



Okaloosa County Water & Sewer

January 25, 2007

Subject: Arbennie Pritchett Water Reclamation Facility Project
Okaloosa County, Florida

Dear Citizens of Okaloosa County:

I have developed a letter that presents the background for the new WRF, outlines the status of the new WRF program and that presents a timeline that includes ground-breaking for the new facility, any significant milestone dates, and a projected completion date. I will also project when we expect that the Garniers Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) will be taken out of service and when it might be demolished. This letter should address each of these major topics. I am also aware of the high degree of public interest on this, so I am informing the entire legislative delegation for Okaloosa County to ensure their ability to work with us on this critical project.

Program Background

The Okaloosa County Water and Sewer (OCWS) Department currently operates the 6.5-million gallon per day (mgd) Garniers WWTP. This WWTP serves the wastewater needs in the south-central part of the County. Due to this plant's age, location, operational performance, and other factors, OCWS is implementing a program to construct a new treatment facility that will replace the existing Garniers WWTP. The new 10 mgd Arbennie Pritchett Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) will be constructed at the existing Garniers spray field property that is located on Eglin Air Force Base (AFB). The new 10 mgd WRF is intended to provide new and improved technology, increased service area, enhanced operational performance, as well as removing the existing Garniers WWTP from the ever increasing residential congestion of its current location. The Arbennie Pritchett WRF will discharge effluent to new rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) that will be constructed at the existing Garniers Effluent Spray Field site on leased Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) property.

The entire phased program consists of several components which are briefly described below.

- Construction of the new 10 mgd Arbennie Pritchett WRF at the existing Garniers Effluent Spray Field site on Eglin AFB
- Construction of the new 10 mgd, 255 acre RIB system at the existing Garniers Effluent Spray Field site on Eglin AFB
- Construction of a new 15 to 25 mgd pumping station at the Garniers WWTP.
- Construction of piping modifications at the Garniers WWTP to facilitate the 2 existing 20-inch diameter effluent pipelines to be converted into raw wastewater pipelines to convey wastewater from the new pumping station to the new WWTP.

- Construction of piping modifications at the existing Garniers effluent spray field site to tie the 2 existing 20-inch diameter effluent pipelines into the new 10 mgd Arbennie Pritchett WRF.
- Future use of the current plant site will be determined by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Miscellaneous collection and transmission system improvements to optimize the operation of the new raw wastewater conveyance system.

The new Arbennie Pritchett WRF will not only serve the County's Garniers Service Area, but also will treat wastewater flows generated by Eglin AFB properties and housing developments that are being planned in the Shalimar area. Additionally, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Report recommends increasing both the military and civilian personnel at Eglin AFB by more than 2,200 persons. This new WRF will be strategic to Eglin's continued ability to meet the needs of the Nation.

The County has chosen to implement the construction of the new 10 mgd WRF using the design-build (D-B) project delivery approach, in accordance with Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), Florida Statute, 287.055. Using this approach, the County expects to secure substantial benefits for its customers, including timely and efficient scheduling, optimal risk allocation, competitive design selection, and innovation, clear assignment of performance responsibilities to a single contracting entity, and long-term WWTP reliability and life-cycle cost savings. Another expected benefit is the full integration of key design, construction, and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) personnel in all aspects of the Project development.

The County has retained Environmental Services Group (ESG) as its Program Management Consultant for this Project. ESG has responsibility for coordinating all activities associated with the decommissioning of the existing Garniers WWTP, collection system modifications, construction of the Arbennie Pritchett WRF, construction of the RIB system, and regulatory permitting. In addition, the County has retained HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) as the consultant to provide technical consulting related to the Design Criteria Package (DCP) as required by the CCNA.

Program Status

Currently, OCWS has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQs) and a Request for Proposals (RFP) to interested D-B Teams. Two D-B Teams have been preparing proposals for the design and construction of the new WRF since November 2, 2006. OCWS staff and consultants have met with these teams on several occasions to discuss their proposals. The proposals will be submitted to the County on January 31, 2007 for review by the County's staff, consultants, and Selection Committee. Following this review, on February 21 and 22, the D-B Teams will make formal presentations to the County's staff, consultants, and Selection Committee who will then meet and rank the D-B teams on February 22, 2007. Following this selection, the D-B Team ranking will be presented to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) who will be asked to ratify the rankings. After which, OCWS staff and consultants will review the costs of the project and negotiate a final lump sum project amount to design and build the new Arbennie Pritchett WRF. A final D-B contract is tentatively scheduled to be completed and a Notice-to-Proceed issued to the selected D-B Team on April 3, 2007.

Milestone Schedule

Activity	Milestone Date
1. Arbennie Pritchett WRF D-B Project	
a. Issue Notice To Proceed	April 3, 2007
b. Preconstruction Conference	April 14, 2007
c. Ground Breaking Ceremony	June 3, 2007
d. Major Construction Begins	June 15, 2007
e. Major Construction Complete	November 12, 2008
f. Plant Startup Complete	January 12, 2009
g. Construction Complete	January 22, 2009
2. Construction of Rapid Infiltration Basins	
a. Preconstruction Conference	March 15, 2007
b. Ground Breaking Ceremony	March 15, 2007
c. Major Construction Begins	March 26, 2007
d. Major Construction Complete	March 27, 2008
e. Construction Complete	June 30, 2008
3. Construction of New Garniers Re-pumping Station	
a. Contract for Design Services	March 15, 2007
b. Complete Pump Station Design Services	July 15, 2007
c. Award Construction Contract	October 15, 2007
d. Preconstruction Conference	November 1, 2007
e. Major Construction Begins	November 15, 2007
f. Major Construction Complete	November 15, 2008
4. Decommissioning of the Garniers WWTP	
a. Decommissioning of the Garniers WWTP	March 3, 2009
b. Demolition of the Garniers WWTP	October 12, 2009

Decommissioning of the Garniers WWTP

The Garniers WWTP will remain in service and operational throughout the construction of the new Arbennie Pritchett WRF. The Garniers WWTP also will be maintained as an operational facility for as many as three months following the completion and startup of the new WRF. This is required should the County encounter a catastrophic problem with the new facility. Following this shakedown period, the Garniers WWTP will be decommissioned and the equipment drained, cleaned, and prepared for demolition. Demolition of the existing structures and equipment is tentative at this time, but may begin as early as October 2009.

Please call me at 850.651.7172 if you have any question or comments regarding our project. We appreciate your interest in Okaloosa County and our new Water Reclamation Facility Program.

Sincerely,

Jeff Littrell
 Director
 Okaloosa County Water and Sewer Department