



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 28, 2019

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Earle M. Chesley, P.E. General Services Director

Subject: Raise and appropriate \$275,000 for the payment of increased costs associated with the management and recycling of solids from the Hall Street Wastewater Facility for FY 2020

Recommendation

Accept this report and set a public hearing at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on December 10, 2019, to raise and appropriate \$275,000 for the payment of increased cost associated with the management and recycling of solids from the Hall Street Wastewater Facility for FY 2020.

Background

All secondary wastewater treatment facilities produce solids from principally both physical and biological processes. Typically, the material is dewatered to a concentration of about 25% solids and is landfilled, incinerated, or recycled. Concord recycles about 100 tons of solid material weekly produced at its wastewater facilities.

Over the past years, there has been significant discussion regarding a family of synthetic chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS. PFAS are a family of synthetic chemical compounds developed more than sixty years ago and have been widely used in society throughout the world. In New Hampshire, two well publicized PFAS are:

- PFOA that has been used in the production of making non-stick cookware, certain fire-fighting foams, stain resistant carpet and furniture fabrics, water resistant clothing, cleaning products, and cardboard food packaging and,
- PFOS that has been an ingredient in fabric treatment and other stain repellants.

While secondary wastewater treatment facilities do not deploy these chemicals in their treatment process, they may receive them in their influent due to the pervasiveness of these materials in society.

Discussion

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has adopted drinking water and groundwater quality standards for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), specifically perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluoronanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

The Maximum Contaminant Levels and Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards are:

- PFHxS 18 parts per trillion (ppt),
- PFNA 11 parts per trillion,
- PFOS 15 parts per trillion,
- PFOA 12 parts per trillion.

The adoption of these new standards causes the City to modify its solids management practices and anticipates annual operating cost to increase approximately \$325,000 in Fiscal Year 2021. This increase in operating costs will cause the projected Fiscal Year 2021 wastewater rate increase to 8 ¼% instead of 7% predicted in the current pro-forma distributed during budget adoption earlier this spring.

The four components of the supplemental appropriation for this fiscal year include:

- \$160,850 for additional processing costs from an outside vendor
- 50,000 for additional management fees during the transition
- 25,000 for legal fees
- 39,150 for contingency

Cc Daniel Driscoll, Wastewater Superintendent