



April 10, 2017

Tom Fuenning
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
"The Atrium" 1200 N Street, Suite 400
PO Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

RE: 2016 Water System Improvements
Fort Calhoun, NE
JEO Project No: 131216.12

Dear Mr. Fuenning:

The City of Fort Calhoun, NE would like to apply for a project waiver pursuant to the "American Iron and Steel" requirements for the purchase and installation of a double check valve for use in the 2016 Water System Improvements project located in Fort Calhoun, NE.

Per AIS requirements, SRF assistance recipients are required to use specific domestic iron and steel products that are produced in the United States; however, the recipients may receive a waiver if certain circumstances are met. For this project, we are requesting a waiver pursuant to condition number two "Iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality".

This project requires one (1) double check valve be installed within a master meter vault to prevent cross contamination of water being purchased from Washington County Rural Water District #2 (WCRWD #2). The use of backflow prevention (double check valve) is common practice when water passes from one water system to another and is a requirement of WCRWD #2. The installation of the master meter vault, including the double check valve assembly, is integral to providing the City with a second water supply source. The second water supply source will provide redundancy and will improve overall hydraulics within the distribution system. The project specifies the double check valve as follows:

- a. Double check valve assembly designed to prevent the backflow of water into the system.
- b. Shall be flanged, lead free modular check valve assembly with center stem guiding. Each check module shall have a captured spring and be accessible through a bolted cover plate. Seats shall be stainless steel and replaceable. The assembly shall be provided with two identical check modules. Isolation valves shall not be included with the check valve assembly package. Isolation will be provided as shown on the Drawings.
- c. Valve interiors and exteriors shall be coated with an NSF/ANSI 61 certified fusion bonded epoxy.
- d. Valve shall meet the requirements of AWWA C510.
- e. Pressure Rating: Working pressures up to 175 psig.
- f. Size as shown on the plans
- g. Shall be Watts Series LF709 or pre-approved equal.

The specified double check valve manufacturer, Watts, has indicated they cannot meet the requirements to certify their valves as being AIS complaint. In addition, the contractor's supplier contacted several double check valve manufacturers and found that none of them manufacturer an AIS compliant product. The following double check valve manufacturers were contacted: FEBCO, Ames, Watts, Hersey, Wilkins, Cla-Val, and Flomatic.

The supplier for this project is HD Supply Waterworks Ltd. located at 10707 S. 149th Street, Omaha, NE 68131. HD Supply has contacted the double check valve manufacturers listed previously and they either do not manufacturer an AIS compliant double check valve, do not manufacturer double check valves anymore, or they are out of business. Through all these research efforts we have determined that an AIS complaint double check valve cannot be found.

Based on this information, we are requesting that the originally specified Watts double check valve be allowed for this project. If you have any questions or comments, you may reach me at 402.934.3680 or by email at zschulz@jeo.com. Thank you in advance for your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zach Schulz', is written over the typed name.

Zach Schulz, EI
Project Engineer
Water Infrastructure Group

Cc: Alicia Stevens, City Clerk
Dave Nelson, Contractor