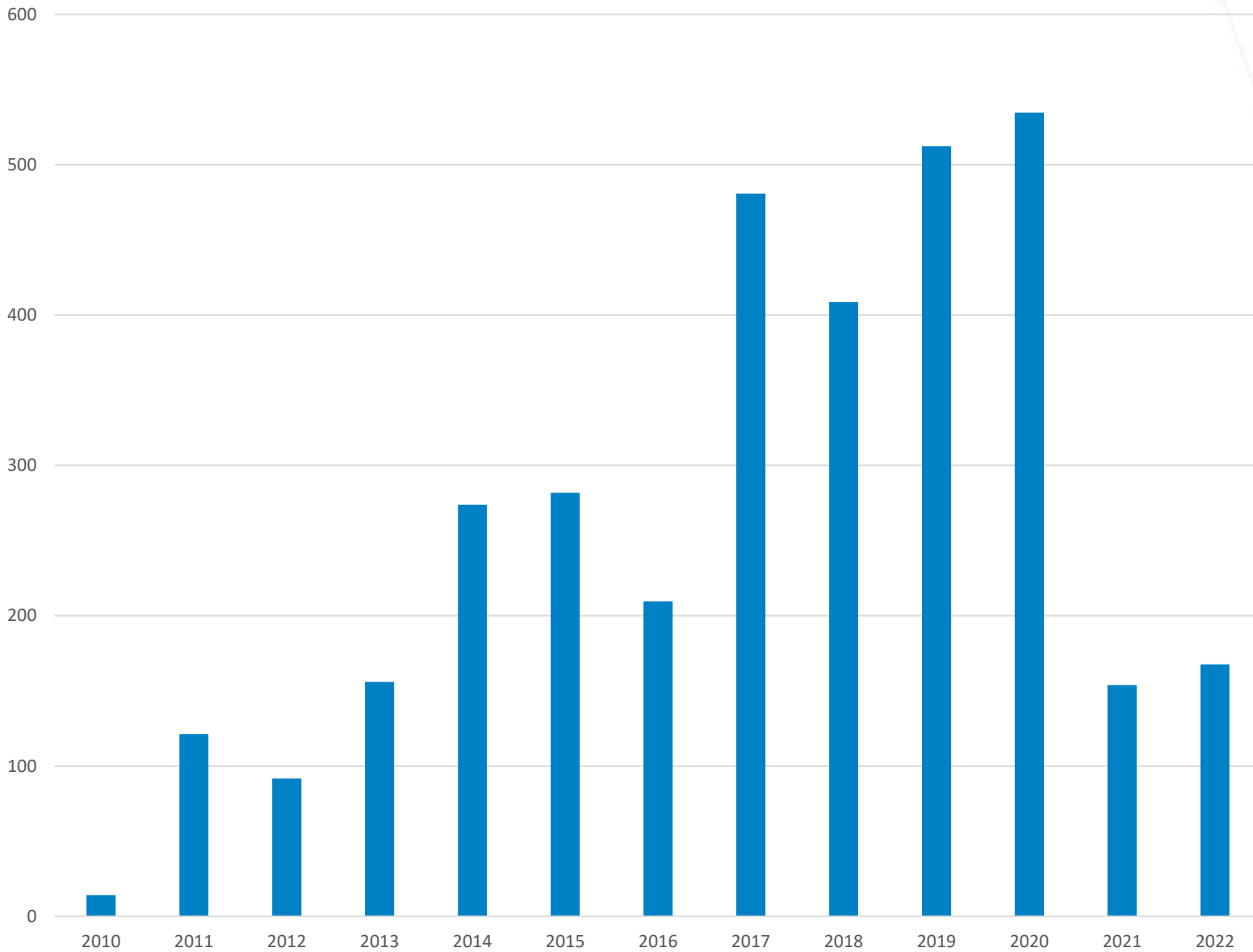


### Total Biogas Produced (Million Cubic Feet)



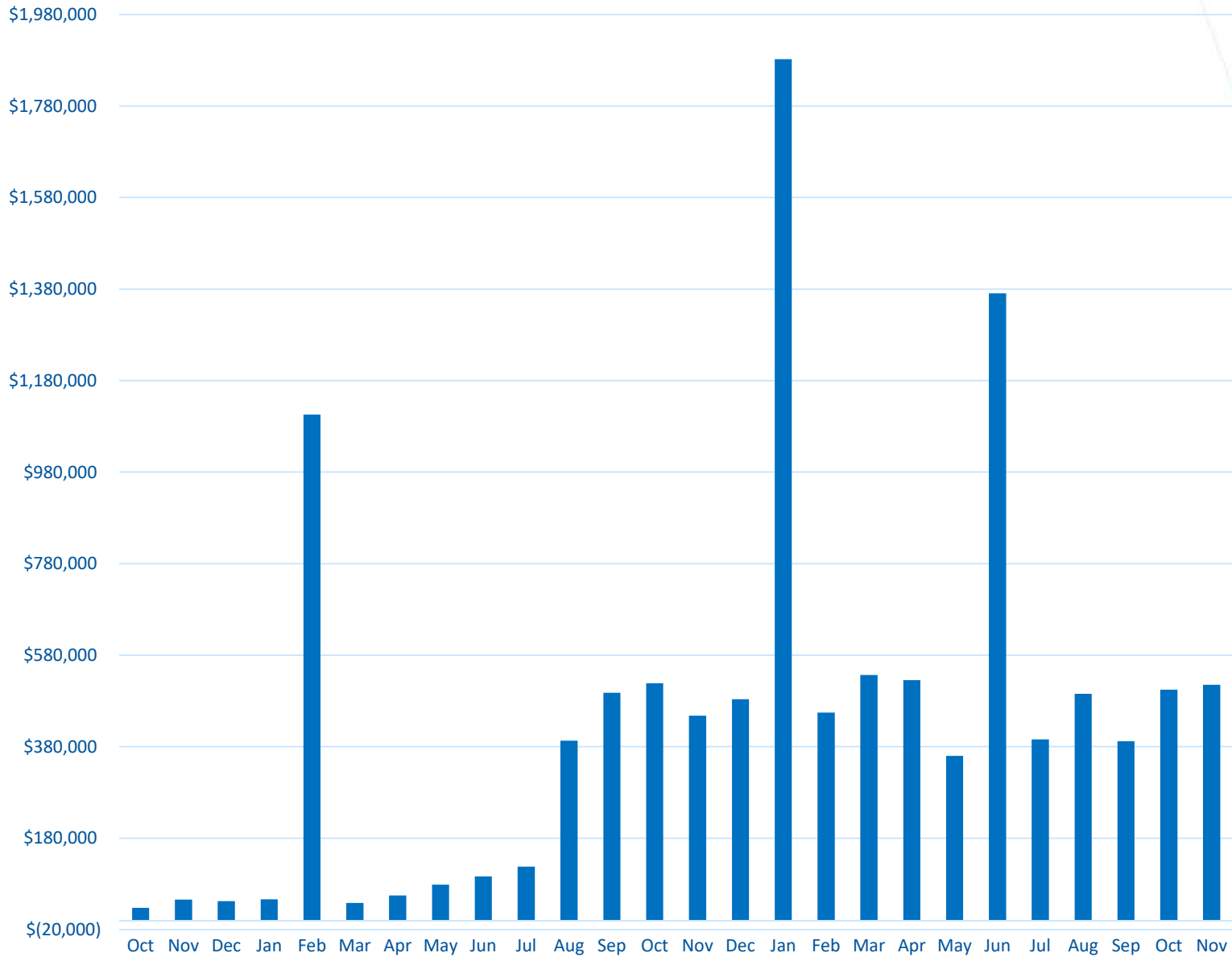


# Total Biogas Wasted (Million Cubic Feet)





## Renewable Natural Gas - Net Revenue Earned



# Bio Gas - RNG Process 2021/2022/2023

