

Purchase Order Requests for Approval

1. Request: Sole source purchase of Wastewater Treatment Facility Optimization and training consulting services

Supplier: GFI (Global Facilitation Incorporated)

Increase original sole source purchase of optimization and training services for GFI (Global Facilitation Inc.) from \$300,578.52 by \$47,364 for a new total of \$347,942.52 (exclusive of HST).

Rationale for Purchase

The Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant (NFWWTP) experienced a state of decline following an anaerobic digester failure in July of 2017. As a result of this event, persistent effluent non-compliance prevailed at the facility throughout 2017 and 2018. To this effect, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) issued a Provincial Officers Order against the NFWWTP in late 2018 to evaluate the operational state of the facility and to develop corrective actions to improve the overall facility operation and effluent quality.

In 2018 Niagara Region Wastewater operations staff engaged Global Facilitation Inc. to provide an immediate optimization and corrective program to align with MECs requirement and ultimately remedy effluent non-compliance issues at the NFWWTP Facility.

This request for a sole source purchase, in accordance with Niagara Region Procurement By-law 02-2016 as amended on February 28, 2019, is to maintain programming at the site, for training staff in the proficiency of its use and in the interpretation of the data derived to make informed process control decisions.

When initially installed, the programming and support proved very beneficial. The site went from 16 non-compliance incidents from March 2018 to March 2019, to zero (0) events for the following 24 months.

Alternatives Reviewed

- (i) Do nothing – Our Regulators, namely the MECP have issued orders to comply against the Region and this facility as a result of the historic non-compliances and are threatening to further this action by way of more orders and/or fines if we are not able to meet compliance.
- (ii) Procurement strategy under review – We are required to meet conditions in the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). As such, a situation of

urgency exists and these services cannot be obtained in time by means of open procurement processes.

Funding Source

Funding source for this work will come from the operating budget for Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility, DeptID: 68100