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MEMO

TO: Chairperson Wetzel and Commission Members
FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E.
DATE: June 7, 2023
RE: Public Works Commission Meeting of June 13, 2023

Agenda Item:

Review and take possible action: environmental access agreement with Johnson Controls to perform certain environmental activities on Watertown Municipal Airport property

BACKGROUND:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is requesting that Johnson Controls place two additional monitoring wells on Watertown Municipal Airport property. The purpose of the wells is to monitor shallow groundwater contamination associated with the former Johnson Controls building at 1007 S. Twelfth Street. Whereas the City can ultimately deny the request, monitoring wells are placed for public safety purposes to monitor contaminants that are harmful to public health. It is recommended that the two additional monitoring wells on airport property be approved. The following questions, shown in black, were asked to the WDNR consultant coordinating well placement, who provided answers shown in blue:

(A) What are they monitoring?

We are monitoring volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in shallow groundwater. The VOCs are being investigated as part of the investigation/remediation being conducted on the former Johnson Controls property to the east of the airport.

(B) Why do they want additional wells?

The WDNR has requested the additional wells.

(C) Runway 23 may be raised up 15 feet vertically. If so, they will need to adjust those wells in the future.

Johnson Controls recognizes that this is a possibility and will work to get the wells extended to a new surface grade as necessary.

(D) Do they realize that those wells could be damaged at any time for any reason and they would have no recourse? If they have some agreement in place for the wells that are already there that says something different it probably needs to be looked at.

Johnson Controls is responsible for maintenance of the wells and GZA would want to be notified if damage occurred so that it could be repaired.

The Environmental Access Agreement approved by the City Attorney's office is attached for Commission review. A draft resolution will be presented during Tuesday evening's meeting.

Enclosed:

Environmental Access Agreement