

Exhibit A

January 27, 2026

City of Crest Hill
2090 Oakland Avenue
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Attention: Mr. Blaine Wing, City Administrator

Re: Agreement for General Services
Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Treatment Equipment and Pilot Testing Services

This is an Agreement between the City of Crest Hill, Illinois, hereinafter referred to as OWNER, and Strand Associates, Inc.®, hereinafter referred to as ENGINEER, to provide engineering services (Services) for the PFAS Pilot Experiment process at Wells No. 7 and No. 10. This Agreement shall be in accordance with the following elements.

Scope of Services

ENGINEER will provide the following Services to OWNER.

1. Review the Wells No. 7 and No. 10 sites for pilot testing.
2. Communicate with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and up to three potential PFAS pilot equipment vendors (Vendors) including Desotec US, LLC; Atec Water Systems, LLC; and Water Surplus, Inc. regarding pilot testing criteria.
3. Gather and review product data sheets for each Vendor's pilot testing equipment and summarize the general pilot design criteria and OWNER's spatial site constraints.
4. Prepare a request for proposal (RFP) that includes:
 - a. Project background and objectives.
 - b. Pilot experiment scope and performance metrics.
 - c. OWNER's submittal and selection process.
 - d. OWNER's safety standards.
 - e. Specifications and quantity of brands of granular activated carbon media.
5. Review the RFP with OWNER and submit to the IEPA for concurrence.
6. Distribute the RFP to the three Vendors. Respond to Vendor inquiries during the proposal period.
7. Review proposals from Vendors.
8. Participate in a proposal review meeting with OWNER. OWNER shall select and hire its preferred Vendor.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 2
January 27, 2026

Service Elements Not Included

The following services are not included in this Agreement. If such services are required, they will be provided through an amendment to this Agreement or through a separate agreement with OWNER.

1. Additional Site Visits and/or Meetings: Additional OWNER-required site visits or meetings.
2. Bidding- and Construction-Related Services: Any services involved in performing bidding- and construction-related services.
3. Drawings and Specifications: Design services including drawings and specifications.
4. PFAS Testing Assistance: Any services related to PFAS testing assistance.
5. Pilot Testing Report: Review of any reports from Vendors or the IEPA.
6. Preparation for and/or Appearance in Litigation on Behalf of OWNER: Any services related to litigation.

Compensation

OWNER shall compensate ENGINEER for Services under this Agreement on an hourly rate basis plus expenses an estimated fee of \$10,000.

Expenses incurred such as those for travel, meals, printing, postage, copies, computer, electronic communication, and long distance telephone calls will be billed at actual cost plus ten percent.

Only sales taxes or other taxes on Services that are in effect at the time this Agreement is executed are included in the Compensation. If the tax laws are subsequently changed by legislation during the life of this Agreement, this Agreement will be adjusted to reflect the net change.

The estimated fee for the Services is based on wage scale/hourly billing rates, adjusted annually on July 1, that anticipates the Services will be completed as indicated. Should the completion time be extended, it may be cause for an adjustment in the estimated fee that reflects any wage scale adjustments made.

The estimated fee will not be exceeded without prior notice to and agreement by OWNER but may be adjusted for time delays, time extensions, amendments, or changes in the **Scope of Services**. Any adjustments will be negotiated based on ENGINEER's increase or decrease in costs caused by delays, extensions, amendments, or changes.

Schedule

Services will begin upon execution of this Agreement, which is anticipated the week of February 5, 2026. Services are scheduled for completion on April 5, 2026.

Standard of Care

The Standard of Care for all Services performed or furnished by ENGINEER under this Agreement will be the care and skill ordinarily used by members of ENGINEER's profession practicing under similar circumstances at the same time and in the same locality. ENGINEER makes no warranties, express or implied, under this Agreement or otherwise, in connection with ENGINEER's Services.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 3
January 27, 2026

OWNER's Responsibilities

1. Assist ENGINEER by placing at ENGINEER's disposal all available information pertinent to this project including previous reports, previous drawings and specifications, and any other data relative to the scope of this project.
2. Furnish to ENGINEER, as required by ENGINEER for performance of Services as part of this Agreement, data prepared by or services of others obtained or prepared by OWNER relative to the scope of this project, such as soil borings, probings and subsurface explorations, and laboratory tests and inspections of samples, all of which ENGINEER may rely upon in performing Services under this Agreement.
3. Provide access to and make all provisions for ENGINEER to enter upon public and private lands as required for ENGINEER to perform Services under this Agreement.
4. Examine all reports, sketches, estimates, special provisions, drawings, and other documents presented by ENGINEER and render, in writing, decisions pertaining thereto within a reasonable time so as not to delay the performance of ENGINEER.
5. Provide all legal services as may be required for the development of this project.
6. Pay all permit and plan review fees payable to regulatory agencies.
7. Provide PFAS testing, as required.

Changes

1. OWNER may make changes within the general scope of this Agreement in the Services to be performed. If such changes cause an increase or decrease in ENGINEER's cost or time required for performance of any Services under this Agreement, an equitable adjustment will be made and this Agreement will be modified in writing accordingly.
2. No services for which additional compensation will be charged by ENGINEER will be furnished without the written authorization of OWNER. The fee established herein will not be exceeded without agreement by OWNER but may be adjusted for time delays, time extensions, amendments, or changes in the **Scope of Services**.
3. If there is a modification of Agency requirements relating to the Services to be performed under this Agreement subsequent to the date of execution of this Agreement, the increased or decreased cost of performance of the Services provided for in this Agreement will be reflected in an appropriate modification of this Agreement.

Extension of Services

This Agreement may be extended for additional Services upon OWNER's authorization. Extension of Services will be provided for a lump sum or an hourly rate plus expenses.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 4
January 27, 2026

Payment

OWNER shall make monthly payments to ENGINEER for Services performed in the preceding month based upon monthly invoices. Nonpayment 30 days after the date of receipt of invoice may, at ENGINEER's option, result in assessment of a 1 percent per month carrying charge on the unpaid balance.

Nonpayment 45 days after the date of receipt of invoice may, at ENGINEER's option, result in suspension of Services upon five calendar days' notice to OWNER. ENGINEER will have no liability to OWNER, and OWNER agrees to make no claim for any delay or damage as a result of such suspension caused by any breach of this Agreement by OWNER. Upon receipt of payment in full of all outstanding sums due from OWNER, or curing of such other breach which caused ENGINEER to suspend Services, ENGINEER will resume Services and there will be an equitable adjustment to the remaining project schedule and compensation as a result of the suspension.

Failure to make payments to ENGINEER is cause for termination upon two-week notice to OWNER.

Termination

This Agreement may be terminated with cause in whole or in part in writing by either party subject to a two-week notice and the right of the party being terminated to meet and discuss the termination before the termination takes place. ENGINEER will be paid for all completed or obligated Services up to the date of termination.

Data Provided by Others

ENGINEER is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of data nor for the methods used in the acquisition or development of any such data where such data is provided by or through OWNER, contractor, or others to ENGINEER and where ENGINEER's Services are to be based upon such data. Such data includes, but is not limited to, soil borings, groundwater data, chemical analyses, geotechnical testing, reports, calculations, designs, drawings, specifications, record drawings, contractor's marked-up drawings, and topographical surveys.

Third-Party Beneficiaries

Nothing contained in this Agreement creates a contractual relationship with or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either OWNER or ENGINEER. ENGINEER's Services under this Agreement are being performed solely for OWNER's benefit, and no other party or entity shall have any claim against ENGINEER because of this Agreement or the performance or nonperformance of Services hereunder. OWNER and ENGINEER agree to require a similar provision in all contracts with contractors, subcontractors, subconsultants, vendors, and other entities involved in this project to carry out the intent of this provision.

Dispute Resolution

Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement, all claims, counterclaims, disputes, and other matters in question between OWNER and ENGINEER arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof will be decided first by mediation, if the parties mutually agree, or with a bench trial in a court of competent jurisdiction within the State of Illinois.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 5
January 27, 2026

Remedies

Neither ENGINEER nor OWNER shall be liable to the other for special, indirect, punitive, or consequential damages for claims, disputes, or other matters in question arising out of this or relating to this Agreement. This mutual waiver is applicable, without limitation, due to either party's termination of this Agreement.

Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions of this Agreement will apply to the Services defined in the **Scope of Services** and represent the entire Agreement and supersede any prior proposals, Requests for Qualifications, or Agreements. OWNER-supplied purchase order is for processing payment only; terms and conditions on the purchase order shall not apply to these Services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement.

ENGINEER:

STRAND ASSOCIATES, INC.[®]


Joseph M. Bunker
Corporate Secretary

Date

OWNER:

CITY OF CREST HILL, ILLINOIS

Blaine Wing
City Administrator

Date