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By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times The Seward County Landfill has moved to a new phase in installing a Flexible Membrane Liner in Cell 2 of its facility.

Landfill supervisor Mike Tabor said the compacted soil liner which goes underneath the FML is now being installed after commissioners gave the OK last month to that phase.

Now, landfill officials have prepared a request for proposal and submitted it to several area contracting companies who have experience and expertise to the project.

Tabor said the project requires a large amount of oversight and testing of seams and material strength and certification sent to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for approval prior to placement of waste. Tabor added that due to tight schedules, the landfill was set to receive proposals back on May 28 for review, and he will bring the results of those proposals to the county commission tonight for recommendation and approval.

“Following the compacted soil phase, we will immediately be moving into installation of the FML liner on top of the compacted clay,” Tabor said. “It is imperative that the FML be installed at the completion of the compacted soil liner project to avoid deterioration of the compacted liner by any weather events.”

The FML for the project was purchased in 2009, when Tabor said prices for plastic had gone down.

“That makes this part of the project much less costly at this point,” he said. “By doing the advance purchase, we saved over \$100,000 in costs compared to what the liner is today. The RFP for that project will involve installation of the liner and geonet cover only.”

Tabor said completion of this phase will enable the landfill to have five to eight years additional space before the next phase will need to be done, completing construction on Cell 2.

“We received proposals for installation of the FML,” he said. “The proposals were requested in several segments – the mobilization cost, installation of the FML, installation of geonet and installation of leachate pipe.”

Because of the location of the companies bidding on the project, mobilization projects varied, but the cost of installation on both the FML and geonet were within 5 percent of each other.

“The leachate pipe installed varied a little,” Tabor said.

The landfill supervisor said the key factor in the bid is experience and the time frame to start and install.

“While there is about \$7,000 difference in the total bid, this is somewhat misleading as to what amount of work we will do on the leachate pipe install,” he said. “We will be assisting with gravel placement to some extent. So that price could vary to some extent.”

Tabor said of the two companies that bid, Environmental Specialties International, a Louisiana-based company, has installed the previous seven liner phases at the landfill.

“They also sold us the liner material at a significant discounted price when we purchased it,” he said. “MidAmerica Liner Company has supplied us several references where they have done large projects, but they have done work for us previous to this.”

Therefore, based on previous installs and experience, Tabor is recommending the approval of the prices in the Environmental Specialties International.

“The reason for the unit price approval is because all of the quantities in the base proposal will change once the project is completed and companies are paid on installed units,” he said.

The ESI bid came in at around \$84,000, and if approved, the money for the project will come from the landfill’s capital improvement plan line item budget.

The county commission meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. today in the commission chambers in the Seward County Administration Building.

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