



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

Date: March 1, 2011

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the University of Minnesota for Sludge Analysis**

Recommendation:

The proper City officials are authorized to enter into an agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to perform sludge analysis

Prepared by: Chris Catlin, Superintendent of Water Operations 661-4904

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Chris Catlin, Department of Public Works, Water Treatment & Distribution Services

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval ____	Date _____
Civil Rights Approval	Approval ____	Date _____
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval ____	Date _____

Financial Impact

Within Department Budget

Community Impact

City Goal: "Lifelong Learning – Second to None," strategic direction to "Embrace the U's Outreach & Land-Grant Expertise": the city will fully realize the benefits of having renowned educational and research institutions such as the U of M.

Comprehensive Plan: This project promotes the City's environmental stewardship in encouraging partnerships with other organizations within the City

to make public operations more sustainable. Specifically, this research is consistent with the following policies:

- Policy 6.1.2: Promote efficient use of natural and limited resources when ... operating city facilities and in general city operations.
- Policy 6.9: Be a steward of clean water by protecting and enhancing its surface and groundwater systems.
- Policy 6.9.1: Continue to invest in maintaining excellent water quality for consumption, and ensure delivery of safe drinking water to customers.

Background/Supporting Information

A byproduct of the drinking water treatment process is “sludge,” which is comprised of treatment residuals and water. Water is removed from the sludge and the remaining material is reused in agricultural applications.

The sludge handling facility at the Minneapolis Water Treatment plant is plagued by a condition referred to as “freezing sludge” every winter. The University of Minnesota has agreed to allow Minneapolis Public Works to use their laboratory facilities to do specialized chemical analysis of the sludge. The understanding gained from this analysis will inform operational changes to eliminate the freezing sludge condition.

The city will be entering into the University of Minnesota’s Standard Agreement as well as agreeing to the costs of using their equipment and services.

The total fee for this research project will be less than \$30,000 over two years.