



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***CITY WATER QUALITY PROJECTS TAKE MAJOR STEP FORWARD;  
CONSTRUCTION BIDS AWARDED TONIGHT AT COUNCIL***

ROCKFORD – August, 11 2008 – Tonight at City Council, City of Rockford leaders presented their final recommendations for the award of bid for several, integral, construction projects linked to the \$75 million Water Rehabilitation Program.

Mayor Morrissey and Rockford City Council's pledge to improve the quality and delivery of water, its sole utility, has been an ongoing project since 2005. Milestones along the way have included major infrastructure improvements such as replacing the century-old Stanley Street plant with an upgraded facility that will allow for on-demand water treatment and state of the art water delivery, to the repair and rebuilding of several of the neighborhood wells. The ability to leverage an \$8,308,283 Public Water Supply loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has allowed the city to reduce the interest rates to loans and lessen the financial burden to city residents. In addition to the original loan, the IEPA plans to provide up to \$40 million in financing for the project over a four to five year period, a commitment that would make Rockford the single largest recipient of funding in the 10-year history of the Public Water Supply Loan Program.

Today's recommendations will allow for the construction of water treatment facilities at three (3) locations, 4750 Pepper Drive, 6544 Palo Verde Drive, and 3447 Publishers Drive. The project consists of replacing the existing facilities at the Pepper Drive and Palo Verde facilities and adding a filtration building to the existing structure on Publishers Drive. It was recommended that the award of bid for this phase of

improvement would be awarded to Williams Brothers Construction of Peoria for \$8,735,000.00.

In addition to the new construction, bids for the reconstruction of wells at 4316 Newburg and 6475 Cessna to allow for more efficient delivery of water service. The recommended contractor is Sjostrom & Sons, Inc for a combined bid award of \$2,105,340.00.

Finally, the new Stanley Street station will have the ability so see installation of its new pumping equipment with the installation of the pump, column pipe, pitless adapter, connection to the reservoir, and electrical work. The recommended contractor for this phase of the project is Layne Wester of Aurora for a bid of \$387,683.00; a bid which includes the pump installation above as well as the electrical work to power three exiting wells at the station.

“The Water Rehabilitation Project is a great example of what our city can accomplish when we set high goals in order to meet our citizens’ expectations. We intend to deliver to our residents the highest quality drinking water in an efficient and effective manner. Today’s progress brings us that much closer to accomplishing our goals,” stated Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey.

Added Public Works Director Tim Hanson, “We’re excited at the pace this project has seen over the past few months. We are predicting that our citizens will see improvement in the very near future,” Public Works officials anticipate that the project will continue to meet milestones in a timely manner. The Rockford Public Works Department anticipates the completion of the project in 2010.

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