



Rochelle Municipal Utilities Water/Water Reclamation

To: David Plyman

From: Kathy Cooper

Date: November 8, 2013

RE: Approval for Blower Grant

According to the USEPA, approximately one-third of a municipality's electrical budget is for the treatment plant, and the blowers used in the aeration system use one-third to one-half of that power. The Rochelle Treatment Plant has an average electrical bill of \$15,500 per month, and we are constantly looking at ways to reduce that amount.

A new technology, the turbo blower, was introduced to the industry about six years ago, and we began to investigate the possibility of installing one to help reduce the plant's electrical bill. Our evaluation showed, that unless a grant is available, the pay back for the new blower did not justify pursuing the project.

For many years, the only communities that were eligible for grants were those served by Commonwealth Edison and Ameren. This year, the Clean Energy Foundation offered a pilot program for energy efficiency at Wastewater Treatment Plants, and all communities in the state are eligible for the program. We applied for a grant to help fund a blower replacement and to help pay for the energy efficiency achieved by the installation of new centrifuges.

On November 7, we received notice that Rochelle was awarded \$54,054 for installation of the new blower and centrifuge. With notice of the grant, we will move forward with the engineering for the blower and continue with the centrifuge project. The total cost of the blower project is expected to be \$100,000 to \$150,000, and payback should be less than eight years.

I recommend Council approve acceptance of the grant. Please put this on the November 25 agenda.