

CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
A G E N D A R E P O R T

AGENDA # 5
DATE: September 16, 2003

ITEM: Water Utility Vulnerability Assessment – O.F. 1386

INITIATED BY: Public Works Department/Utilities Branch

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Professional Services Agreement

PRESENTED BY: Jim Rearden, Public Works Director

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RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Commission approve a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. to provide a Vulnerability Assessment of the Water Utility and, as an option, prepare an Emergency Response Plan as required by the Federal Government.

MOTION: “I move that the City Commission approve the attached agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. to provide a Vulnerability Assessment and, at the City’s option, an Emergency Response Plan and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.”

SYNOPSIS: The proposed contract will provide a Vulnerability Assessment and an optional Emergency Response Plan. Both documents are required by the Federal Government, however, the City may choose to provide the Emergency Response Plan depending on the outcome of the assessment. The basic elements of the Vulnerability Assessment are: (1) Characterize the water system, including its mission and objectives; (2) Identify and prioritize adverse consequences to avoid; (3) Determine critical assets that might be subject to malicious acts that could result in undesired consequences; (4) Assess the likelihood of such acts from adversaries (e.g. terrorists, vandals); (5) Evaluate existing countermeasures, and; (6) Analyze current risk and develop a prioritized plan for risk reduction. The proposed cost for the Vulnerability Assessment is \$40,952. The additional cost for the Emergency Response Plan is \$10,652.

BACKGROUND: The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act was signed into law on June 12, 2002. Among other things, this Act requires communities with populations between 50,000 and 100,000 to perform Vulnerability Assessments and submit this document to the Environmental Protection Agency by December 31, 2003. Within six months of the certification, these communities must prepare or revise an Emergency Response Plan that incorporates the results of the Vulnerability Assessment. The Emergency Response plan must also be certified to the Environmental Protection Agency. Cities over 100,000 in population were required to have their Vulnerability assessment completed by March 31, 2003.