



The city of Minneapolis is seeking proposals for a new ice system at Target Center, seen here from the intersection of Sixth Street and First Avenue North in downtown Minneapolis. (Staff photo: Bill Klotz)

Target Center to get new ice floor, refrigeration system

By: Brian Johnson June 10, 2015 3:48 pm 0

Target Center is known mostly as the home of the Timberwolves and Lynx basketball teams, but the city-owned building also hosts occasional hockey games and other events that require a good sheet of ice.

Like other things within the 25-year-old, 20,000-seat arena at 600 First Ave. N. in Minneapolis, the ice refrigeration system is aging and in need of regular repairs, which is why the city plans to replace it as part of an upcoming project.

The project "covers the ice floor and ice system for Target Center, and is needed to have a fully functioning facility," city spokesman Casper Hill said in an email.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for June 18 and bids are due July 15, according to a 304-page [request for proposals](#).

The work is not within the scope of the \$129 million Target Center renovation, which is expected to begin later this year and wrap up in 2017. That [project](#) includes everything from exterior improvements to new suites and club seating.

Rather, the ice system is part of the "annual reinvestment the city makes in this venue," Hill said.

"The current ice system is the original one that was part of Target Center when it was first constructed 25 years ago," he said. "That system is coming to the end of its useful life, as it has needed more maintenance in the past few years."

Leo A Daly in Minneapolis is the architect of record for the estimated \$1.5 million project, which is scheduled to begin and end in summer 2016.

One reason for the project is to replace the old "R-22" refrigerant, which is being phased out nationally for environmental reasons.

Hill said the city will upgrade to an "R-407C" system, which is on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of approved refrigerants.

The choice was "based on the recommendations of our consultant and the limitations of the mechanical space available" for Target Center's unusual floor system, Hill said.

Scott Ward, a principal and vice president of [Stevens Engineers](#) in Hudson, Wisconsin, said the R-22 will no longer be

manufactured or imported starting in 2020, though arena operators will still be able to use the product as long as it's available.

Stevens Engineers does a lot of work on ice systems, including current projects for the city of St. Louis Park, Augsburg College and other clients. But it's not involved in the Target Center project, Ward said.

According to the RFP, the Target Center project includes "demolition and replacement of the refrigerated ice rink, modifications to the refrigeration system, replacement of the refrigerant, and modifications to the ice melt pit system."

Target Center's ice floor is equipped with an elevator, a "very unique" feature that allows arena operators to adjust the floor for better sight lines for hockey and basketball, Hill noted.

Like the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Target Center hosts college and high school hockey games. It also attracts events like Disney's "Frozen on Ice," which drew 80,000 visitors in April, Hill said.

"Making sure Target Center's ice rink system is functioning well will ensure that events like this can continue," he said.

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