



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

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
January 27, 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, Matt Formica
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 had technical Zoom issues and had to abandon the
original Zoom meeting scheduled at 7:00 pm. A new Zoom meeting was called
to order at 7:37 pm by Ms. Siebert.**

1) New Business

a) Approval of Minutes

- i) Motion to approve December 16, 2021 minutes as amended by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, passing 4-0, (Mr. Hill was not on meeting at time of motion).**

2) Old Business

a) Route 7

- i) Ms. Siebert stated that the sewer rates would not stay flat for the districts as currently shown in the rate model due to other projects that need funding.**
- ii) Mr. Pearson discussed the letter from M&O Construction regarding the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning Contract 17-2 Schedule and Cost Update. M&O Construction submitted a request for an increase in the project cost due to rising prices and supply issues. AECOM will review request.**
- iii) Ms. Kozlark suggested the correspondence from M&O Construction should be directed to the WPCA, not Mr. Muller who is the Purchasing Director. AECOM has already notified M&O Construction with that direction.**

3) AECOM

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

- i) Mr. Pearson noted that with the DEEP Authorization to Award the Route 7 project, M&O Construction provided the required bonds and executed the contract, and the contract was signed by the WPCA on Dec. 27th. The Notice to Proceed was issued to M&O Construction on that day as well.

AECOM will be scheduling a pre-construction meeting with M&O Construction closer to the start of construction in February with representatives of M&O Construction, the WPCA, and Town (including highway, police, and fire depts). In the meantime, Mr. Pearson stated that M&O Construction has begun to make shop drawings submittals on materials for the project as well as have asked some questions through the formal request for information (RFI) process.

- ii) Mr. Pearson discussed that as previously noted yesterday M&O Construction submitted a letter regarding the schedule impacts from unexpectedly long lead times to obtain key items such as the pump station components and the standby generator, which will impact their ability to meet the contract time for completion for the pump station. He noted that the executed contract requires the PS to be substantially complete by 1-11-23. M&O also noted that due to significant materials pricing increases, they are requesting a change in the amount of just under \$300,000 due to these increases which are outside of their control. AECOM will review questions on the letter with M&O Construction and will update the WPCA. Mr. Pearson noted that the project budget for the Route 7 project included a contingency in the amount of 5% of the bid price with a value of \$416,414, and this request, if granted, would reduce that amount.
- iii) With the bid phase of the project now completed, Mr. Pearson discussed that at the request of the WPCA, AECOM had undertaken significant out of scope work related to reviewing/negotiating cost reductions with M&O Construction. These additional efforts also included assistance to secure the additional funding for the project including attendance at numerous meetings including the Public Hearing and Town Meeting vote to use the ARPA funds. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has reviewed the costs for these out of scope items and will be submitting an amendment request in the amount of approximately \$75,000 for these efforts. Mr. Pearson discussed that AECOM is also reviewing the projected costs for the services during construction due to the extended construction schedule (due to the delay in awarding the contract) which could also require additional funds to complete. Mr. Pearson will have this review completed for next month's meeting.
- iv) Mr. Pearson stated that DEEP had previously indicated that they would be confirming whether the use of the ARPA funds for the paving costs that are ineligible under the Clean Water Fund (CWF) was acceptable under the ARPA program. On January 10th, Lee Rogers, the CWF accountant, notified AECOM that they changed their position and would not be doing this and indicated that this was the Town's responsibility as they received the ARPA funds. Earlier this week, First Selectman Rudy Marconi confirmed that the ARPA funds can be used for the paving costs that

are ineligible under the CWF. That confirmation was what is needed for AECOM to complete the CWF Grant/Loan application for the Route 7 project. Mr. Pearson noted that Ms. Van Ness has provided assistance in securing the necessary documents for the application and AECOM is working to complete the application and will forward it for review and signature once it is completed.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

- i) Mr. Formica stated that the monthly construction progress virtual meeting was held today with Mr. Zawacki, Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Pennell, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Arneth, participating. Through the end of December, 78 percent of the contract time (including the time extension in Change Order No. 2) has elapsed and 59 percent of the contract cost has been incurred. Construction has continued this month including:
- The Septage Building exterior roll up doors are being installed, the roof drain piping installation is underway, the windows have been installed, and the roof system installation is ongoing.
 - Work on the Blower Building continues, with interior work by all trades continuing including the interior plumbing and HVAC systems and electrical work on lighting, fire alarms and other systems. Exterior personnel doors and the windows have been installed.
 - Concrete work on the UV/Reaeration building continued, with the electrical ductbanks and process piping below the footings installed and the excavation is scheduled to be backfilled in preparation for the installation of the building footings.
 - Modifications to the Control Building and Chemical Buildings are continuing, with HVAC and electrical work ongoing. The exterior masonry façade installation is ongoing with sealant work remaining and the city water and fire protection underground piping connections installed to the building.
 - Work in the Operations Building lower levels continued with HVAC and plumbing work ongoing
 - Site work continued with installation of the effluent flow meter vault, the Aeration Tank stair landing pads constructed. Grading around the site at various locations was completed, and the installation of the gas main in front of the site by Eversource is ongoing.
- ii) Mr. Formica discussed the schedule status, and noted that AECOM continues to be concerned about Spectraserv's rate of progress to meet the revised completion date (and DEEP shares that concern). Spectraserv's latest schedule update shows that they are 14 weeks behind schedule, which they attribute to delays being experienced in obtaining materials due to industry wide shortages with many items backordered. AECOM continues to ask that Spectraserv provided documentation of these delays but have received no significant documentation to date. After last month's WPCA meeting, Spectraserv responded to AECOM's most recent letter (11/17/21) on schedule concerns with the majority of the delay attributed to related to delays in obtaining materials and equipment, as well as minor delays related to weather impacts

and utility responses for new connections. Since that response, AECOM have had a further conversation with Steve Wells. Spectraserv's President, to emphasize the concerns over schedule, and Mr. Wells has gotten more involved in the project.

- iii) Mr. Formica discussed that AECOM has also raised the concern on the schedule for the new UV/Reaeration Building in light of the 5-1-22 permit required start of the disinfection season and the ability to complete the new UV Building and UV Disinfection system. AECOM held a review meeting earlier today with Spectraserv to review how they plan to meet this requirement. Spectraserv continues to maintain that they will have the new UV system operational prior to 5-1-22 and are committed to working weekends and extended days to meet this requirement. AECOM noted that Spectraserv needs to have a plan in place as how the effluent disinfection will be implemented if the new UV Building is not completed as planned, which could involve use of a temporary UV system, or use of the existing system. Spectraserv agreed and will prepare such a plan. Following discussion, it was agreed several WPCA members will meet with AECOM and Spectraserv to discuss schedule concerns.
- iv) Mr. Formica discussed that 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 late July), DEEP has requested an interim plan to provide some phosphorus removal be submitted to DEEP by 12-31-21. AECOM submitted the letter to DEEP on behalf of the WPCA to respond to the request in late December. The letter noted that the ferric chloride storage and feed system in the Chemical Building is 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. If by mid-February, it is not looking like the ferric system will be completed, Spectraserv will be required to provide a temporary ferric storage and feed system to meet this need.
- v) AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 28 for Spectraserv that covers the month of December in the amount of \$819,976.52 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 that earlier this week, AECOM forwarded Change Order No. 4 to the WPCA for review. He noted the change order includes 15 items, some of which are additions and some are credits, and the total change order amount is \$73,418.86. AECOM recommended it be approved. With this change order in place, the total change orders to date total \$200,069 out of the \$2,636,739 project contingency amount, approx. 7.6% to date Change Order Number 4 was discussed.

Motion to accept Change Order Number 4 by Ms. Ketchum, seconded by Ms. Kozlark, passing 4-0, (Mr. Zawacki was not on zoom call at the time of vote).

- vii)** Mr. Pearson discussed that there two pending change order items that exceed the \$25,000 threshold, where prior WPCA approval is needed, to discuss tonight. Mr. Formica discussed the change to replace the truckway roll-up doors in the Operations Building which were not included in the upgrade contract. The estimated cost is approximately \$65,000 and AECOM recommends it be approved. Mr. Pennell confirmed the doors are deteriorated in in need of replacement. It was agreed the door should be replaced and authorized the change. Mr. Formica also discussed the need for the replacement of MH-1 at the northwest corner of the WWTF site. The manhole, which normally runs surcharged which prevents the ability to see the structure, was drained recently and found to be in very poor condition. To replace it will require installation of a new doghouse manhole and a pumped bypass, which is why the cost is approximately \$68,000. AECOM recommended it be approved pending some negotiations with Spectraserv to lower the currently presented costs. It was agreed this change should be made and authorized the change and for AECOM to continue their negotiations with Spectraserv and with the addition that the 12-inch downstream pipe between the manhole and the Influent Building also be replaced (due to its age).
- viii)** Mr. Pearson discussed that the original date for substantial completion of the WWTF Upgrade was in mid-December 2021, which recently passed, and final completion was to be in March 2022. AECOM's budget for engineering services during construction was based on providing services for the original construction period. With the 160 day time extension already granted, the current date for substantial completion is now 5-23-22 and the final completion date is 8-21-22. With Spectraserv's work behind this schedule, this will require AECOM to provide services for an even longer construction duration.

Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM's costs to date for Basic Construction services under Task 1 (General Construction Services) have reached approximately 90% of the budgeted amount. However, due to several of the tasks on the project (such as Startup assistance, Record Drawings, etc.) not starting until later in the project schedule, on the whole AECOM has expended approximately 70% of the budgeted cost for the South Street project. However, Mr. Pearson noted DEEP has indicated that they will not process any reimbursement requests under the Clean Water Fund if the costs for any tasks exceed the budget for each task approved by DEEP without having a revised cost that is approved by DEEP. They further noted that these additional costs need to be approved by DEEP in advance of incurring costs beyond the current budget.

Mr. Pearson discussed that to maintain grant eligibility of these increased costs will require that an Amendment to AECOM's contract to increase in the budget for engineering services for the South Street work be processed now, in order to continue to have those costs reimbursable by DEEP. AECOM will develop an estimate of the cost to complete these engineering services and will have a proposed amendment to increase the budget for the longer construction period for next month's meeting. This increase will also need to be funded under the remaining project contingency of approximately \$2,437,000. Mr. Pearson stated that with the unanticipated additional potential costs on the Route 7 project, there may also be a need to shift some of the contingency funds from the South Street WWTF project to the Route 7 project. AECOM will review this as part of developing the estimate of the cost to complete the

engineering services on the project, and Mr. Pearson will be prepared to discuss that at next month's meeting as well.

4) Suez

- a) Mr. Pennell presented the Suez Environmental report for December 2021. Kovacs Construction replaced the two guide rails in the Copps Hill Pump Station Wet Well for pump #2. In addition, the influent wet well control panel went down. Suez replaced the level transducer and one input card for the PLC.
- b) Mr. Arneth stated that the Veolia merger is on hold due to issues in the United Kingdom.

5) Adjournment

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. by a Motion made by Ms. Ketchum seconded by Ms. Kozlark; motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness