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**SENT BY EMAIL**

August 11th, 2026

Columbus Water & Light  
Randy Myrum  
950 Maple Ave  
Columbus, WI 53925

Subject: Substation 2 (Water Street) Transformer Purchase  
Letter of Recommendation  
C09-25D Spec 4273

Dear Mr. Myrum,

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Forster Electrical Engineering received and publicly read bids for the purchase of a substation transformer for Substation 2 (Water Street). Five bids were received. The project budget allocation for the substation transformer was \$1,730,000.

Refer to the attached bid tabulation for the full results. **Forster Electrical Engineering recommends awarding the contract to Waukesha for a stated bid price of \$1,868,226, with a stated delivery time of Q4, 2028.**

Note: Waukesha offered optional price adders for rigging and assembly of the new transformer, but these services can be obtained more affordably from a local substation labor contractor.

The basis for the transformer evaluation is total ownership costs and best value. Forster has helped procure Waukesha transformers for several utilities, and has good experience working with the manufacturer in the past. Waukesha transformers have a long, proven reputation for providing quality equipment considered "industry standard". Given the bid results, Forster Electrical Engineering believes paying the price premium (\$184,156) for a Waukesha transformer is worth the investment, given that this transformer is anticipated to last 40+ years. For reference, Waukesha transformers have historically come at a \$400,000+ price premium compared to other options. Given Columbus's options, the Waukesha bid offers the best value.

After your review, please be sure to let me know when we can proceed with contracts. A tabulation from the bid is attached for your reference.

Sincerely,

FORSTER ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacob Feltz".

Jacob Feltz, E.I.T

Copy:

Bruce Beth, P.E.

Attachments:

Bid tabulation

Recommended Bid