



**Approved  
Town of Ridgefield  
Water Pollution Control Authority**

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting  
February 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Maureen Kozlark, Gary Zawacki, Corinne Ketchum, Ron Hill  
AECOM: Jon Pearson  
Suez: Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Jon Arneth

**These are not verbatim minutes of the proceedings but identification of  
general items and specific actions undertaken.**

**WPCA Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00, by Ms. Siebert.**

**1) New Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes**

**i) Motion to approve January 27, 2022 and February 09, 2022 minutes  
by Mr. Zawacki, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 5-0.**

**b) Raftelis Consulting Agreement**

**i) Discussed in detail the Agreement from Raftelis with the following  
recommendations to be discussed with Raftelis after further review :**  
**(1) 5 year term to be negotiated to a lesser term.**  
**(2) Hourly rate**  
**(3) Termination by both parties**  
**(4) Latest version of rate model turned over to the WPCA**

**2) AECOM**

**a) Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning  
Construction**

**i) Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O Construction has continued to make shop drawing  
submittals over the last month on materials and equipment as well as submitted several  
questions through the Request for Information (RFI) process. AECOM is reviewing  
and responding to these items as they come in. M&O Construction has also secured  
the use of a temporary staging/storage area along the east side of Route 7 just over the  
Danbury line.**

- ii) Mr. Pearson informed the WPCA that AECOM has scheduled a pre-construction meeting with M&O Construction for Thursday March 10th at 10 am at the Town Hall Annex, Attending will be representatives of M&O Construction, AECOM, and representatives from the Highway, School, Police, Fire, P&Z, and Inland Wetlands departments as well as DOT and DEEP have been invited to attend.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that M&O Construction has not submitted further information regarding both the schedule impacts from unexpectedly long lead times to obtain key items such as the pump station components and the standby generator, as well as the request for additional costs that was noted in their 1/26/22 letter. AECOM does not believe that granting the request for the requested additional costs is supported by the terms of the construction contract. M&O Construction did note that the standby generator will not be available for delivery until after the rest of the pump station will be complete in April 2023, and suggested considering a rental generator to allow the station to be started up and operated until the permanent generator arrives. Ms. Kozlark suggested checking with Jake Muller on whether the Town has a generator that could be available for this need. Mr. Pearson agreed, and AECOM will follow up Mr. Muller and with M&O Construction.
- iv) Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM is nearly complete with preparation of the Route 7 Clean Water Fund grant/loan application and should be forwarding a draft of the application package to the WPCA and the Town next week for review.

**b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

- i) Mr. Pearson discussed that a group including Mr. Marconi conducted a tour of the South Street Facility earlier in the day with the following in attendance: Congressman Jim Himes, State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo, State Senator Julie Kirshner, Jimmy Ticky of Congressman Himes office; from the WPCA: Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Maureen Kozlark, Diana Van Ness, Suez: Jonathan Arneth, Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond; AECOM: Eva Solarik.
- ii) Mr. Pearson stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today with Ms. Kozlark, Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Richmond, and Mr. Arneth participating. Through the end of January, 80 percent of the contract time (including the time extension in Change Order No. 2) has elapsed and 60 percent of the contract cost has been incurred. Construction has continued this month including:
  - At the Septage Building installation of the exterior roll up doors was completed, the roof drain piping was completed, the interior walls and ceiling were painted and the installation of the hot water supply and return piping to the boiler in the Control Building is underway.
  - Work on the Blower Building continues, with interior work by all trades continuing including the aeration blower piping, interior plumbing (bathroom fixtures installed) and HVAC systems piping through the roof installed, and electrical wiring of lighting, fire alarms and other systems.

- Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration building continued, with concrete building footings placed, excavation backfilled to the floor slab level, and installation of below slab piping and electrical conduits completed that were inspected by the building official. The forming and reinforcing of the floor slab is ongoing.
  - Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with HVAC and electrical work ongoing. The city water and fire protection piping connections installed into the buildings and tested, and roofing and roof top HVAC equipment installation completed. The Motor Control Center (MCC) was inspected and checked out by the manufacturer and a temporary electrical service to the Influent Building was installed.
  - Site work continued with installation of the piping of the effluent flow meter vault and the flow meter installed, installation of the portions of the Route 7 and future Quail Ridge FMs is underway, and the plant water piping installation was completed.
  - Work in the Operations Building lower levels continued with HVAC and plumbing work ongoing.
- iii) Mr. Pearson discussed that as of the end of the year, Spectraserv has expended 80% percent of their contract time for completion (with the previously agreed to extension) and 60% of their contract value expended. Due to the continued concerns about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date as discussed at last month's meeting, on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, and again on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, meetings with Spectraserv's President, AECOM, Ms. Kozlark, and Mr. Zawacki were held to focus on what commitments Spectraserv would make to accelerate the work. As a result, Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM has seen more submittals of plans on many of the upcoming work items, and Steve Wells, Spectraserv's President committed to be full time involved in the day-to-day project work to assist Christian Garcia, Project Manager. Unfortunately, as Mr. Wells has gotten more involved, the latest schedule update shows additional slippage supporting AECOM's comments for many months that the schedule was unrealistically optimistic. The current contractual completion date for Final Completion is August 21, 2022 and the latest schedule update shows final completion on April 12, 2023 which is 232 days beyond the contractual date. Part of this slippage this month was due to the recognition by Spectraserv that they will need to keep the existing UV disinfection system operational to meet the May 1 deadline for effluent disinfection, which delays their ability to install the new sand filters in that area.

During the meetings with Spectraserv, Mr. Pearson stated that it was made very clear to them that if Spectraserv believes that they experienced delays in obtaining materials and equipment due to Covid, they will need to document with supporting backup what the original commitment for delivery of an item was, what the delayed delivery date was, and demonstrate using their schedule how this delayed the schedule critical path for construction of the project. Another meeting with Spectraserv is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> to follow up on their latest commitments, with Ms. Kozlark and Mr. Zawacki attending. At the meeting on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Wells noted that the current schedule was the "worst case" and Spectraserv will improve on it by working longer days and at least one full day on the weekends. Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM has observed that this has begun to occur and noted an increase in the electrical subcontractors work force and the site work subcontractors work force since the beginning of the month. AECOM also reached out to Ann Straut at the

DEEP, and they share the frustration with the schedule slippage and Ms. Straut was vocal during today's meeting regarding the schedule for the Temporary Ferric chloride system plan.

- iv) Mr. Pearson noted that as discussed last month, AECOM has continued to push Spectraserv for a plan to meet the May 1 date for the start of the disinfection season, and Spectraserv now agrees that they will keep the existing UV system in service until the new UV Building and UV system is completed, tested, and able to be put into service.
- iv) Mr. Pearson noted that as discussed last month, since Spectraserv's current schedule shows that the new BluePRO filter system for phosphorus removal will not be operational by 4-1-22 (date is now mid-November), DEEP requested an interim plan to provide some phosphorus removal be submitted to DEEP by 12-31-21, and AECOM worked with Spectraserv, developed a plan with their input that noted that the ferric chloride storage and feed system in the Chemical Building was anticipated to be completed and available for use for phosphorus precipitation in early March, and this would be the interim plan which DEEP noted would be acceptable. The plan also noted that if by mid-February, it was apparent that the ferric chloride system will not be completed in time, Spectraserv will be required to provide a temporary ferric storage and feed system to meet this need. In mid-February, it was clear to AECOM that the new ferric chloride system would not be ready, and AECOM directed Spectraserv to prepare a revised plan. Spectraserv has informed AECOM that they intend to use totes of ferric chloride, placed in the building to feed the new chemical feed pumps, which AECOM agrees would be acceptable. Spectraserv also committed today, with prodding from Ms. Kozlark, to submit the revised temporary system plan by tomorrow. Mr. Pearson stated that the revised plan was received just prior to the WPCA meeting. AECOM will forward the plan to Suez for review and will provide review comments from both AECOM and Suez to Spectraserv. Once acceptable, the plan needs to go to DEEP for approval, and Suez has requested that the system and the chemical totes be operational no later than mid-March to allow time to test and fine tune the ferric chloride dosing. Ms. Kozlark requested notification when the plan is submitted to DEEP, and Mr. Pearson agreed.
- v) AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 29 for Spectraserv that covers the month of January 2022 in the amount of \$280,078.03 and recommended it be approved. The hard copies of the payment estimate have been submitted to Ms. Van Ness for execution. After last month's meeting, the DEEP Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted DEEP, and the process to obtain grant and loan payments from the DEEP is proceeding as planned.
- vi) Mr. Pearson discussed the status of AECOM's Wastewater Facilities Upgrade, Engineering During Construction and reviewed AECOM's letter dated 2-22-22 regarding the need for a budget adjustment as contained in draft Proposed Amendment No. 1 for \$1,152, 024. Mr. Pearson noted that the contract basis was cost plus fixed fee and authorizing the budget revision as noted in AECOM's letter does not mean all the budgeted funds will be expended, but the budget revision represents AECOM's best estimate of the budget based on the current project status and schedule. Mr.

Pearson noted that no adjustment has been made in the Route 7 project budget for engineering during construction due to the uncertainty in M&O Construction's schedule, which may require a future revision. **Motion was made to approve the draft Amendment No. 1 and direct AECOM to send to the DEEP for approval by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 5-0.**

**4) Suez**

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the Suez Environmental report for January 2022. Mr. Pennell noted that one the check valves on the pumps at the Middle School Pump Station will need to be replaced, which will need to be paid for by the School Department.
- b) Mr. Arneth discussed the 2022 Base Compensation Adjustment for approval for a new monthly amount of \$80,040.66, which will be retroactive to the start of 2022.

**5) Adjournment**

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by a Motion made by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Mr. Zawacki; motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**