

Piscataway Bioenergy

A. Identification and Coding Information		
Agency Number	Project Number	Update Code
S - 000103.02	063808	Change

PDF Date	October 1, 2024
Date Revised	

Pressure Zones	
Drainage Basins	
Planning Areas	Bi-County

B. Expenditure Schedule (000's)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY24	Estimate FY25	Total 6 Years	Year 1 FY'26	Year 2 FY'27	Year 3 FY'28	Year 4 FY'29	Year 5 FY'30	Year 6 FY'31	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design & Supervision	65,248	61,176	4,020	52	52						
Land	61	61									
Construction	267,291	257,175	9,600	516	516						
Other	709		681	28	28						
Total	333,309	318,412	14,301	596	596						

C. Funding Schedule (000's)

WSSC Bonds	329,388	317,842	10,950	596	596						
State Aid	3,921	570	3,351								

D. Description & Justification

DESCRIPTION

This project will develop a comprehensive program for the engineering, design, construction, maintenance, monitoring, and verification necessary to add sustainable energy equipment and systems to produce biogas and electricity at Piscataway WRRF. It will provide a reduction in operations, maintenance, chemicals, biosolids transportation, and biosolids disposal costs. It will also enhance existing operating conditions and reliability while continuing to meet all permit requirements, and ensure a continued commitment to environmental stewardship at WSSC Water sites. The scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the addition of anaerobic digestion equipment; thermal hydrolysis pretreatment equipment; gas cleaning, storage, and upgrade systems; tanks; piping; valves; pumps; biosolids pre- and post-dewatering; cake receiving and blending; cake storage; effluent disinfection systems; instrumentation; flow metering; power measurement; and combined heat and power generation systems.

BENEFIT

Environmental Sustainability: This project supports WSSC Water's commitment to protect the natural environment of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties; Financial Efficiency: This project is expected to increase revenues, decrease expenses, or both; Innovation: This project utilizes new ideas, methods, and/or research to streamline processes, enhance services, and reduce costs

JUSTIFICATION

In March 2009, WSSC Water received approval for a federal Department of Energy grant of \$570,900 for the feasibility study/conceptual design phase. On June 16, 2010, WSSC Water awarded the study contract to AECOM Technical Services, Inc., of Laurel, Maryland. The study was completed in December 2011, and the Thermal Hydrolysis/Mesophilic Anaerobic Digestion/Combined Heat & Power facility was recommended to be constructed and was presented to WSSC Water in April 2012.

The EPA is urging wastewater utilities to utilize this commercially available technology (anaerobic digestion) to produce power at a cost below retail electricity, displace purchased fuels for thermal needs, produce renewable fuel for green power programs, enhance power reliability for the wastewater treatment plant to prevent sanitary sewer overflows, reduce biosolids production and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and other air pollutants. In April 2009, the EPA announced that greenhouse gases contributed to air pollution that may endanger public health or welfare, and began proceedings to regulate CO₂ under the Clean Air Act. In June 2014, the EPA announced a proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions from power plants by 30% by 2030, compared to the levels in 2005. Based on AECOM's feasibility study work as of May 2011, a regional/centralized plant design based on a Thermal Hydrolysis/Mesophilic Anaerobic Digestion/Combined Heat & Power (TH/MAD/CHP) process supplemented by restaurant grease fuel was recommended.

The environmental benefits are estimated as follows: recover approximately 2 MW of renewable energy from wastewater biomass; reduce greenhouse gas production; reduce biosolids output; reduce lime demand; maintain permitted nutrient load limits to the Chesapeake Bay; reduce 5 million gallons/year of grease discharge to sewers; and produce pathogen-free Class A Biosolids.

The economic benefits include recovery of more than \$1.5 million of renewable energy costs/year; reduction of biosolids disposal costs; reduction of chemical costs; hedge against rising costs of power fuel and chemicals.

Plans & Studies: Appel Consultants, Urban Waste Grease Resource Assessment-NREL (November 1998); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Opportunities For and Benefits Of Combined Heat and Power at Wastewater Treatment Facilities (December 2006); Brown & Caldwell, Anaerobic Digestion and Electric Generation Options for WSSC (November 2007); Metcalf & Eddy, WSSC Sludge Digestion Study for Piscataway and Seneca (December 2007); Black & Veatch, WSSC Digester Scope and Analysis (December 2007); JMT, Prince George's County Septage (FOG) Discharge Facility Study (February

E. Annual Operating Budget Impact (000's)		FY of Impact
Staff & Other	\$1,865	26
Maintenance		
Debt Service	\$37	26
Total Cost	\$1,902	26
Impact on Water and Sewer Rate		

F. Approval and Expenditure Data (000's)

Date First in Program	FY'15
Date First Approved	FY'10
Initial Cost Estimate	345
Cost Estimate Last FY	332,774
Present Cost Estimate	333,309
Approved Request Last FY	10,448
Total Expense & Encumbrances	318,412
Approval Request Year 1	596

G. Status Information

Land Status	Public/Agency owned land
Project Phase	Construction
Percent Complete	97 %
Estimated Completion Date	January 2025
Growth	
System Improvement	100%
Environmental Regulation	
Population Served	
Capacity	

H. Map

MAP NOT AVAILABLE

2008); JMT, Western Research Institute (WRI) Biogas Feasibility Study Scope of Work - WSSC (April 2008); JMT, Montgomery County Septage (FOG) Discharge Facility Study (January 2010); Facility Plan for the Rock Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (January 2010); AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Anaerobic Digestion/Combined Heat & Power Study (December 2011, Executive Summary Revised May 2013); HDR Inc. Design Development Report (March 2017).

COST CHANGE

Not applicable.

OTHER

The project scope has remained the same. WSSC Water has a defined scope and estimated capital cost, and is able to proceed with the detailed design and construction of the anaerobic digestion, biomass, and combined heat and power generation system facilities for treating all biosolids from WSSC Water's Damascus, Seneca, Parkway, Western Branch, and Piscataway WRRFs. The Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils were briefed and approved the project by resolution on November 25, 2014 and September 9, 2014, respectively. In June 2017 WSSC Water was approved for a \$3 million grant through the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Energy Water Infrastructure Program (EWIP). WSSC Water will continue to apply for other available funding sources. WSSC Water retained the following consulting services: in 2015 - Hawkins, Delafield and Wood - procurement; Raftelis Financial Consultants - financial; in 2016 - HDR Engineering, Inc. for program management and construction management for the Bioenergy project. In September 2017 WSSC Water issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to two design-build entities for a progressive design-build delivery of the Bioenergy project. Transporting biosolids from Western Branch WRRF to Piscataway was included in the FY'19 program update. A portion of this project will be financed by low interest loans and grant funding through MDE's Water Infrastructure Financing Administration's Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund Program. In June 2018 WSSC Water awarded a Progressive Design-Build Contract to PC Construction for the Bioenergy project. In FY'19 the Solids Screenings at Four Remote WRRFs, Contract No. CD6630A19, was incorporated. The construction phase of biosolids screens at three remote facilities, Western Branch, Parkway and Damascus was substantially completed in mid FY23. In January 2020, the Maryland Energy Administration notified WSSC Water of approval of grant funding up to \$351,750 for Combined Heat & Power. WSSC Water has also applied for grants from SMECO, a local power utility, and was approved for \$2,234K. In December 2020 Phase 1 of the Bioenergy project was completed. A Gas Supply and Delivery Contract with Washington Gas Light for natural gas delivery to and from the Piscataway WRRF in the amount of \$8,510,000 was negotiated and executed on May 10, 2021. The construction phase of the Gas Supply and Delivery Contract was substantially completed in April 2023. In April 2023, the project received approval for \$2,500,000 in additional grant funding through MDE.

COORDINATION

Coordinating Agencies: Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Energy Administration; Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission;(Mandatory Referral Process); Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection; Montgomery County Government; Prince George's County Government; SMECO; Washington Gas Light Company

Coordinating Projects: S - 000096.14 - Piscataway WRRF Facility Upgrades