The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) recently issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for upgrades and improvements to the existing powdered activated carbon systems at the Van de Water and Sturgeon Point Water Treatment Plants.

Powdered activated carbon (PAC) is added to the raw water at the Van de Water and Sturgeon Point Water Treatment Plants to control seasonal taste and odor. PAC is also an important tool in the removal of cyanotoxins associated with potential algal blooms in the source water. It is imperative that ECWA is prepared with a reliable PAC treatment system at each plant.

The existing powdered activated carbon (PAC) systems consist of the original equipment installed when each plant was constructed. The systems are operational, however due to their age it is proposed to replace the existing PAC equipment to provide greater reliability, operational flexibility, automation/control and redundancy. This project would establish the design for these systems including equipment performance criteria and the overall layout of the new equipment. The scope of the project would include bidding and construction phase services.

RFPs were issued to four consulting engineers: Arcadis, GHD, Nussbaumer & Clark, and Hazen & Sawyer. Two firms chose to submit proposals for this project (Arcadis and GHD). This is a single project requiring one consulting firm.

The proposals were reviewed and discussed among the engineering staff (Russ Stoll, Len Kowalski, Michael Wymer and David Patton). Experience, staffing, scope, and project approach were considered. It was determined that both firms possessed relevant qualifications to perform the work proposed.

GHD provided an experienced project team to perform the work and demonstrated experience with similar work. Their fee is competitive and reasonable and within the budget established for the project.

If there are no objections, the Engineering Department plans on moving forward with negotiations with GHD to develop a Professional Services Contract for the referenced project.