



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: East Pubnico Water Utilities  
– Well Capacity Assessment

Date: March 20, 2019

## VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

## **Background:**

The Municipality took over operation of the East Pubnico Industrial Water Utilities from the Province in 2012 to secure the local operation of 3 fish plants, which are major employers for the community. In 2009 and 2017 we hired engineers and consultants to review the state of the equipment before and past the takeover. Both reports were similar in nature and reported back that the infrastructure is near its end of lifetime and repairs or replacement would be recommended. Some repairs have been made over time to maintain the water supply. Based on the report from 2017 we engaged WSP Canada Inc. to help us with detailed design information to upgrade the equipment for the Popes Road Well for the Lower East Pubnico System. The scope of that exercise was authorized with limited knowledge of the system set up and further investigation revealed that certain detailed drawings of the Popes Road Well are missing, which goes back to an upgrade performed by the Province in 2005 prior the utility takeover by MODA. To fully assess the well capacity, we reached out to WSP again to extend the scope and budget and included the Middle East Pubnico Water System as well to prepare for the needed Willet Road Tank replacement. This 500,000GAL tank is in dear need of replacement as it would not be possible to repair in an economical way. WSP Canada proposed to assess the well capacity for both systems and provide a written report with suggestions of the new tank size, which could lead to costs savings during the construction phase. Currently we are looking into replacing the Tank with a same size tank and faced the challenge of high construction costs and limited funding streams. To optimize this project, we need to assess the well capacity in correlation of the users needs and properly size the new tank. Preliminary costs estimates from the 2017 report are proposing a cost of \$100,000 per 100,000GAL. We were able to confirm this estimate with a preliminary cost estimate from an available tank supplier, but a lot of details have not been considered and these estimates are very pre-mature.

Staff is kindly asking to approve the attached proposal from WSP Canada under the alternative procurement protocols due to the fact that they are still working on the detailed drawings for the Popes Road Well upgrades and hiring a different consultant would result in duplication of work and costs.

**MGA considerations:**

This project part would be considered a low value project as it is below the \$50,000 procurement threshold for services.

The NS Procurement Protocol allows for alternative procurement practices under section 6.8 sentence 15: ALTP (Alternative Procurement) is justified *for additional deliveries by the original supplier of goods or services that were not included in the initial procurement where a change of supplier for such additional goods, services or construction cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, software, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, and would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the public sector entity.*

An ALTP form has to be signed for auditing purposes.

**CAO's Conclusion:**

Approve the proposal of WSP to initiate the Willet Road Tank replacement and optimize the needed scope and capital investment for this utility. The Fish plants in East Pubnico are an important part of the community and we should continue to support them and assure sufficient water supply.

**Suggested motion:**

Approve the proposal from WSP Canada Inc and allow staff to proceed with the upgrades to both Water Systems in Middle and Lower East Pubnico.