

HERMITAGE

Authority OKs lease to store digester equipment

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The anaerobic digestion equipment that will be installed at the Hermitage Water Pollution Control Plant is arriving this week, long before workers are ready for it.

Hermitage Municipal Authority on Wednesday approved a lease with Kypa Co. to store the equipment in the Delta Constructors Inc. building at 2984 Kirila Road, just up the street from the plant. The authority will pay \$450 a month, and likely will need the space through the year, officials said.

Consulting engineer Joseph P. Pacchioni said the authority had to order the equipment from Infilco Degremont Inc. in time to take advantage of a state grant, which required that the money be spent by June. Officials still were designing the plant expansion and did not award construction bids until the fall of 2010, a year after the equipment was ordered.

“It started it rolling at eight months ahead of everything else,” Pacchioni said of the grant requirement. It’s cheaper for the authority to store the equipment than it would be for IDI to do so, said officials, who received one other local quote. Construction of the plant expansion is expected to continue well into 2012, with a goal of being operational in December 2012.

The digester will “cook” sludge and food waste to create a biogas that will be burned to generate electricity and a high quality sludge that will not have to be trucked to a landfill for disposal.