
MEMORANDUM**PWC-C 22-2020**

Subject: Update on the New Waste Collection Contract (2019-RFP-156)
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020
To: Public Works Committee
From: Sherri Tait, Acting Manager, Waste Collection & Diversion

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Public Works Committee with an update on the implementation of the new waste collection contract (2019-RFP-156), which is to commence on October 19, 2020.

Background

On October 17, 2019, Regional Council approved the Every-Other-Week (EOW) collection scenario for garbage collection for all residential properties and for those Industrial, Commercial & institutional (IC&I) and Mixed-Use (MU) properties located outside Designated Business Areas (DBAs), as a Base Service (PW 61-2019), and on November 14, 2019, Regional Council approved the Optional services, i.e. Delivery of Roll-Offs for Special Events Recycling, (PW 65-2019). The successful proponent for Collection Area One (Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln) is GFL Environmental Inc. (GFL), and the successful proponent for Collection Area Two (Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Welland) is Miller Waste Systems Inc. (Miller).

Implementation Update

Since January, Niagara Region has been meeting with Miller and GFL on a monthly basis to discuss various aspects of the implementation for the next waste collection contract. The sections below provide a high level update on major items/tasks.

GFL and Miller Yards

GFL's yard will be located at 411 Glendale Avenue in St. Catharines, which is the current yard of Emterra Environmental (Emterra) and Miller's yard will be located at 335 Townline Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Collection Vehicles

GFL and Miller have placed orders for their collection vehicles and at the time this memorandum was written, the delivery of the collection vehicles for Miller was on schedule. GFL has indicated that potentially four (4) collection vehicles will not arrive until just before or after the contract starts due to COVID-19. GFL has arranged for six (6) vehicles from another municipal contract to use at the start of the contract.

Although not identified in their submission to the Negotiated Request for Proposal (NRFP), GFL has made a business decision to use compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles for this contract.

With the finalization of the municipal enhanced collection services, Miller advised that they may acquire four (4) additional vehicles and as per their contingency plan, in their submission to the NRFP, they will use existing internal resources until any potential additional vehicles are delivered.

Collection vehicles utilized by both collection contractors will be equipped with Global Positioning System/Automatic Vehicle Location (GPS/AVL) systems and cameras.

Staffing

GFL and Miller have both hired their Operations Managers, both of whom have experience in curbside collection contracts in Niagara. Both contractors are looking at ways to interview staff due to COVID-19, including virtual interviews. Niagara Region has requested that both GFL and Miller encourage Emterra and Canadian Waste Management staff to finish their work with their respective employers prior to being hired full-time by GFL and Miller.

Next Steps

Niagara Region staff will continue to meet regularly with GFL and Miller in preparation for the commencement of the next contract. Niagara Region is working with both contractors to finalize contingency plans in the event that a second wave of COVID-19 occurs. Staff are also working with both contractors to finalize collection routes. Any changes to collection days/schedules will be communicated to residents and/or businesses in advance of October 19th.

Staff will continue to provide updates to Council on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Sherri Tait

Acting Manager, Waste Collection & Diversion