



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: January 20, 2015

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works

Referral to: Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **Amendment 1 to Contract C-35969 with the University of Minnesota for GAC Pilot Filter Research**

Recommendation:

Authorize the proper City officials to amend Contract C-35969 with the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to extend the contract end date from December 31, 2014 to October 31, 2015 with no change to the contract amount. Funds are available in the Division operating budget.

Previous Directives:

March 8, 2012 - City Council authorized execution of an agreement with the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents to conduct research into parameters impacting performance of granular activated carbon filters with respect to particle removal, taste, and odor removal in the City's water treatment process.

Prepared by: Annika M. Bankston, Superintendent, Water Treatment Plant Operations, 661-4975

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters: Annika M. Bankston, Supt. Water Treatment, Department of Public Works, Water Treatment & Distribution Services

Financial Impact

X (No Financial Impact) Action is within current department budget

Supporting Information

Design is underway to upgrade the Fridley Filter Plant with granular activated carbon (GAC) filters. The conversion to GAC should address the majority of taste and odor concerns historically experienced by Minneapolis. Biologically-active GAC filters enhance

odor removal through biodegradation, but the effect on particle removal by the biofilm on the media needs to be evaluated.

The original contract amount for this collaborative research project was approximately \$188,000 for research conducted from Fall 2012 to Fall 2014. A graduate student researched particle removal performance and characterized the biomass within the filters in a timely manner and laboratory expenses were lower than anticipated, leaving appreciable funds (\$29,729.70) on the contract. A post-doctoral student is able to continue the research in 2015. Additional investigations into backwash effectiveness and removal of contaminants of emerging concern are planned.

The proposed amendment would extend the contract through October 31, 2015 with no increase in total contract amount.