



Advertisement for Proposal: Professional Service

PFAS Testing of Wastewater and Biosolids Consultant

Advertised starting Tuesday, October 6 for a minimum of two consecutive weeks using VendorNet.

Specifications are available by visiting the District website at:

<https://www.madsewer.org/contracting-center/>

The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (District) requests proposals for PFAS consulting services associated with the District's PFAS Action Plan for 2027 to 2029. The District intends to contract with the selected consultant for the calendar year of 2027 with two optional one-year renewals through end of calendar year 2029. Each optional year will be at the sole discretion of the District. Proposal documents are linked below. Proposals will be accepted until 3 p.m., CST, **Friday, October 30, 2026** at the District office, 1610 Moorland Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53713. Any questions should be directed to Jessica McCammon at 608-222-1201 ext. 117 or rfp@madsewer.org. Email is the preferred method of contact.

Proposers may have questions that cannot be answered with the information contained within this RFP. Questions are due to rfp@madsewer.org by 11 a.m., CST, Monday, **October 19, 2026**. If answers to any submitted questions could materially affect the requirements for proposals, those questions and answers will be posted on the District's website by 3 p.m. Wednesday, **October 21, 2026**.

Only formal written addenda can materially alter the specifications. No verbal statement made by a District employee or anyone else is binding nor shall such a statement be considered an official part of this public proposal. All proposal responses and their contents will be public record.

Proposers are responsible for ensuring their emailed proposal is received and complies with published Microsoft Quarantine email guidelines. Confirmation of receipt will be sent within one business day. If you do not receive confirmation, contact 608-222-1201 Ext. 110 immediately.

Unless otherwise specified in the proposal documents, the proponent should check our internet site for any addendum 72 hours before the scheduled proposal deadline.

The District is federal and state tax exempt. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive any technicality and accept any proposal which may, in its opinion, be advantageous to the District.

Any questions may be directed to:
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Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PFAS Testing of Wastewater and Biosolids Consultant

Issue Date: 10/6/2026
Responses Due: 3p.m., CST, Friday, October 30, 2026
Project manager contact: Jessica McCammon
Email: rfp@madsewer.org

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Introduction

Established in 1930 to protect the lakes and streams of the upper Yahara watershed, the District is a wastewater collection and treatment utility serving about 440,000 people in 24 Madison-area owner communities covering about 190 square miles. Organized as a municipal corporation, the District is governed by a nine-member Commission appointed by the communities we serve.

The District owns and operates 150 miles of pipe and 18 regional pumping stations that convey approximately 37 million gallons of wastewater to the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant daily. Through the treatment process, we recover valuable resources from the wastewater we receive before returning clean water to the environment.

Our mission is to protect public health and the environment. The District is dedicated to service, reliability, and sustainability, and our tradition of innovation has positioned us as a leader among clean water utilities.

Learn more at www.madsewer.org.

Background

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of over 4,000 synthetic chemicals that have been manufactured since the 1940s and are used in a variety of industrial and commercial products and processes. Because of their prevalence and persistence, PFAS are frequently detected in waste streams, including influents to municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). PFAS are not biologically or chemically destroyed in current municipal WWTP systems. As a result, PFAS pass through WWTPs and have been detected in their effluents and biosolids. As a WWTP, the District is seeking a qualified consultant to provide guidance in completing next steps in its PFAS Action Plan and monitoring for permit compliance.

The first years of sampling (2021-2023) to support the District's PFAS action plan have concluded that PFAS compounds are detectable in the District's influent, effluent, and biosolids at varying amounts expected of a municipal WWTP that does not service significant industrial sources of PFAS. The District has completed sampling in 2024-2026 and now has moved to yearly sampling plans that support the District's action plan and the required monitoring under the District's WPDES permit effective in 2026.

Qualifications

The District is looking for a qualified consultant to support the District's PFAS Action Plan, furthering its understanding of PFAS throughout the District's service area, and to assist with PFAS compliance for the District's current permit term which began May 1, 2026. Current

information on the District's PFAS Initiative, including the action plan, can be found at <https://madsewerpfasinitiative.org/>.

The expectations to support the District's PFAS Action Plan and WPDES permit compliance starting in 2027 are outlined in the project scope and deliverables. Additional support can occur in 2028 and 2029 if renewal is designated by the District. Support is expected to be flexible to build on information gathered by the District in previous years and the consultant during the life of the contract.

Project Scope and Deliverables

In general, the District is requesting the consultant (1) serves as liaison between the District and the contract laboratory chosen for sample analysis; (2) performs quality assurance review of laboratory reports until District staff are ready to take over QA review; (3) advises and assists the District on sampling approach and protocol as needed; (4) trains District staff on proper sample collection as needed; (5) provides data (previously acquired and new data) to District staff in a easy to navigate dashboard that has the ability to combine data sets including previous data and future data; and (6) prepares a comprehensive report summarizing and interpreting the findings of the efforts for each of the three sampling years of the contract. Additional deliverables are specified below:

Influent, Effluent, and Biosolids Monitoring

The consultant shall support implementation of the District's influent, effluent, and biosolids monitoring program, serve as technical liaison with the contract laboratory, provide QA/QC review and interpretation of analytical results, and assist with updating sampling plans as regulatory requirements evolve.

For the 2027 sampling year, the District plans to use a similar sampling protocol to that used in 2026 monitoring, which is intended to collect samples consistent with those listed in the current permit and analyzed according to the methods approved by the WI DNR lab certification program (NR 219). The current wastewater sampling protocol includes monthly sampling of flow-weighted composite influent, monthly sampling of each of the five force mains, and monthly sampling of effluent (grab sample). A calculated influent composite is also determined monthly from the results of the five force mains. Class B biosolids sampling is anticipated to follow the quarterly sampling approach outlined in the 2026 sampling plan, while any Class A cake biosolids produced will be sampled after meeting bacteria testing requirements and prior to distribution.

All wastewater and biosolids samples are to be analyzed for the PFAS compounds allowed utilizing EPA 1633A (currently 40 PFAS compounds). The District's permit requires biosolids to be sampled once per year, with all 40 PFAS compounds and a calculated combined PFOA+PFOS

amount reported. The permit also requires effluent results reported monthly for two PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS.

As part of the support for data analysis assistance for permit compliance, the District also desires the development of a P99 calculator that can work with the data on the electronic dashboard by 2029.

Additional biosolids or wastewater samples may be added to the sampling plan as needed to ensure QA/QC and sample data integrity. Total oxidizable precursor (TOP) assay analysis may also be added to the sampling plan on an as needed basis. District personnel collect samples and the samples are then prepared and provided to the District's contracted lab for analysis. The 2026 sampling plan is attached for reference.

Sampling Protocol, Guidance, and SOP Evaluations

The consultant shall evaluate the District's existing PFAS sampling protocols and recommend modifications necessary to improve data quality, consistency, efficiency, regulatory compliance, or the District's ability to interpret results.

When warranted, the consultant shall update the District's PFAS Sampling Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to reflect changes to sampling processes, applicable regulatory requirements, analytical methods, and the District's evolving understanding of PFAS monitoring. The SOP shall be written for use by District personnel and shall provide clear, practical instructions for sample collection, handling, documentation, and delivery to the contract laboratory.

The consultant shall update the District's [Fate and Transport Review and conceptual site model](#) to reflect current scientific understanding of PFAS, the current understanding of the District's service area, and potential and probable sources based on both current District waste acceptance data and a review of the District's service area. The update shall incorporate new research, updated regulatory and technical information, historical District monitoring results, waste acceptance program results, and findings generated during the contract period.

The update shall identify changes in the District's understanding of PFAS sources, pathways, treatment, partitioning, and movement through the wastewater treatment system and biosolids management processes. This evaluation shall consider sampling results from 2021–2026, which indicate that PFAS are present in the District's influent, effluent, and biosolids at concentrations similar to those observed at other municipal treatment plants serving urbanized areas without significant industrial sources.

The consultant shall identify the previously determined data gaps that have been closed, as well as identifying any remaining data gaps or new data gaps not considered, providing recommendations for additional monitoring or investigation needed to address those gaps.

Hauled Waste and Septage Receiving

The District completed a hauled waste sampling plan in 2026, including a small-scale sampling event. This effort was conducted in regard to the knowledge gap identified on page 24 “Data Gap 2” and Appendix B in the [District Fate and Transport](#) review conducted in 2021. The District requires support in implementing any future hauled waste sampling, with sampling, planning, and data analysis efforts per the sampling plan to be conducted in 2027. The additional sampling efforts will aid the District in understanding the impact of hauled waste on the current District influent PFAS levels and the impact to the District’s effluent. This effort will be aimed at closing the data gaps identified in the initial [District Fate and Transport](#) review.

The District requires the consultant to assist with ensuring that the proper lab methods are being used based on the hauled waste type/matrix, interpreting and evaluating sample results, and assessing the impact hauled waste types with varying PFAS concentrations have on effluent concentrations, including the influence of precursor compounds.

In addition, the District requires the consultant to assist with establishing an additional influent sampling point downstream of the septage receiving area and to determine an appropriate sampling frequency. This sampling point would provide opportunity for a comparison of influent that enters the plant at different areas of the treatment system to better understand the influence of influent sources (force mains vs. septage receiving) as septage received at the facility is not represented in the existing influent flow-weighted composite samples or individual force main samples. This is planned to be completed in 2027.

Collection System

The District requires a consultant to assist with the planning, sampling, and analysis efforts for determining the relative contribution of PFAS from the different collection system sewersheds that serve each influent force main. This will allow for better understanding of the influence of the different areas of the collection system on the force main and effluent PFAS concentrations as well as show differences between residential source areas. Planning is expected to be completed in 2027-2028 and sampling could begin in 2028 through 2029. Current force main data can be found on the District’s PFAS results page for reference. It should be noted that sampling and data collection from industrial users is not part of this effort. Data could be available from industrial sources through the industrial pretreatment program.

Biosolids

The District is in the process of finalizing a facility plan for a Class A thermally hydrolyzed biosolids product (Class A liquid). The District desires the consultant to offer support in the development of a sampling plan to understand the PFAS levels in the final product and

additional sampling points at process steps in biosolids handling as needed. This information will provide insight into the District's ability to influence PFAS levels in the final product. The sampling plan would also serve to provide a blueprint for the District to collect the most representative sample once sampling is required under the Districts WPDES permit for the new Class A product. Additionally, the consultant will offer support with sampling and testing the product as part of agronomic field trials, which are expected to begin in 2028.

Modeling Tools

The District has established waste acceptance PFAS evaluation tools, currently built in Excel, modeling the impact of PFAS impacted wastewater accepted via the collection system or hauled waste on the PFAS concentrations in the effluent or biosolids. The District desires that the consultant evaluates, updates, and improves these waste evaluation tools to adapt to changing requirements or additional District needs.

Improvements include adapting the tool to allow for multiple waste inputs concurrently and at different times, as well as showing the impact the wastewater could have on biosolids concentrations and effluent concentrations in one combined tool, making updating tool inputs from the online dashboard data a more seamless process.

The consultant should also provide maintenance and updates for the tools over the course of 2027 to 2029 in addition to any additional adaptations. The excel spreadsheets can be made available upon request. Any tool created will be ultimately owned by the District and should be able to be permanently accessible by the District.

Data Review and District Staff Training

The District requires the consultant to progressively transition routine PFAS QA/QC data review capabilities to District staff. The consultant shall provide training and knowledge transfer related to review and interpretation of standard PFAS samples collected under the District's annual sampling program, including class A biosolids, class B biosolids, influent, effluent, and other routine PFAS samples identified by the District.

The anticipated transition is as follows:

Year 1 – 2027 - The consultant will continue to perform routine data review and quality assurance activities while working with District staff to establish consistent data review procedures.

Year 2 – 2028 - The consultant will provide formal training to District staff on laboratory data review, quality assurance/quality control evaluation, interpretation of PFAS analytical results, identification of anomalous results, and documentation of data review. District staff will begin performing routine data review with consultant oversight.

Year 3 – 2029 - District staff will be responsible for routine data review. The consultant will serve as a technical backup and provide quality assurance oversight, troubleshooting, and additional training as necessary.

The consultant shall provide training materials, procedures, checklists, or other documentation necessary to support the District's continued ability to perform these activities following completion of the contract.

PFAS Lab Cost Analysis

An assessment of the preliminary evaluation of costs for in-house PFAS analysis was completed for the District in 2025. This cost evaluation did not include staffing. The District requires the consultant to expand on this assessment, assisting with a cost benefit analysis of sending out PFAS samples long-term vs purchasing instrumentation and training staff or increasing staff resources to do in-house. The cost benefit analysis is intended to assist the District in long-term budget and staffing planning.

General Assistance

The District requires the consultant to provide support with any federal or EPA sampling programs in which the District may be required to participate as part of federal Clean Water Act compliance. Additional consultant support may be requested as needed.

Timetable

The RFP timetable is tentative only and may be changed by the District at any time.

Target Date	Step	Notes
10/6/2026	RFP Issuance	
10/19/2026 11 a.m.	Deadline for Respondent Questions	
10/21/2026 3 p.m.	Respondent Questions Answered	Answers will be posted on the District website.
10/30/2026 3 p.m.	Respondent Proposals Due	
11/6/2026	District Proposal Review Completed	
Week of 11/9/2026	District Interviews with Candidates	Dependent upon adequacy of information obtained from written proposals.
Week of 11/9/2026	District Selection Made and Candidates Notified	Selection and notification may be delayed depending on District staff availability.
11/19/2026	Commission Transaction Approval	The District will omit this step if costs are below the threshold for Commission approval
1/1/2027	Engagement begins	Exact date may be adjusted depending as mutually acceptable to the District and the selected respondent.

Evaluation of Proposals, Consultant Selection, and Contracting

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee composed of District staff. Proposals will be scored based on 100 possible points, with the evaluation criteria weighted as follows:

- Qualifications and experience of the firm and assigned personnel (25%)
- Project understanding and approach (45%)
- Tasks, hours, and proposed budget (20%)
- Schedule (10%)

Following the review of proposals, the District may, at its discretion, further evaluate applicants by interviews. All interviews will be remote via the Microsoft Teams Platform. Interviews will be scheduled for the period in the timetable above.

The Review Committee's recommendation will be for the consultant deemed to be in the best interest of the project based on both the proposal and, if applicable, interview. The District reserves the right to contract for all or part of the project. The contract and associated scope of work will be a "not-to-exceed" contract. Work is expected to start by Jan 1st 2027, but may begin earlier, depending on resource availability. The District desires to have all tasks completed by December 31st, 2029, other than the 2029 report work, which is expected be completed by August 1, 2030.

Award shall be made to the consultant determined to be the best qualified by the review committee, based on the evaluation criteria set forth in the Request for Proposals and upon negotiation of compensation determined to be fair and reasonable. If compensation cannot be agreed upon with the best qualified consultant, negotiations may be conducted with such other consultant or consultants in the order of their respective ranking; and the contract may be awarded to the consultant then ranked as best qualified.

Proposal Submittal

Written proposals are to be submitted at the District office before 3:00 p.m. CST on Friday, October 30, 2026. Proposals shall not exceed 8 pages.

Proposals must note the respondent's ability to meet requirements and proposed modifications to District requirements, if any. (For MMSD insurance requirements please see our standard [Professional Services Agreement \(PSA\)](#).)

The proposing firm **must provide**:

- Certificate of Insurance (COI). If awarded the contract.

- Fee schedule for all employees to be included in the project.
- Fee schedule for all subcontractors to be included in the project.

The proposals shall include the following sections:

- **Qualifications and related experience** for your firm and any sub-consultants. For each team member assigned to this project include relevant experience for their specific responsibility.
- **Project understanding and approach:** Demonstrate a complete understanding of the project and include a detailed description of your team's approach to the work. Include a discussion of key issues that may be encountered during the process and how they will be addressed. Comment on what you believe will be particularly important to the success of the project.
- **Parts, Tasks, Hours, and Proposed Budget:** Provide estimated hours and budget for each part and tasks included in your approach as well as an overall project budget. Include billable rates for each team member; indicate any expenses (e.g., travel, food, etc.) that are billed outside of salaries and account for any expected adjustments.

The District has a budget of \$100,000 for consultant support in 2027 and anticipates a similar budget in 2028 and 2029 work; however, costs should be in line with the scope and timeline of the engagement. A proposer may wish to consider providing cost estimates in tiers if they feel some services would be beneficial but are concerned the total cost would be too high.

- **Schedule:** Break down the project into tasks and show how and when the various tasks will be completed to meet major milestones, including timelines and key meetings.

Additional Documentation

MMSD will provide, on request, electronic copies of:

- District's PFAS Sampling Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- Preliminary evaluation of costs for in-house PFAS analysis
- Visuals of the Waste acceptance PFAS evaluation tool in Excel

Additional Provisions

Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements

In connection with the performance of work for this project and under the related contract, the Proposer agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment

because of age, race, religion, color, disability, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other status protected by law. This provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

Professional Services Contract

Following the selection of a qualified firm for the work of this RFP, the District and the firm will begin a good faith effort to negotiate a Professional Services Contract for the work. The District will supply our contract template for the basis of negotiations, which will include Terms & Conditions as well as the Scope of Services for performance. MMSD Professional Services Agreement (PSA) Proposers should notify the Project manager of any questions or concerns about the standard Terms & Conditions during the request for proposal process.

Use, Disclosure, and Confidentiality of Information

The information supplied by a Proposer as part of an RFP response will become the property of the District. Proposals will be available to interested parties and other requestors in accordance with the Wisconsin Public Records Law. None of the proposal responses will be made available to the public until after negotiation and award of a contract or cancellation of the procurement.

To the extent allowed by law, the District will treat trade secrets as confidential (if designated as confidential and submitted separately in a sealed envelope). If a Proposer wishes for a proposal to remain confidential, the Proposer must, before submitting a proposal, establish to the District's satisfaction that the proposal be given confidential status. The District reserves the right to make any final disclosure determinations in accordance with the law. (Note: Pricing information will not be considered confidential.)

Use of the District's Name

Upon entering an agreement, the successful Contractor agrees not to use the name of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District in relation to the agreement in commercial advertising, trade literature, or press releases to the public without the prior written approval of the District. The District has the right to enjoin the Contractor from any such use in violation of this provision, and the Contractor shall be responsible for damages and reimbursement of actual reasonable legal fees incurred with regard to legal evaluation and/or legal action taken by the District because of the Contractor's violation of this provision, including fees incurred to obtain an injunction.



Confidentiality

Subject to Wisconsin's Public Records law, any data or other information regarding the District's customers, operations, or methods obtained by the Contractor during the course of the project shall remain confidential and shall not be released to third parties without the express written consent of the District.