



Office of Facilities Services
625 9th Street Ste. 214
Rapid City, SD 57701
P (605) 394-4105

Geothermal HVAC and Lighting Modernization

As we are all increasingly aware, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency are crucial priorities in today's world. I am excited to propose the implementation of a geothermal HVAC system for one of the largest middle schools in our district, alongside the installation of LED lighting infrastructure. This comprehensive initiative aims to address the inefficiencies in our current HVAC systems, particularly the lack of air conditioning, while simultaneously reducing our carbon footprint and long-term operating costs.

However, it's important to acknowledge that a project of this magnitude presents significant financial challenges for our district. The upfront investment required for the installation of geothermal HVAC systems and LED lighting infrastructure may strain our budgetary resources. Yet, despite these challenges, I firmly believe that the long-term benefits and cost savings associated with these sustainable technologies far outweigh the initial financial burden.

Geothermal HVAC systems significantly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and minimize greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global efforts to combat climate change. Additionally, the introduction of LED lighting offers numerous benefits to our community, including substantial energy savings and improved lighting quality.

By strategically allocating resources and exploring potential funding sources such as grants, partnerships, and energy efficiency incentives, we can overcome these financial hurdles and make this ambitious project a reality. Moreover, investing in sustainability aligns with our district's commitment to providing a safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible learning environment for our students and staff.

The implementation of these sustainable technologies not only demonstrates our dedication to environmental stewardship but also presents valuable educational opportunities for our students and community members. By actively involving students in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of these initiatives, we can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the future of our planet.

I believe that by working together and leveraging our collective resources, we can successfully implement this transformative project and position our district as a leader in sustainable education and infrastructure.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to our continued collaboration for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Jade Clement

Construction and Planning Manager

Jade.Clement@k12.sd.us

US EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

March 15, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the City of Rapid City and their proposed EPA Grant submission. I strongly support the participation of South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (Mines) as a part of this endeavor. Improving the energy use and decreasing the carbon footprint for Mines and the City of Rapid City has the potential to make a real impact in our community.

By including Mines in the grant submission, we will be able to integrate these projects as part of the curriculum to teach future engineers and scientists as well as decreasing energy use on campus. Additionally, we can provide support to the City of Rapid City for outreach.

I strongly believe that City of Rapid City is the right municipality for this grant. Rapid City is a growing community and has the experience and expertise to execute this project with excellence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office at 605.394.2257 or president@sdsmt.edu. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



James Rankin, PhD PE
President
South Dakota Mines



**WESTERN
DAKOTA REGIONAL
WATER SYSTEM**

March 29, 2024

US EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of the City of Rapid City's EPA Climate and Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant application. Western South Dakota is currently experiencing rapid growth in population and water demands, both of which are expected to double over the next century. The Western Dakota Regional Water System (WDRWS) is evaluating alternatives to support this growth in Rapid City and the surrounding area through regional water service.

By incorporating WDRWS in the grant submission, we will be able to evaluate energy sources that decrease the pump stations' carbon footprint with local and regional power providers during the planning stages. The evaluation will compare solar, wind, and hydroelectric (if available) power sources to reduce the carbon footprint, as the pump stations will have significant power demands.

The WDRWS is committed to being good stewards of our resources and natural environment. To that end, we strongly support Rapid City's EPA grant submission.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 605-484-0334 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Chapman, PhD, PE
Executive Director
Western Dakota Regional Water System, Inc.

March 14, 2024

Lysann Zeller
Sustainability & Stewardship Program Development Manager
City of Rapid City
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Lysann –

It is my pleasure to pen this letter of support to accompany The Monument's EPA Grant Application.

The Monument is a City Owned Facility with a storied 47-year history of hosting community events of all types for citizens of Rapid City. The Monument facilities have impacted nearly every stage of life in our community by hosting dance recitals, youth sports, high school musical competitions, state sports tournaments, high school and local college graduations and celebrations of life.

Additionally, many of our community's non-profit entities host events at The Monument. Those events raise funds to further support all members of our community. Examples include Kids Fair, Heart Ball, Love Inc banquet, United Way, religious charities, school foundations, and more.

Likewise, The Monument is home to professional sports including the Rapid City Rush Professional Hockey, the Rapid City Marshalls Professional Indoor Football, as well as Rodeo Rapid City with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. All of these events, coupled with national touring shows like Morgan Wallen, JellyRoll, Journey, Chris Stapleton, Moscow Ballet and many more, combine to offer our community and surrounding communities a lifetime of entertainment and memories. The Monument's impact on our community stretches across all spectrums!

The Monument hosts events based on three main pillars:

1 – ***Support the facility's bottom line.*** The Monument operates as an Enterprise Fund within the City of Rapid City. As such, no general fund tax dollars support the operation of The Monument. Rather, a portion of the BBB (Bed, Board, and Booze) tax supports The Monument, along with Visit Rapid City. Approximately 70% of The Monument's operational budget is self-generated. As such, The Monument funds ALL facility capital investment projects within its own operation. Our annual capital budget is approximately \$750,000 for our \$300 million dollar facility – a fraction of the need. Any financial savings we can gain thru such things as improved lighting efficiencies within

THE
MONUMENT

our facility, will help to offset our \$1 million in annual operational utility costs and allow us to redirect some of our funds to needed capital projects, in order to sustain the community's investment in this facility.

2 – Premier host for community events. The Monument was built to be the community's center. As such, we host many, many community events, several which were mentioned above. The facility was voted on and paid for by the citizens of Rapid City and therefore nearly 60% of our rental revenue is generated by not-for-profit events. This is a unique dynamic in the venue facility world. Most venues book events purely based on profitability. The Monument gives heavily weighted consideration to local events in its booking calendar. We are honored to be the "community's center."

3 – Economic impact for the City of Rapid City. One of the main reasons The Monument was constructed originally and continues to be supported by the citizens of Rapid City today, is due to the economic impact the facility creates for the community. A 2022 economic impact study indicated The Monument has a \$131.3 million-dollar annual impact on our local community. With over 800,000 annual visitors and nearly 1000 event days per year, The Monument's events create a vast impact on the community by driving visitor dollars to hotel rooms, restaurants, bars, retail, and tourism establishments in the local area. These dollars translate to local businesses and local sales tax dollars, which supports our local governmental services including police, fire, EMS, public works infrastructure, and local charities.

The Monument, led by a volunteer Board of Directors, supported by 52 full time employees and 400+ part time employees, has a strong belief in our Mission, Vision, and Values.

MISSION STATEMENT: Bringing people together through events, entertainment, and hospitality.

VISION STATEMENT: Setting the standard for events, entertainment, and hospitality.

VALUES:

Teamwork – supporting each other
Customer Service – people matter
Respect – care in our actions and words
Integrity – doing the right thing
Dedication – commitment to what we do

Our Mission, Vision, Values, along with our three main event booking pillars comprise our belief in our role within our community. We look forward to continuing to build our role within the community by creating efficiencies within our organization, including lighting efficiencies, afforded by this grant opportunity.

Thank you, Lysann, for spearheading this effort to garner grant funding for the City of Rapid City and The Monument. Please let us know what we can do to further assist in this process!

Sincerely,

THE MONUMENT



Craig Baltzer
Executive Director

THE
MONUMENT



Public Works Department Administration

300 6th Street Rapid City, SD 57701-5035

Telephone: (605) 394-4165

www.rcgov.org

March 25th, 2024

US EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

US EPA,

City of Rapid City is in the unfortunate position that a majority of the streetlights throughout the city are legacy high-intensity discharge. The City's Traffic Engineering and Operations is intending to address the issues with reliability of the streetlights to provide a more consistent environment for the travelling public with converting to LED streetlight. This would allow the city to direct the street lighting to the traveling surface which would reduce accidents frequency and severity. The new LED fixtures would be required to be compliant with the Dark Sky initiative to provide additional benefits to the citizens and wildlife of the Black Hills area. This opportunity would reduce the carbon emissions from the street lighting in half and provide a reduction in operating costs for the city. These funds can then be used by other areas of the city to provide further benefits to the citizens of Rapid City.

I feel very strongly that this project allows the City of Rapid City the best chance to move in a positive direction in addressing the carbon emissions in the Black Hills.

Sincerely,

Matthew Layman, P.E.
City Traffic Engineer



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

Department of Parks and Recreation

515 West Boulevard

605-394-4175 • Fax 605-394-5307

March 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this our official letter of support for the City of Rapid City's EPA Climate and Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant application.

Improvements included in this request will include lighting upgrades to athletic fields, resulting in both energy savings and reduced operational costs to the City and several sports organizations currently holding lease agreements for city-owned athletic fields.

This CPRG Implementation Grant will provide the opportunity to lower greenhouse gas emissions by converting existing sports lighting to more efficient and desirable LED lighting.

If the City of Rapid City is awarded funding through this grant, the Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing the necessary resources to maintain the athletic field lighting improvements included in the grant application.

Thank you for your consideration of the EPA Climate and Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant application submitted by the City of Rapid City. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or comments.

Sincerely,

Jeff Biegler, Director

Department of Parks and Recreation