



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2017

TO: Dan Duchniak

FROM: Kelly Zylstra

RE: Trailer Mounted Combination Vacuum Excavator / Valve Turner

Over the past six months, staff and I continued the research Jeff started in in 2016 to add a Combination Vacuum Excavator / Valve Turner to complement our existing fleet.

During the valve exercising process, a crew member is dispatched with a valve turner to operate valves for the day. Often they find the valve box full of material and are unable to reach the operating nut. As a result, the crew member moves onto the next valve they are assigned for the day and will submit a work request for another crew to use the vacuum truck to clean out the valve box. Once this is completed, the valve turning crew member is scheduled to return to the site to operate the valve.

This process, while functional, would be far more efficient, and timely, if completed by one crew using one dispatch with a combination valve turner / vacuum excavator trailer.

We researched equipment from Pacific Tek and EH Wachs. Following a review of specifications, staff and I concluded that the Combination Vacuum Jetter / Valve Turner Standard LX Skid VMS from EH Wachs was the best choice for the utility. Key review criteria are listed below:

<i>Key Review Criteria</i>	<i>EH Wachs</i>	<i>Pacific Tek</i>
Dimensions	8' x 6'	8' x 10'
Engine	4 stroke diesel	20hp gas
Vacuum Blower	500cfm	380cfm
Spoils Tank Size	250gallon	100gallon
Discharge Tank	Hydraulic power	Permanent tilt on tank
Water Tank Size	95gallon	60gallon
Quoted Cost:	\$73,075.00	\$67,082.00*

*Freight from California is estimated

We currently have three other pieces of equipment from EH Wachs; allowing the controllers and arms to be interchangeable, avoiding extensive training and operating confusion. In addition, the spoils tank and water tank are larger reducing the down time of coming back to the shop to empty or fill up. Also, support for EH Wachs is local whereas Pacific Tek is from California. The design of the Pacific Tek valve turner is an I-beam rather than as articulating arm, thus reducing efficiency. There are also other design items that make the Pacific Tek unit less efficient, in our opinions.

The approved 2017 budget contains \$102,000 for a valve turner and an associated vehicle. It is our recommendation to purchase the combination valve turner / vacuum jetter from EH Wachs in the amount of \$73,075.00, and purchase the associated vehicle using the amount budgeted for 2018. For reference, the 2014 vacuum jetter cost of \$74,394.00, and the last valve turner we purchased was in 2008 for \$21,565.00.

Recommended Motion: Move to approve the purchase of one combination vacuum excavator/valve turner from EH Wachs in the amount of \$73,075.00.