



Department Source: City Utilities - Water and Light

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 6, 2019

Re: Authoring the City Manager to Designate the Utilities Department Director as the Certifying Official for execution of an Electronic Signature Agreement (ESA) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to designate the Utilities Department Director as the Certifying Official for execution of an Electronic Signature Agreement (ESA) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to comply with the Risk Management Plan (RMP) Rule, Section 112(r) of the 1990 Clean Air Act. The RMP rule requires facilities that use extremely hazardous substances to develop a Risk Management Plan. These plans must be revised and resubmitted to EPA every five years.

## Discussion

Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act Amendments requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish regulations and guidance for chemical accident prevention at facilities that use certain hazardous substances. These regulations and guidance are contained in the Risk Management Plan (RMP) rule. The RMP rule requires facilities that use extremely hazardous substances to develop a Risk Management Plan which:

- Identifies the potential effects of a chemical accident
- Identifies steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident
- Identify emergency response procedures should an accident occur.

These plans provide valuable information to local fire, police, and emergency response personnel to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies in their community. Making RMPs available to the public also fosters communication and awareness to improve accident prevention and emergency response practices at the local level.

The City of Columbia's water production facility in McBaine qualifies as a facility under the RMP rule for its use of chlorine. The chlorine is used in the plant for treating drinking water. The chlorination system at the plant may contain up to 40,000 pounds of chlorine at any one time.

The EPA has developed an internet based tool to submit RMPs. Software called RMP\*eSubmit is the only way to submit RMPs to EPA. RMP\*eSubmit improves data quality and to enables facilities to access their RMP. In order to register for the RMP\*eSubmit, the City must file an Electronic Signature Agreement (ESA). The electronic signature is used to verify that the Certifying Official reviewed and submitted the RMP in the RMP\*eSubmit



# City of Columbia

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system. Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to designate the Utilities Department Director as the Certifying Official. Once completed the Certifying Official will designate a staff member to revise and submit an updated RMP to the RMP\*eSubmit system. More information about the RMP\*eSubmit system and the Risk Management Plan (RMP) Rule may be found at the following:  
<https://www.epa.gov/rmp>.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None  
Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

## Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends Council adopt an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to designate the Utilities Department Director as the Certifying Official for execution of an Electronic Signature Agreement (ESA) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).