

**Indian River County, Florida
Department of Utility Services
Board Memorandum**

Date: November 8, 2024

To: Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

Through: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Sean C. Lieske, Director of Utility Services

From: Howard G. Richards, PE, Manager - Capital Projects

Prepared By: Michael C. Loveday, Wastewater Superintendent

Subject: Approval of Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. Proposal No. 173978 for South Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Filter Electrical Panel Capital Rehabilitation, IRCDUS Project ID 22.24.517

Descriptions and Conditions:

Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) owns and operates the South Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWWTF), which has a two (2) million gallons per day (MGD) annual average daily flow design capacity. The tertiary treatment process at SRWWTF utilizes two (2) automatic backwash (ABW) sand filters that are responsible for all polishing filtration immediately prior to the disinfection and ultimate effluent disposal.

Each ABW filter utilizes the Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. (Aqua-Aerobic) AquaABF® Filter system, which is a proprietary design, fabricated to Aqua-Aerobic specifications. The system comprises a main electrical control panel that acts as the main source of power as well as providing all automatic and manual control operation functions for the unit. The Aqua-Aerobic AquaABF® Filter system electrical control panels are now in need of capital maintenance due to deteriorated conditions from age. Additionally, electrical components contained within the panels are now only available through surplus vendors, due to the age of the components, making incremental repairs from component failures difficult and costly.

At the request of IRCDUS staff, Aqua-Aerobic provided the attached Proposal #173978, dated November 11, 2024, to provide turnkey services for the partial rebuild of the two (2) AquaABF units, hereafter referred to as SRWWTF ABW Filter Electrical Capital Rehabilitation, IRCDUS Project ID 22.24.517. The scope of services includes the following: supplying new electrical control panels; teardown of the old panels; and installation of the new panels. Aqua-Aerobic also provided a sole source letter (attached) stating they are the exclusive original equipment manufacturer (OEM), vendor supplier, and repair servicer for the AquaABF® Filters.

Analysis:

Aqua-Aerobic proposed total turnkey price is \$417,530.00 which is reasonable compared to the cost of comparable equipment on the market. Since a change in equipment manufacturer involves significant redesign and associated construction costs, it is in the best interest of Indian River County to accept Aqua-

Consent Item

Aerobic's proposal. Staff proposes an additional 15%, or \$62,630.00, contingency reserve for unforeseen work/expenses such as civil and additional replacement components. The contingency reserve will be retained by IRCDUS for the sole purpose of covering such costs over and above the vendor's proposed price. The total budget for the SRWWTF Filter Electrical Panel Capital Rehabilitation is \$480,160.00.

Funding:

Expenses, in the amount of \$480,160.00, for this project will be recorded in the Utilities/WIP/SRWWTF ABW Filter Elec Rehab account, number 471-169000-24517. Since this is an operating capital expense, the funds will come from fund balance. Operating funds are derived from water and sewer sales.

Description	Account Number	Amount
Utilities/WIP/SRWWTF ABW Filter Elec Rehab	471-169000-24517	\$480,160.00

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners approve Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. Proposal No. 173978 in the amount of \$417,530.00 to provide turnkey services related to the South Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Automatic Backwash Filter Electrical Capital Maintenance project and authorize up to an additional 15%, or \$62,630.00, contingency reserve for unforeseen work/expenses for a total budget of \$480,160.00. Staff also requests approval of Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. as the sole source vendor for the AquaABF® Filters and services in Proposal No. 173978, and waive the requirement for bids for this and any other Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. parts, equipment and services up to the approved budget amount.

Attachments:

- Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. Proposal No. 173978
- Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. Sole Source Letter