

Seeking "Old Business" Discussion of Ramboll Digester Water Supply Engineering Engagement

Ed Crumb <ecrumb@bjcjsb.onmicrosoft.com>

Mon 9/11/2023 9:29 AM

To:George Kolba, Jr. <gkolba@live.com>;Stephen Andrew <randrew0628@hotmail.com>;Christopher Papastrat <cpapastrat1@gmail.com>;Bruce King <Flushed499@gmail.com>;Ronald B. Lake, P.E. <rblake@cityofbinghamton.gov>

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 2 attachments (415 KB)

Ramboll-MicroturbinePipingEvaluationAgreement-signed230726.pdf;
220912[bobvila.com]TheOneDrawbackOfPEXpipeEvenPlumbersDidn'tSeeComing.pdf;

George/All: The Ramboll Agreement, e-copy attached, is an item I would like there to be a discussion about during Tuesday's meeting. (I believe that this would be an Old Business item: Tuesday will be seven weeks since you signed this agreement).

Last Wednesday, Superintendent Wagner showed Construction Committee Chair Steve Andrew and me a section of PEX piping with apparent sawcut damage that had been removed from service during recent repairs to the underground water supply line to the Digester Complex. He said he intends to bring this piece of piping to Tuesday's Board Meeting to show Board Members. He also mentioned that water supply piping in the area where water was found to be leaking was discovered to have been wrapped in multiple layers of duct tape before being buried/covered over during construction.

I am concerned that there is an apparent lack of progress by Ramboll on its engineering engagement. If other segments of PEX piping are similarly damaged and improperly "patched", the Digester Complex water supply line could be akin to a potential "time bomb" which puts JSTP operations at risk. **Winter is coming**, so this is not a matter that should languish IMO.

Upon obtaining the attached e-copy of the Ramboll Agreement from our Business Manager, I find that a form letter summary proposal prepared by Ramboll, **with no stated deliverable due date for Ramboll's "Task 1" services**, was used as the basis for this engagement rather than the Standard Form Agreement for Professional Services developed by Al Paniccia, Esq. (I would be surprised to learn that Al reviewed the Ramboll Agreement before it was signed [as required under Section 9 of our Procurement Policy]).

The Scope of Services in the Ramboll Agreement does not include evaluating use of treated JSTP effluent "Plant water" for cooling the microturbines (i.e., instead of potable water purchased from the public water supply). As has been reported to us on prior occasions, Plant employees have not been able to operate all existing microturbine units simultaneously to co-generate electricity due to insufficient cooling water supply, thus resulting in less than potential peak electric power being co-generated.

At a minimum, I believe that the Scope of Services in the Ramboll Agreement should be amended to include evaluating use of treated JSTP effluent "Plant water" for cooling the microturbines (i.e., instead of, or in addition to, potable water). There also should be a time limit established for Ramboll to furnish its report to the Board. (We should also clarify with Ramboll that there are no follow-on services covered

by this agreement for a preliminary engineering report – my understanding is that we were seeking Ramboll’s report in order to be able to pursue potential grant funding [in which case any agreement for further services would be subject to terms and conditions required under the grant program, which may require certain terms to be included in and/or documents to be attached to contract(s) to which grant funding is underwriting]). Thank you, /s/ Ed

EDWARD CRUMB, Binghamton, New York
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Mr. Elliott Wagner
Binghamton-Johnson City Wastewater Treatment Plant
4480 Vestal Road
Vestal, NY 13850

Date June 13, 2023

RE: ENGINEERING SUPPORT FOR MICROTURBINE PIPING EVALUATION

Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. (Ramboll) is pleased to provide the Binghamton-Johnson City Wastewater Treatment Plant (BJCWWTP) with this proposal for engineering services to provide an evaluation of the existing digester gas microturbine piping with concepts for recommended repair/replacement options. This proposal presents our project execution plan. To facilitate your review, this proposal is organized as follows:

- Project Understanding and Background
- Scope of Services
- Deliverables and Schedule
- Fee and Terms
- Assumptions and Clarifications

Project Understanding and Background

Ramboll staff visited the facility in April, 2023 to provide a preliminary walkthrough of the existing microturbine piping system installation. In addition to a walkthrough Ramboll conducted ad-hoc interviews with facility staff to gain a greater understanding of the potential problems with the microturbine cooling water distribution system. During the walkthrough leaking was it was observed that the distribution piping appeared to be too small for the discussed flow along

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Click or tap here to enter text.

with leaking pipe in the underground section of piping between the Digester Sludge Holding Building and the Sludge Processing Building.

Scope of Services

Our proposed scope of services is separated into the following tasks:

Task 1: Evaluate Existing Piping System

Ramboll will provide a preliminary conceptual report that shall include the following:

- Evaluation of the existing piping system for capacity, flowrate, pressure loss and materials of construction
- Evaluation of the existing supply pumps for capacity, flowrate and available pressure
- Evaluate make-up water consumption and identify likely system loss location
- Provide alternative solutions for resolving flow and leak issues which may include new or modified pumps and new distribution piping
- Provide alternative solutions for pipe routing between the building that would include replacement of the existing buried lines with new piping, or the installation of new above ground piping routed on structural pipe supports
- Provide an analysis that would show the advantages or disadvantages of each piping system approach
- Provide order of magnitude construction cost estimate for the proposed solutions.

Schedule

Ramboll will begin engineering support activities upon acceptance of this proposal. Final completion of the repair efforts is estimated to be 3-4 weeks. The actual completion of the repair efforts and the end of the Ramboll engineering support is outside the control of this proposal.

Fee and Terms

Fees for these services will be invoiced on a time and materials (T&M) basis with a not-to-exceed (NTE) amount of \$7,000.

Assumptions and Clarifications

This fee is based on the following assumptions and clarifications:

- The BJCWWTP will be available for a site investigation and interviews
- Existing drawings will be provided.

We will proceed with the services set forth above once we receive a countersigned copy of this letter which will indicate your acceptance of this proposal. The Service Terms and Conditions (Attachment A) and financial terms have been reviewed and accepted on previous agreements between BJCWWTP and Ramboll. Alternatively, you can issue a purchase order or similar written instrument to indicate acceptance of the same. *However, because the standard language of purchase orders is typically*



applicable to the provisions of goods, as opposed to services, we request that the purchase order reference this proposal as the basis for the work.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide services to the BJCWWTP. Should you have questions or concerns about the information in this proposal, please contact me directly at 607-725-5517.

Yours sincerely
RAMBOLL AMERICAS ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.

Ronald G. Harting
SENIOR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

D 607-232-5317
M 607-725-5517
ron.harting@ramboll.com

Attachment

cc: Mr. Darek Letkiewicz, PE, CEM – Ramboll

Accepted by
BINGHAMTON-JOHNSON CITY WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT

Gregory Kolbas
(Authorized Signature)

July 26 2023
(Date)



Major Systems

The One Drawback of PEX Pipe Even Plumbers Didn't See Coming

PEX—the plumbing material of choice for remodels and retrofits—has a secret weakness that puts it at risk of damage.

By [Glenda Taylor](#) | Updated Sep 12, 2022 5:14 PM

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For both new construction and remodeling projects, installing a cross-linked polyethylene ([PEX](#)) water-supply system is attractive to builders and homeowners alike. Deciding factors for choosing between the two most common water-supply materials, [PEX and copper](#), include ease of installation and cost. Installing PEX can save as much as 60 percent on project costs, and, unlike copper, PEX tubing is flexible and can be fished through existing wall spaces, reducing the scope of a retrofit project.

While PEX comes with convincing reasons for choosing it over copper, it also

comes with a hidden downside: Rodents seem to find the plastic-based tubing irresistible. Keep reading to find out why this is a problem, and what you should do to prevent damage to a PEX water-supply system.

The Problem With Pex Tubing

Mice and rats will chew through anything they can, including plastic, so PEX tubing is at just as much risk as the plastic-coated wiring in a car or an HVAC unit. While all rodent damage can be expensive, if rodents chew through a home's PEX water pipes, the result can be disastrous. Water and building materials do not mix, and the pressure inherent in water-supply lines can quickly flood a large area of the home, leading to costly repairs.

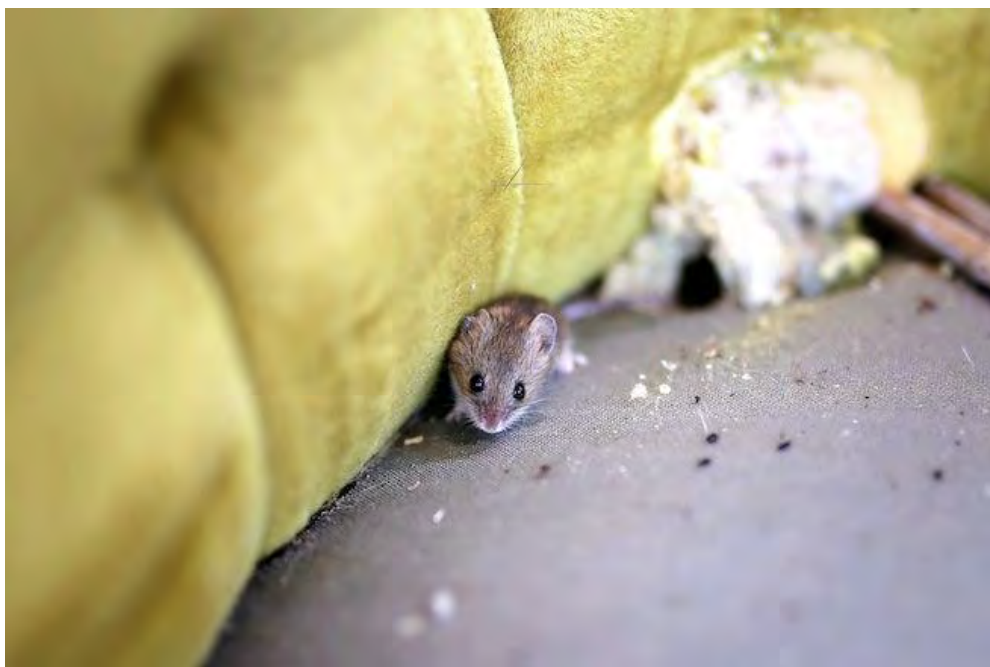


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