

## FW: Digester Emergency Procurement

Gardner, Richard <Richard.Gardner@MyClearwater.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 2:54 PM

To: Nguyen, Duy <Duy.Nguyen@MyClearwater.com>

Cc: Brown, Jeremy <jeremy.brown@MyClearwater.com>; Elswick, Tara <Tara.Elswick@MyClearwater.com>

Duy,

We got approval from the CM for an emergency procurement.

Rich

### **Richard Gardner, PE, CPM**

Public Utilities Director

Office: (727) 562-4960 Ext. 7267

Mobile: (727) 224-7043

---

**From:** Jennings, Jon <Jon.Jennings@MyClearwater.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 2:48 PM

**To:** Gardner, Richard <Richard.Gardner@MyClearwater.com>

**Cc:** Maxwell, Micah <micah.maxwell@MyClearwater.com>; Vogel, Lori <Lori.Vogel@myClearwater.com>; Elswick, Tara <Tara.Elswick@MyClearwater.com>; Brown, Jeremy <jeremy.brown@MyClearwater.com>; Flanigan, Michael <michael.flanigan@MyClearwater.com>

**Subject:** RE: Digester Emergency Procurement

Rich,

I am very supportive of your request to forego the competitive bid process due to the emergency nature of the situation.

Please keep me updated on your progress in eliminating the hazard. Thank you for letting me know.

Jon

Jon P. Jennings, ICMA-CM, MPA

City Manager

City of Clearwater

600 Cleveland Street, Suite 600

Clearwater, FL 33755

(727) 562-4040 Office

(727) 562-4052 Fax

[Jon.jennings@myclearwater.com](mailto:Jon.jennings@myclearwater.com)

[www.myclearwater.com](http://www.myclearwater.com)



---

**From:** Gardner, Richard <[Richard.Gardner@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Richard.Gardner@MyClearwater.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 2:40 PM

**To:** Jennings, Jon <[Jon.Jennings@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Jon.Jennings@MyClearwater.com)>

**Cc:** Maxwell, Micah <[micah.maxwell@MyClearwater.com](mailto:micah.maxwell@MyClearwater.com)>; Vogel, Lori <[Lori.Vogel@myClearwater.com](mailto:Lori.Vogel@myClearwater.com)>; Elswick, Tara <[Tara.Elswick@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Tara.Elswick@MyClearwater.com)>; Brown, Jeremy <[jeremy.brown@MyClearwater.com](mailto:jeremy.brown@MyClearwater.com)>; Flanigan, Michael <[michael.flanigan@MyClearwater.com](mailto:michael.flanigan@MyClearwater.com)>

**Subject:** Digester Emergency Procurement

Jon,

Part of the wastewater treatment process at the City's Northeast (NE) and Marshall St (MS) Water Reclamation Facilities involves anaerobic digestion to stabilize the sludge (biosolids) which are removed from the wastewater in the treatment process. Digestion is the biological decomposition of organic material under heat and in the absence of oxygen. This process converts the organic matter into stabilized biosolids, and methane (or biogas).

The City has two digesters at the NE and MS that are releasing small amounts of methane into the atmosphere through suspected leaks in the digester covers. The methane produced by the digesters is flammable and when mixed with air, can cause explosive conditions. The potential for the released biogas to combust and cause explosive conditions poses a threat to the plants and public safety.

The solution is to take the digesters offline, clean and inspect, and repair the leaks in the digester roofs. This requires us to procure the services of an engineer and contractor working together to design and implement the repairs.

Due to the risk involved with the release of flammable biogas into the atmosphere, a threat exists to the public health, welfare, safety, or other interests of the city and that any delay because of competitive bidding would be detrimental to the interests of the city. If the procurement exceeds \$100,000.00 (likely) it would be ratified by the city council.

Please authorize an emergency purchase of the engineer and construction services, without competitive bidding.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Thanks

Rich

**Richard Gardner, PE, CPM**

City of Clearwater

Public Utilities Director

1650 N. Arcturas Avenue, Bldg. C

Clearwater, FL 33765-1945

Office: (727) 562-4960 Ext. 7267

Mobile: (727) 224-7043

