

Waukesha Water Utility hires contract compliance firm

WAUKESHA — To keep a close eye on the amount of money spent on construction costs related to acquiring and returning Lake Michigan water, the Waukesha Water Utility has hired the construction contract compliance division of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause. Baker Tilly has experience with large pipeline projects and has worked to help clients reduce financial risk and realize savings.

“We are preparing to embark on one of the largest municipal water supply projects in the history of the state of Wisconsin,” Dan Duchniak, Waukesha Water Utility general manager, said in a statement. “Baker Tilly will work to help us so that ratepayers’ dollars are buying only what we need.”

The \$207 million project will build a pipeline from the lake, upgrade the city’s water treatment plant and build a second pipe to return the treated water back to the Root River, allowing the water to flow back to the lake.

“Managing this money is a huge responsibility,” Donna Scholl, CPA and the utility’s administrative services manager, said in the announcement. “We want to tap into Baker Tilly’s expertise sooner, rather than later, to avoid making the common mistakes.”

According to the announcement, the utility has begun to talk with project and construction management firms and wants to have a project manager hired this fall. In addition to helping with that contract, Baker Tilly will be auditing the firm’s bills.

— Freeman Staff