

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**99-471**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

OCTOBER 18, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

PUBLIC HEARING  
CONCERNING THE  
WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT  
FACILITY'S RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

Recent changes in federal law require facilities whose operations involve chemicals, which, if released, could cause significant risks to the public and environment, to develop a Risk Management Program (RMP) and to hold a public hearing on this RMP. The City-operated Wastewater Treatment Facility (WRF) has developed an RMP through a Council approved consultant (see Executive Summary attached to the roll call) and invites public comment.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

None.

**TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Receive and file.**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**BACKGROUND -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

WILLIAM STOWE  
WASTEWATER  
FACILITY  
MANAGER/PUBLIC  
WORKS DIRECTOR  
DESIGNEE

The WRF is engaged in a variety of processes that recycle storm and sanitary sewage into environmentally suitable products. These products include water returned to the Des Moines River and biosolids that benefit area agriculture through land application. These complex processes involve chemicals that, if released into the environment, would cause injury to our employees, our neighbors, and the environment.

In response to federal law, an RMP has been prepared for the WRF. This RMP involves: 1) a Hazard Assessment of chemicals used at the WRF; 2) a Prevention Program involving a systematic review of potential causes and effects of chemical releases; and 3) an Emergency Response Program to reduce injuries and environmental damages in the unlikely event of a

chemical release.

The WRF is the first of an estimated 100 facilities in the Des Moines area to meet this legal requirement and to offer an opportunity for public comment. In the interest of promoting the WRF's objective of being a good neighbor, representatives of recognized Des Moines Neighbors within the area surrounding the WRF and the City of Pleasant Hill have been invited to attend the City Council's October 18 public hearing on the RMP or to contact the WRF for a facility visit or presentation on the RMP. WRF staff believes that the RMP promotes the interests of area residents, WRF customers, and our employees by both reducing the risks of chemical release and formalizing measures to reduce injuries and damages in the unlikely event of any release.

The public is invited to an Open House from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on October 20, 1999, at the WRF (3000 Vandalia Road, Des Moines) to learn more about the WRF and our focus on the environment.