

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 131 -2022

Introduced: September 6, 2022

Auditor: Owen Clark

Fiscal Impact:

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), the fiscal impact of this legislation is the County's anticipated costs to upgrade the electric service that will serve the County's brine facility, currently estimated to be \$48,890, that will be paid using General Obligation Bonds.

The DPW has indicate that without this easement, the anticipated costs would not be incurred, and the County's brine facility would not be able to operate.

Also, a separate amount of \$3,300 has already been paid for the design and construction of this electrical upgrade at the brine facility. The DPW has indicated that only the design portion of these services have been provided to date. If this easement were not approved, the non-refundable portion of upgrade amount will be a sunk cost to the County that will require a transfer to the County's general fund operating budget.

NOTE: After an inquiry from our Office, we were informed by the DPW that this project will be paid out of Capital Project C0348 – Modernization of Fleet and Highway Shops, which is different from what is noted in the Administration's testimony (which states the project will be paid out of Capital Project C0317-Systemic Facility Improvements).

Purpose:

This legislation will authorize the County Executive to grant easements to BGE so that it can extend electric service to the Old Annapolis Brine Facility in Ellicott City.

The DPW has indicated to our Office that this easement will also retroactively provide permanent access for the transformer that serves the County Pumping Station located nearby.

Other Comments:

Per the DPW:

- The need for an electrical service upgrade for the brine facility in proximity of this easement was not discovered until January 2022, when the electrical contractor was ready to connect the new brine equipment to the facility.
- There is no plan for this proposed easement to serve any non-county entities.