



SARATOGA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION 214 - 2021

Introduced by Supervisors Schopf, Barrett, Gaston, Tollisen, Veitch, Winney and Wood

SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A BIOSOLIDS DIGESTER FACILITY BY SARATOGA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1

WHEREAS, by proceedings heretofore duly had and taken pursuant to Article 5-A of the County Law, the Board of Supervisors of Saratoga County, New York, established a county sewer district designated and known as Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1, in said County (the "District"); and

WHEREAS, for a variety of technical and financial reasons, the District was unable to comply with new federal Title V air regulations pertaining to the incineration of sludge/biosolids at the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant, and as a consequence thereof, terminated operations of the Plant's sludge incinerator on March 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, as a result of ceasing operations of its sludge incinerator, the District had to retain the services of a commercial hauler to remove, transport and dispose of sludge/biosolids from its Treatment Plant, which services are currently being provided pursuant to Resolution 137-2017 at a cost of \$129.00 per wet ton; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 135-2017, this Board authorized the execution of a cooperative agreement between the County of Albany, on behalf of the Albany County Water Purification District, and the County of Saratoga, on behalf of the District, for the construction of the regional joint biosolids facility; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 170-2018 County Board authorized the construction of a regional joint biosolids facility in partnership with Albany County; and

WHEREAS, citing an increase in costs associated with the construction of the facility, Albany County invoked the provisions of the cooperative agreement to terminate their participation with the construction of the regional joint biosolids facility on May 3, 2021, thereby leaving Saratoga County the options to either continue hauling and disposing of sludge/biosolids from its treatment plant or construct a biosolids facility on its own; and

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Sewer District Commission and the Sewer District's Executive Director have recommended that Saratoga County consider the construction of a biosolids facility at the existing wastewater treatment plant located in Mechanicville, New York to serve Saratoga County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 136-2017, the County entered into an agreement with Arcadis of New York, Inc. for the preparation of a feasibility study to examine whether a regional joint biosolids facility would be achievable; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study was completed by Arcadis of New York, Inc., reviewed by the members of the Saratoga County Sewer District Commission and the Albany County Water Purification District's Board of Commissioners, and filed with the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Section 268 of the County Law in relation to a proposed increase and improvement of the facilities of said District; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study determined that the construction of a regional biosolids handling facility would provide a long-term, cost-effective and environmentally friendly means for Albany and Saratoga Counties to dispose of sludge/biosolids, provide for energy recovery, and result in significant annual savings for both the ACWPD and the District; and

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Sewer District Commission and the Sewer District's Executive Director have recommended that a new feasibility study be commissioned by Arcadis of New York, Inc. to examine whether Saratoga County can construct a biosolids facility on its own; and

WHEREAS, the biosolids facility currently proposed will utilize anaerobic digestion and a dryer to reduce volume, produce a Class A biosolids product for land application, and the biogas produced will be cleaned and potentially used as Renewable Natural Gas injected into the common utility owned pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the annual net cost to the typical property in said District as a result of such costs has been estimated to be \$5.08; and

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of such objects or purposes, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, will be performed; and

WHEREAS, it would appear that the construction of said sewer facility improvements would be in the best interests of the people of the County of Saratoga residing within the boundaries of Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the proposal by Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1 to construct, operate and maintain a biosolids digester facility as described in the Feasibility Study prepared by Arcadis of New York, Inc. at a not to exceed total project cost of \$51,900,000 is hereby introduced before the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Supervisors shall hold a Public Hearing on August 17, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors at 40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, New York 12020, on the matter of the construction, operation and maintenance of a biosolids digester facility, and the Clerk of this Board of Supervisors be and she hereby is directed to give notice of such Public Hearing in the manner prescribed by law.

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.