



**Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Wastewater Regionalization Project
Minnehaha County, South Dakota**

Release Date: May 1, 2025

Submittal Due Date: June 18, 2025

Purpose

Sioux Metro Growth Alliance (“SMGA”) invites qualified engineering firms to submit their qualifications to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for wastewater conveyance and collection system(s) to link the South Dakota communities of Colton, Lyons, and Crooks to a new mechanical wastewater reclamation facility (WWRF) in Hartford, SD. SMGA endeavors to contract with a qualified engineering firm in July 2025, with an anticipated PER completion date before the end of January 2026.

Project Overview

Due in part to the strong growth of the Sioux Falls MSA, the surrounding communities of Hartford, Colton, Crooks and Lyons are anticipating more significant residential, commercial and industrial growth in the coming decades, which will eventually outstrip their current infrastructure capabilities. To realize administrative and operational efficiencies, cost savings, and in an effort to reduce environmental impacts within the water shed, the communities endeavor to create a long-term wastewater solution for their region.

Colton and Crooks are currently operating lagoon systems which will need significant improvements in the next 5-10+ years to accommodate growth and maintain environmental compliance.

Lyons’ population is served entirely with septic systems. Long-term, additional septic system permits are untenable based upon their current concentration, and the community’s proximity to the Big Sioux Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to much of Eastern South Dakota.

With a new WWRF (with capacity up to 1.6 million gallons per day) in nearby Hartford coming online in October 2025, this presents an opportunity to link Colton, Lyons, Crooks and Hartford with a long-term wastewater solution.

Project Area

Depicted below is a map of the anticipated project area. While a conveyance route is depicted in red, this is only for demonstration purposes. The ideal route(s) would be a recommendation determined by the PER.





PER Project Scope

The PER should include all of the following:

Existing Facilities Review & Local Improvements

Colton & Crooks

The condition, capacity, planned improvements and financial status (including public surcharges) of existing wastewater facilities should be reviewed and documented for Colton and Crooks. The intent would be to understand improvements which may be required within the next 20 years of existing facilities, and the anticipated costs. The PER should also identify what improvements (and associated costs) will be required locally to connect to a shared conveyance system as proposed with the NW Minnehaha County Wastewater Regionalization project. Example improvements may include lift station improvements, lagoon repurposing, metering improvements, etc. The City of Colton and the City of Crooks will provide the selected PER engineering partner with all existing studies or analysis previously completed and relevant to this task.

Lyons

Because Lyons' population is on septic systems, the PER should identify what improvements (and associated costs) will be required locally to connect to a shared conveyance system. The "population" includes local businesses (i.e. Rosenbauer America.) Example improvements would include the creation of a collection system, lift stations, etc.

Alternative Analysis - Improvements

The PER should evaluate multiple wastewater conveyance options (including conveyance to alternative regional wastewater facilities) and associated costs. Alternatives should be identified and reviewed before a recommended alternative is proposed. Each alternative should include, at minimum, the following:

- Description
- Design Criteria
- Map/Route
- Environmental Impacts
- Potential Construction Challenges (including permitting)
- Sustainability Considerations
- Cost Estimates

Alternative Analysis – Structure/Operating Agreement

The City of Hartford will retain ownership of their WWRF and contract with participating communities (or a cooperative wastewater entity) to provide wastewater services.

The PER should evaluate different legal structures Colton, Lyons and Crooks could create to own and manage a shared wastewater conveyance system. The analysis should also review different operating agreements and associated near term and long term costs.

Separately, the PER should evaluate different legal structures the community of Lyons could create to own and manage a wastewater collection system and associated costs. The PER should outline specific steps (i.e. creation of a wastewater district) and costs and timelines to implement the solution in Lyons.

Recommended Alternative

The recommended alternative should include, at minimum, all of the following:

- Conveyance Legal Structure (requested no later than October 24, 2025)
- Operating Agreement(s)
- Life Cycle Cost Analysis
- Non-Monetary Factors Review
- Preliminary Project Design
- Map/Route
- Easement Requirements
- Environmental Impacts and Associated Permitting Requirements
- Federal, State and Local Permitting Requirements including process and timelines
- Project Schedule
- Total Project Cost Estimate
- Estimated Annual Operating Budget
 - Income
 - Annual O&M Costs
 - Debt Repayments
 - Reserves



Qualifications Requirements

Engineering firms responding to this RFQ are expected to comprise professionals who possess proven experience and expertise with wastewater design, municipal engineering, environmental permitting, life cycle cost analysis, and wastewater operating agreements.

Submission Guidelines

SMGA has retained TetonRidge Consulting (“TetonRidge”) to facilitate the RFQ process and serve as a resource for future components of the project. Engineering firms are invited to submit their qualifications electronically to steve@tetonridgellc.com no later than 5pm Central Time, June 18, 2025. *TetonRidge kindly requests engineering firms indicate their intentions of submitting qualifications by May 28, 2025.*

RFQ submissions should include, and are scored based upon the following weighted evaluation factors:

- Firm profile highlighting relevant experience, specialized expertise, technical competence and portfolio of past relatable projects, including references (see *qualification requirements*.) (25%)
- List of key team members (with resumes) and their respective roles in support of the project. Include any sub-consultants who may be assigned to the project. (25%)
- General description of the firm’s proposed approach, and resources available to perform the requested deliverables within the timeframes specified. (25%)
- Record of past performance, including price and cost data from previous related projects, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules. Include information on construction estimate accuracy for similar projects over the last 3 years. (10%)
- Availability to and familiarity with the project locale. (5%)
- Proposed project management techniques. (5%)
- Ability and proven history in handling special project constraints. (5%)

The length of the submission shall not exceed 25 pages. Electronic submissions are acceptable.



Selection Process

Upon receipt of the submissions, an evaluation team will determine the firm(s) most qualified based upon the *Submission Guidelines* and associated scoring criteria shown. SMGA may short list and interview firms it deems most qualified. Upon completion of the interviews (if applicable), SMGA may ask the most qualified Firm to enter into negotiations to mutually discuss and refine the scope of services for the project and shall negotiate terms, including compensation and a performance schedule. If an agreement cannot be reached, SMGA may move to the next most qualified Firm. The same process will be repeated with the other Firms if no such agreement can be reached. SMGA reserves the right to not select a Firm as part of this process if an agreement cannot be reached, or for any other reason.

Other Considerations

SMGA encourages submitting firms to review the following requirements which may influence design, project costs, timelines, contracting and sub-contracting (including the PER engineer's intentions to sub-contract for services.) The considerations below are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Other provisions may apply.

Funding & Contract Period

SMGA will utilize funding from EPA's Community Grants program to cost share the cost of the PER. An award of contract is contingent upon receipt of federal funds.

The resulting contract will be for 2 years. SMGA has the option to amend, or to extend the contract beyond the initial 2 years to accommodate the terms and conditions of the FY2024 Northern Minnehaha County Wastewater Regionalization CDS Request or future EPA grants awarded to SMGA within this two-year period provided a market survey conducted by SMGA indicates that the prices the consultant proposes are reasonable.

Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act and American Iron and Steel (AIS)

The Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) apply to EPA funding obligated after May 14, 2022, for EPA funded infrastructure projects. None of the EPA funding subject to BABA may be used for a project of infrastructure unless all iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project are produced in the United States. Domestic sourcing requirements may impact design or estimated project costs/timelines.



Non-Discrimination

SMGA will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 40 CFR Part 33 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin. Any awardees, sub-awardees, contractors or anyone in connection with this award is expected to comply with this non-discrimination requirement.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

Good faith efforts to solicit quotes from Disadvantage Business Enterprises as required by 40 CFR Part 33 will be expected for any contracts or subcontracts that receive EPA funding.

Contact Information

For inquiries and submission of qualifications, please contact:

Steve Watson
Managing Partner
TetonRidge Consulting
steve@tetonridgellc.com

All questions are due in writing no later than 5pm Central Time, May 28, 2025.