

Request for Proposals
Handling and Disposal of Bio-Solids
Addendum No. 1

A Joint Venture of
The City of Covington, Georgia, and
Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority
11325 Brown Bridge Road
Covington, Georgia 30016



www.ncwsa.us

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Summary

This addendum answers questions asked by Offerors at the Pre-Submittal Conference held on 3/3/2021.

Q: What are the average cake solids?

A: For the City of Covington, 14-18%. NCWSA's approach 20%.

Q: Is it possible for the term to be longer than 2 years, as a five-year term would be better to recover our investments?

A: Possibly, but the terms are renewable for a total of 10 years. We will review this criteria.

Q: Has research been done on the site to determine the access to utilities?

A: The Joint Venture will investigate in-kind contributions that the Owner can make such as land, power, water, and equipment. For the pilot project, the City of Covington's plant site is not available, but NCWSA's plant may have some potential space available.

Q: Will belt press or centrifuge experience be accepted as part of the 5 projects?

A: We are interested in companies who have been in the water, wastewater, bio-solids business and we will take a liberal view when reviewing past projects and experience.

Q: We may present an approach that has a different business model; if we proposed a model that does not follow a standard business model, would the Owner accept?

A: We cannot spoon feed; please write your proposal to persuade.

Q: Are there any concerns about one of the sites being a preferred site?

A: We have a raw land site available. One of the sites is wooded and must have additional site work done; one site is spacious and has easy access. We like the SR 36 site.

Q: Is transportation or hauling of solids part of this RFP?

A: Yes.

Q: What is done with the tree waste?

A: It is stored at the solid waste yard on Turner Street, and the City bids out the hauling several times per year.

Q: Is the old recycling center off of Alcovy Road?

A: Yes.

Q: Does this include Lake Varner's drinking water plant residuals?

A: No.

Q & A: Is there a new facility on the east side? Yes.

Q & A: Could it be considered later? Yes, via amendment to the eventual contract. The Emmons plant will not be commissioned until March to May of 2022.

Q & A: What is the volume of solids that the Emmons facility will produce? In the early years, a fairly low volume; mostly industrial wastewater of a low strength.

Q & A: Is the Solid Waste Authority (Landfill) completely excluded? If the County were interested, we could add the landfill as a potential site, possibly as part of the pilot program.

Q & A: Have there been conversations with the County Landfill that they would be amenable to join? We haven't had productive conversations with the County on the WTP residuals. They are very busy currently on a construction project, so perhaps we could work them in to the program later.

Q: Would the Joint Venture be interested in this being a merchant facility and bring in waste streams from other places?

A: Probably not; the project must find success with the City of Covington and NCWSA. Once we have achieved success, we might evaluate other possibilities.

Q: Would the Joint Venture be interested in being a merchant facility to help offset costs?

A: Currently, the landfill is not interested and is not ready to become a regional facility. We feel that a regional facility would promote a tendency to reject the landfill.

Q: Is the Joint Venture paying tipping fees at the landfill?

A: Yes; \$40 per ton.

Q: Does the Solid Waste Authority take sludge from the from outside the county?

A: Not to our knowledge.

Q: What are the transportation and disposal costs for the City's land application of biosolids and who is the contractor / hauler?

A: Current rate is approximately \$24 per ton, for Class B solids. Louis Banks is the contract hauler for the City of Covington.

Q: Is there a list of equipment between the City of Covington and NCWSA that can be used by the proposer?

A: The City of Covington has no equipment that can be used. Louis Banks utilizes all his own equipment when performing land application of biosolids for the City. NCWSA is 100% landfill and uses the Oak Grove Landfill in Winder located in Barrow County as our back-up if the Newton County Landfill will not accept our solids.

Q: Is it hauled as opposed to land applied because of the contents in the bio-solids?

A: It's a class B, so it must be hauled away. We use a local hauler and is \$750 per month.

Q: What is the state of the economy in Covington?

A: We have moderate growth and could almost say we are headed to a boom cycle. We were the 7th fastest growing county in the United States before the Great Recession. There is a large data center located in Newton County, with another data center in the planning stages. Takeda Pharmaceuticals is a vaccine and drug manufacturer located in the county as well. Commercial developments are coming, and residential developments that were paused and backlogged from the 2008 recession are being completed.

Q: How long will the pilot study run and should those costs be included in the proposal?

A: That is to be determined. See RFP Compensation section.

Q: Is there a methane capture at the landfill?

A: Not that we know of.

Q: Have we talked to the EPD about this project?

A: No; we see the pilot project as an extension of our wastewater operation. We would use the results of a pilot project as a basis to discuss a modification of the solids management plan with EPD.