

ITEM #: 25
DATE: 08-13-24
DEPT: ELEC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **TIPPING FEES FOR ASH DISPOSAL FOR THE POWER PLANT**

BACKGROUND:

The City's Power Plant currently uses a small section of the ash pond where combusted Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) residue settles to the bottom. The ash itself is composed of inorganic materials in the fuel that do not burn and must be removed from the boilers to allow continual operation. Once deposited in the ash pond, the relatively clean water on the top of the pond can be recycled to the Power Plant to transport additional ash from the bottom of the boilers. Over time the ash builds up on the bottom of the pond and reduces the available capacity. The ash must be regularly removed via excavating or dredging and hauled to a landfill to provide continual space so the boilers can continue to burn RDF.

Boone County Landfill is the designated landfill for Ames' solid waste, and therefore would be the landfill where dredged ash is typically disposed. However, Boone County Landfill does not want to receive the RDF combustion ash and has instructed the City to haul all ash to Metro Park East Landfill in Mitchellville, Iowa.

Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping holds the contract to remove the ash from the pond. A separate contract with Metro Waste Authority is necessary to complete the disposal of the ash. Funding for this contract will come from the Power Plant Ash System account where \$300,000 is allocated for ash hauling and disposal. A contract for removal of the ash with Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping in the amount of \$200,000 was approved by City Council on May 28, 2024. The remaining \$100,000 is allocated to cover the contract the tipping fees from Metro Waste Authority (this action).

In addition to approving the contract, the Council is being asked to waive the Purchasing Policies and Procedures requirement for formal bids, since solid waste planning area regulations would prevent the City from bidding the disposal location for this material.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive the City's purchasing policy requirement for formal bidding procedures and award a contract to Metro Waste Authority, Des Moines, IA for landfill tipping fees for ash disposal for the Power Plant in the amount of \$100,000 from date of award through June 30, 2025.
2. Do not approve the contract and bid this service.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Power Plant needs to continuously remove ash from the ash pond when a unit is burning RDF. This contract will provide the necessary funds to address the disposal of the ash. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1.