



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

02-044

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JANUARY 28, 2002

SUBJECT:

SOLE SOURCE
PURCHASE OF
AUTOMATIC DRIP
TRAP OPERATORS

The Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) is converting the drip traps in the gas piping system to automatic operations. Automatic operations will be much more reliable than the manual system now in use. It will also help in achieving the WRF goal of a less attended operation. The drip traps now in use are manufactured by Varac, Inc. The automatic operators will be retrofitted into the existing drip traps and, therefore, require compatibility with the existing system and justify a sole source purchase. Miller Mechanical Specialties, Inc. (J. Craig Miller, President, 618 - 3rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309) is the local supplier of Varac equipment.

TYPE:

FISCAL IMPACT -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

The purchase will cost \$28,446 and will be funded through unanticipated needs in the Small Capital Projects-Fiscal Year 2002.

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM STOWE
WRF MANAGER/
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDATION -

Utilize sole source purchasing authority in accordance with the Iowa Code to acquire the necessary Varac equipment from Miller Mechanical Specialties, Inc.

BACKGROUND -

The WRF is constantly seeking ways to reduce costs. Significant savings have been realized through a reduction in overall labor costs and by implementing a less attended operation.

Operating the drip traps as now configured is a labor-intensive operation that requires the attention of operations personnel three times a day. When the traps are not properly drained the quality of the methane gas is reduced, as is the number of BTUs (British Thermal

Units) available for co-generation.

Automation of the drip traps will allow operations personnel to devote their time to more relevant tasks at the WRF.

The existing drip traps were manufactured by Varac. Any modifications to the drip traps will require use of Varac supplied equipment through their Iowa representative, Miller Mechanical Specialties, Inc.
