

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FUEL FORWARDING PUMP HOUSE FIRE PROTECTION UPGRADE

BACKGROUND:

This contract is for the upgrade of the fire protection system at the City of Ames Combustion Turbine (CT) site located on Pullman Avenue. The current system is currently a pressurized Carbon Dioxide (CO2) system and needs to be upgraded to a dry pipe sprinkler system to meet current Insurance standards. The use of pressurized CO2 systems in building units is being phased-out due to the potential to create an oxygen depleted environment which could cause injury to human inhabitants. Additionally, the current system has limited operability and can be operated only for a fixed amount of time due to the limited supply of on-site CO2. Upgrading the system to a dry pipe sprinkler system would remove the possibility of creating an oxygen depleted environment and makes it safe for human inhabitants. Additionally, the upgraded system would provide a fire protection system that would not be dependent on the amount of fire extinguisher retardant available onsite as the system would be tapped in to the on-site water line for an “unlimited” supply of fire protection.

As such, City of Ames has prepared plans and specifications to upgrade the CT fuel forwarding building fire protection system to increase site safety precautions and to meet current Insurance recommendation.

The engineer’s estimate to upgrade the CT fuel forwarding building fire protection system is \$149,000. The approved FY 2019/20 Capital Improvements Plan includes a funding carryover of \$782,005 for the Power Plant Fire Protection system.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve preliminary plans and specifications for the Fuel Forwarding Building Fire Protection Upgrade, and set January 15, 2020 as the due date for bids and January 28, 2020 as the date of public hearing and award of contract.
2. Delay Fuel Forwarding Pump House Fire Protection Upgrade.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is necessary to upgrade the fire protection system to increase site safety precautions and to meet a recommendation from the insurance company.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1 as stated above.