

High Performance Water and Sewer

Okaloosa County, Florida, August 21, 2007; Okaloosa Water and Sewer Department (OCWS) is blessed with a long tradition of solid capable people to man their maintenance and construction crews. As evident by their current undertaking, there is no job to big for them to tackle. They stepped up to the plate and committed to delivery of a 10 MGD, \$5.7 million Rapid Infiltration Basin System to the rate payers of the OCWS. This system is being constructed as part of the Arbennie Pritchett Water Reclamation Project (WRF), Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

The Arbennie Pritchett Water Reclamation Facility is being constructed on the site of the existing sprayfield for the Garniers Wastewater Treatment Facility on Eglin Air Force Base. Groundbreaking for the Arbennie Pritchett WRF took place in April 2007 after a 12-year period that included; increasing public interest in replacing the aging and smelly Garniers Wastewater Facility; negotiations with the United States Air-Force for leasing of the property for the new facility; Environmental Assessments, Environmental Baseline Surveys and property appraisals required by the Federal Government for the out-lease of Air Force Property; and issuance of \$65 billion in bonds to fund the project.

During this period, the County implemented a plan to deliver the Water Reclamation Facility as a “Design-Build Project.” This involved the selection of

a Program Manager and Design Criteria Professional to represent the County’s interests. Environmental Services Group, Inc. of Fort Walton Beach, Florida was selected as the Program Managers for the Project. HDR, Inc of Tampa, Florida was selected as the Design Criteria Professional. Together, OCWS, ESG, and HDR developed the basis of design for the new WRF facility. Through the competitive consulting negotiations process, Camp Dresser McKee, Inc. of Maitland, Florida was selected as the Design-Build Contractor. Poly Engineering, Inc of Dothan Alabama was selected as the design engineers for the RIBs.



OCWS & ESG Meet to Discuss Delivery of RIBs Project

Overall costs for the RIBs and WRF are a primary concern to the rate payers of OCWS. Through a detailed a careful planning process, the County decided it was in their best interests to deliver the construction phase of the RIBs component of the project utilizing their forces and equipment. There is some risk in this process, but the payoff can be tremendous. It is estimated that by using County forces savings on the project costs could be as high as \$4,000,000.



Harold Godwin and Jeb Chesser Oversee Construction of RIBs for OCWS.

So far the project is right on track. To date the County has placed over 14,306 ft of 8" to 30" DI reclaimed water lines, cleared and grubbed 200 acres of existing sprayfield for the RIBs, and constructed 3 of the 18 RIBs. Each RIB is approximately 7 acres in size and will be used to distribute the reclaimed water over the 200 acre site. The RIBs construction began in early August and is approximately 25% complete and right on schedule.



OCWS Pipe Fitters Install 30" DI Reclaimed Water Main

The Rate Payers of Okaloosa County Water and Sewer should be gratified that the County has stepped up to the plate and committed to performing above and beyond the call of duty. Typically projects valued over \$400,000 are put out for bids from private contractors. A private contractor would be charging the County for overhead, significant mark-ups on materials and equipment plus profit. By delivering the project to the rate OCWS payers in this format speaks volumes regarding OCWS' commitment to providing a quality and economical service, the expectation being to keep rates as low as possible to mitigate the financial impact of this project.



OCWS Pipe Fitters "Taking the Heat," for the Rate payers