

SYNOPSIS

Wellfield Variable Frequency Drives

At the February 28, 2022 council meeting, Council approved an amendment to the original scope of work for the wellfield generator project and approved the purchase of a new towable diesel fueled generator and the upgrading of the 4 production wells at the North Tyndal Wellfield with variable frequency drives (VFD's).

Based on the consultants cost estimates the amended scope of work could be accommodated in the approved project budget of \$240,000 that included \$40,000 for engineering services, \$125,000 for the generator and \$73,000 for the VFD's.

The actual cost of the generator was \$175,983 and the cost of engineering services was \$47,737, for a total of \$223,720.

An RFP for the supply and installation of the VFD's was closed in February, one proposal was received with a cost of \$80,807 plus applicable taxes.

As the total project cost would now be well in excess of the original approved budget and in consultation with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board it was determined that the purchase and installation of the VFD's should be treated as a standalone project.

Amending the 2023/24 water utility capital budget is essential to completing the project. When the VFD installation is complete the Amherst Water Utility will be able to operate any 3 of the 4 production wells during a prolonged power outage to help ensure;

- no interruption in the delivery of potable water for our residents
- an adequate supply of water for fire suppression if needed, and
- replacing the existing direct online motor starters with VFD's will reduce turbidity, from the source, in our water distribution system.

The Wellfield VFD's will be funded from the Water Depreciation Fund. The estimated balance of the Water Depreciation Fund at March 31, 2024 will be \$1,200,000.

MOTION:

That Council approve of an amendment to the 2023/24 Water Utility Capital Budget and allocate \$85,000 from the water depreciation fund for the installation of variable frequency drives for the 4 production wells at the North Tyndal Wellfield.