

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC

Re: RFP No. SAN2024-01 for the Secondary Digester Cleanout

OBJECTIVE

To provide the Public Service Committee with information regarding RFP No. SAN2024-01 the Secondary Digester Cleanout.

RECOMMENDATION

That the contract SAN2024-01 for the amount of \$116,308.00 plus HST be awarded to GFL Environmental Inc. for the cleanout of the Secondary Digester; and

That the funds be drawn from the 2024 water/ waste water reserves; and

That the appropriate by-law be passed.

BACKGROUND

The Elliot Lake Waste Water Treatment Plant on Scott Road treats all of the sewage waste produced by the City of Elliot Lake. Solids are separated through various processes throughout the plant and from there the solids are pumped over to the primary digester tank. The gas generated by the anaerobic digestion in the primary digester is used to aid in both mixing of the contents to limit settling and increase the organism activity.

The excess gas and effluent that is not used for the primary digester is then transferred by piping to the secondary digester. From there further breakdown occurs as it contains organic matter that can be further processed. So essentially the secondary digester acts as a finishing stage for the digestion process. It ensures that the product is stabilized and reduces odours.

The added benefit of the secondary digester is that it has a floating cover and the gas that is transferred from the primary digester is then stored in the secondary digester. The gas is used to run the 2 hot water boilers that in turn heat the water in the heat exchanger that keeps the primary digester in the 32-34 degrees Celsius range. As well it is used to heat a vast majority of the waste water plant buildings.

Approximately in the summer of 2022 the digester tank started showing considerable signs of leaking around the top and skirting of the floating tank. The digester tank was unable to keep the gas stored and at that point for both safety reasons and environmental the gas train was shut down.

ANALYSIS

As the secondary digester is both a requirement at the Class 3 plant as well aiding in effluent quality to the environment. It was determined that we would drain the digester so as a contractor would be able to come on site and evaluate the tank and take measurements for a new floating cover.

The tender document went out to ensure we received the best value and the following firms' prices for the work is as follows:

1. Wessuc Inc. – this includes mobilization and demobilization for a price \$169,849.93 exclusive of HST. There were no sub-contractors on this bid as their own forces would be used.
2. Entec Waste Management Inc. - including mobilization and demobilization the price is \$289,000 exclusive of HST. As well no sub-contractors were on this bid so own forces are to be used.
3. GFL Environmental Inc. – includes mobilization and demobilization the cost exclusive of HST is \$116,308. As well no sub-contractors were on this bid so own forces are to be used.

Since the secondary digester cleanout has not occurred in approximately 20 years it would be difficult to give a timeframe on the time to complete the work but we would estimate if all goes well approximately one week for haulage of waste and internal cleanout for inspection.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2024 budget did not include the digester cleanout and inspection. The total cost will be \$116,308 plus HST and the funds will be drawn from the Water/ Waste Water reserve.

SUMMARY

The Secondary Digester has failed due to age and circumstances beyond staff control. With a failure to complete this first step of the cleanout and inspection this will result in operational issues further down the road. The cleanout of the Secondary Digester is necessary for J.C.I. to inspect the floating roof cover and take measurements for replacement.

The quote from GFL Environmental Ltd. was the lowest bid and they have performed this type of work for the City during the Primary Digester cleanout in 2015.

