

21-092-3P Battery E Activated Sludge Facility, O'Brien WRP

Construction Contract 21-092-3P Battery E Activated Sludge Facility, O'Brien WRP is being financed by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), SRF Loan No. L177090. The SRF program is administered by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and receives a portion of its money to fund these types of projects from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. SRF programs operate in each state to provide communities the resources necessary to build, maintain, and improve the infrastructure that protects one of our most valuable resources: water.

Service Area: North

Location: O'Brien WRP, 3500 W. Howard Street, Skokie, IL 60076

Engineering Consultant: In-House Design

General Contractor: Michels Construction, Inc.

Contract Award Amount: \$389,933,408.76

Award Date: June 18, 2026

Contract Duration: 1460 Calendar Days

Loan Amount: \$25,000,000.00

Loan Interest Rate: 1.96%

Loan Repayment Period: 30 years

Project Description: This project will construct a new activated sludge facility, Battery E, which shall consist of an aeration tank battery, return activated sludge fermenter tank, final settling tanks, operating gallery building, influent and effluent conduits, post aeration channel, utility tunnel, and all other supporting infrastructure.

Project Justification: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the O'Brien WRP requires the MWRD to meet a new 1.0 mg/L monthly average total phosphorus effluent limit beginning in 2027, and a 0.5 mg/L annual geometric mean total phosphorus effluent limit by 2030. Sidestream enhanced biological phosphorus removal through return activated sludge fermentation will be used to meet these new limits. The addition of sidestream enhanced biological phosphorus removal will decrease aeration volume and existing capacity by almost 16 percent by converting existing aeration tanks to return activated sludge fermentation tanks. Therefore, a new activated sludge aeration battery, Battery E, is required to make up for the lost aeration volume. Battery E will also allow for more extensive rehabilitation of existing Batteries A, B, and C, which are nearing 100 years old, to ensure continued operation of the O'Brien WRP for another 100 years.

