

ITEM #: 28  
DATE: 02-14-23  
DEPT: Electric

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: ASH POND CELL MAINTENANCE SERVICES  
FOR ELECTRIC SERVICES**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Power Plant has an ash pond that serves as a settling pond where Refuse Derived Fuel ash (“RDF ash”) falls to the bottom and relatively clean water can be recycled to the Power Plant to transport additional ash from the bottom of the boilers. The ash pond also contains ash generated from the combustion of coal prior to the power plant’s conversion to natural gas (“coal ash”).

The RDF ash is composed of inorganic materials in the fuel that do not burn and must be removed from the boilers to allow continual operation. Over time the RDF ash builds up on the bottom of the pond and reduces the available capacity of the pond. This ash must be regularly moved and piled, via excavating or dredging, to a location at the pond site that will allow for it to dry and later be hauled to a landfill.

As of October 2016, the usable area of the ash pond has been drastically reduced because of restrictions imposed by the EPA through the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities rule. The portion of the ash pond that contains coal ash (a majority of the area) is inactive until the coal ash is removed and landfilled.

The work to remove the coal ash was programmed as a project in a previous Capital Improvements Plan and work has been underway for the past several years. Because of COVID, turnover in key staff positions, and other projects needing to take priority; the CIP project to remove the coal ash was not able to be completed by this calendar year as anticipated.

Until the coal ash removal project is complete, the usable area of the pond is very limited. The usable area has filled up with RDF ash. This RDF ash must be excavated and hauled off-site to the landfill. Boone County Landfill (BCL) is the only landfill in the planning area that the City of Ames is in. BCL has rejected taking the RDF ash and therefore the Power Plant must take it to Metro East Landfill located in Mitchellville, Iowa.

On December 1, 2022, a Request for Proposals (RFP) document was posted to the IonWave electronic bidding site by Purchasing. On December 22, 2022, two proposals were received. An evaluation team was formed to review proposals. Proposals were evaluated on experience, demonstration of safe and cost-effective removal procedures, equipment availability, and cost.

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Digging Price (per hr)</b>	<b>Hauling Price (per ton)</b>
Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping, Peosta, IA	\$200.00	\$18.00
Earth Services & Abatement, Des Moines, IA	\$790.00	\$104.00

After evaluating the proposals, staff determined that the proposal from Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping, Peosta, IA, is acceptable. The experience, along with reasonable cost by the vendor, best fit the needs of the City.

The funds for this project will be taken from the Unit 7 and 8 Auxiliary Equipment accounts. Invoices will be based on contract rates for time services are actually received and accepted by the City.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Award a contract to Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping, Peosta, IA, for Cell Maintenance Services in the amount not-to-exceed \$103,300 (inclusive of Iowa sales tax).
2. Award a contract to the second bidder, Earth Services & Abatement, Des Moines, IA.
3. Reject all proposals, fill the little remaining space in the usable area of the pond, and then stop burning RDF until the coal ash removal CIP project is complete.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The ash pond is an essential part of the RDF combustion process. Because the pond has a limited working area, the RDF ash must be excavated and removed to allow for the continued combustion of RDF. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1 as stated above.