Presentation to the 44th Annual Great Plains Waste Management Conference

Long-term Contract Operations of Water/Wastewater Treatment Systems

Olsson Associates
Alternative Resources, Inc.

March 30, 2000

Types of Public-Private Partnerships

- **➤** Contract Operations
- ➤ Design/Build
- ➤ Design/Build Operate
- **>**Lease
- >Sale

History of Contract Operations

- □Majority short term contracts
- □For O&M of water and wastewater plants
- □Few collection/distribution systems
- □Few pumping stations
- □No laboratory services
- □No billing and collection

Characteristics of Short Term Contracts

- Limited \$ for capital improvements
- Limited \$ for non-routine maintenance
- Municipal approvals req'd for major expenses
- Most risk rests with municipality
- No incentive for vendor performance beyond the minimum contract requirements

Characteristics of Long Term Contracts

- → With advent of IRS rule changes Jan,97
 - 20 year term with one 5 yr renewal
- Management of assets
- → Performance guarantees
- Tight maintenance contract provisions
- → Risk transferred to the private operator
 - WWTP performance, chemical spills, cost of service

Advantages of Long Term Contracts

- Significant service fee cost savings
- Complete asset management
- Incentives for private investment in plant
- Municipal approvals for expenditures not required - maintenance is not deferred
- Stabilization of user fees

Protection of Assets

- ▶ Long term asset management
- ▼ Full responsibility for all "inside the fence" activities
- Detailed scope of services define level of service expected
- ▶ Precise performance standards define operation and maintenance activities
- Municipal contract monitoring over the 20 year term

Components of Asset Management

- Commitment to proper maintenance
- Municipal contract monitoring -due diligence
- Performance testing
- Plant must satisfy performance requirements throughout contract term - up to last day

Labor and the Long Term Contract

- © Equal or better pay and benefits
- Opportunity for advancement
- All employees maintain employment
- © Employee leasing agreement possible
 - Invitation to join private operator
 - Option to remain municipal employee
 - Payment made to municipality for employees
- Staff reductions due to natural attrition

Procurement of Long Term Contracts

- Setting objectives
- Defining key business terms and conditions
- Preparing the procurement documents
- Interacting with prospective proposers
- Evaluating proposals received
- Select most advantageous proposal
- Contract negotiations

Why Municipalities Find It Difficult To Compete

- Local procurement constraints and regulation
- Change slowly initiated
- Capital repair & replacement \$ must be constantly approved -- risks deferment of needed service
- Politics encumber efficient action
- Hidden agendas of "election cycles"
 - Lack of support for municipal wwtp staff

Allocation of Risk

- O&M service fee is fixed fee risk to private party for absorbing unforeseen costs
- Performance of private operator guaranteed
- Environmental compliance is a risk of the private operator
- Disposal of residuals is private operator risk

Cost Savings From Long Term Contracts

- Inherent efficiencies in long term control
- Procurement of supplies and materials
- Encourage cost-effective O&M services
- Service fee not over-inflated budget, actual bid cost
- Incentives for private contractor to implement cost saving capital improvements

Ensuring Private Vendor Performance

- Corporate Guarantee
- Highly detailed performance guarantees
- Performance bond over the 20 year term
- Labor & materials payment bond over 20 year term
- Annual independent inspection
- Encouragement of capital repair & replacement
 - Tight contract terms defining O&M obligations

Key Business Terms and Conditions

- Performance guarantees
- Regulatory compliance risk
- Fixed price defined, predicable service fee
- Change in law risk
- Force majeure risk
- Indemnification
- Payment for transaction costs