

The January 14, 2019 Special Meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sherrock at 6:30 PM. All in attendance gave a pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

Ammon – Present	Cuozzo – Absent	Fayock – Present
Gallagher – Present	George – Present	Grink – Present
Milot – Present	Sherrock – Present	Zola – Absent

Also in Attendance:

Gregory Olander – Operations Manager	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming	Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

Gregory Olander stated that an email was circulated to all Board Members concerning a change order on the Incinerator Project for engineering work to design a mid-level platform around the incinerator. He said the email contained the backup documentation received from the contractor, Michael F. Ronca and Sons, Inc. (Ronca). He said an updated cost for the work to be performed by Ronca’s steel fabrication sub-contractor, SmitHahn Company, Inc., was copied for the Board for their reference at this meeting. He noted that the cost was reduced to \$24,294.65.

Rachel Govelovich stated that the change order for the platform was introduced and discussed during the engineer’s report at the December 2018 Board Meeting; however, she noted that there were several questions circulating about how we got to this point. She informed the board that the initial procurement contract for the incinerator was with Infilco Degremont, Inc. (IDI) who was then acquired by Suez. She said the initial design of the incinerator equipment, which was developed and provided by Suez did not include a mid-level platform in the design. She said during the submittal review in 2011 and 2012 there were email and telephone correspondences between Gannett Fleming and Suez regarding the platforms and access to equipment. She said at that time, Suez determined that the instruments and controls could be accessed using temporary scaffolding, ladders, and/or lifts. She said the issue of instrument access was not missed by her firm because those questions were posed with Suez during the submittal review process. Board Member Ammon asked who determined that a platform is now needed for access. Rachel responded that during the last construction job conference Suez’s field representative overseeing the construction and commissioning of the incinerator stated that accessing the instruments and controls by the vendors and third party inspectors was a problem because they could not safely access many of these items. She stated that Authority staff brought the issue up in emails during 2016 to make sure there was access for their maintenance and operations personnel going forward. She said Suez’s response again noted that a compromise to redesigning and adding a platform to the equipment was to use ladders and lifts to gain access because supports for a mid-level platform were likely to interfere with lower level components. She stated that lifts were investigated at about \$15,000 each; however, two lifts would be needed on the lower platform and they could not be replaceable once construction was completed. She said equipment piping would also interfere with the ability of lifts to access all the necessary components. Board Member Ammon asked why the platform was in the project originally, later removed, but now the Suez representative is calling for a platform at a cost of \$200,000 as a change order. Rachel responded that the platform was not originally designed into the project and they relied on the Suez recommendation at that time because they are the manufacturer of the equipment. Board Member Ammon asked what the total cost would be for the platform. Rachel responded that the budgetary quote of the platform as presented at

the December meeting is \$174,760.00, which includes the engineering design from the contractor, but not the contractor's mark-up. She said the platform design needs to be completed to determine the cost of materials and labor needed to construct the platform. She said last month the Board was asked whether or not to move forward with the mid-level platform. She stated that due to the anticipated construction of the building addition in March, the materials, such as large I-beams, would need to be brought into the reactor room before the addition is completed. She said if the platform is delayed materials could be brought in by removing the roof and then reinstalling it or delaying the construction of the addition, which may subject the Authority to additional delay claims and cause a "ripple effect". Board Member Gallagher asked if the instruments had to be accessed more than annually. Rachel responded that there are components and instruments that need to be access routinely during normal operation, for calibration, and for maintenance. She also noted that the filter on the Wet Electrostatic Precipitator (WESP) and doors on the scrubber also need routine access.

Rachel then reviewed the schedule needed to get the engineering completed so as to minimize the potential for project delays. She said the engineering for the platform design would take approximately one (1) month and Gannett Fleming's review of the design would be about one (1) week. She said cost of construction can be determined at that time and the cost would be presented to the Board for approval. She stated that the change order was already submitted to DEP to gain prior approval as required in the PENNVEST guidelines; however, since the engineering portion was under \$25,000 it does not require prior approval to move forward. Chairman Sherrock then asked the Board if there were any additional questions on this matter.

**George & Gallagher** moved to approve Change Order #4 of the Incinerator Installation Project Contract 1 (General Construction) in the amount of \$24,294.65 for Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc.'s sub-contractor, SmithHahn Company, Inc. to field measure and prepare general arrangement, structural design, shop fabrication, and erection drawings for a mid-level platform to access instruments and controls in and around the incinerator as recommended by the Engineer.

Roll Call: Ammon-no, Cuozzo-absent, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 6-1-2)

**Milot & Gallagher** moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority**



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary