



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Study Session

Item -2

Water Main Extension Remediation Plan for UP/NE Solvents

Staff Contact: Tim Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Meeting: May 17, 2011

Subject: Water Main Extension – Remediation Plan for UP/NE Solvents

Item #'s: 2

Presenter(s): Timothy Luchsinger, Utilities Director

Background

The former Nebraska Solvents Company operated a facility located at Stuhr Road and Highway 30 on property owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. The operation of that facility resulted in the release of tetrachloroethylene, commonly used in dry cleaning or as a degreaser, to the area groundwater. The tetrachloroethylene has now migrated several miles to the east into Merrick County, and contaminated private wells in several subdivisions around the Gunbarrel and Fort Kearney Road area. Union Pacific has enrolled in a voluntary remediation program administered by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to develop a corrective plan. The remediation action being recommended is to replace the private wells in that area by extending the City's water system. The Union Pacific would reimburse the City for the engineering, material, and construction costs associated with that extension.

Discussion

An overview of this project addressing the general project status and scope will be provided at the study session. A draft of the proposed agreement will be sent by Union Pacific for review by the City. The legal issues of owning, operating, and maintaining portions of a water system outside of the City and Hall County boundaries need to be included in this review. Upon satisfactory resolution of the agreement, it would be presented to the City Council for consideration.

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.