

Louisiana Public Service Commission



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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-9154
www.lpsc.louisiana.gov

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BRANDON M. FREY
Executive Secretary

JOHNNY E. SNELMGROVE, JR
Deputy Undersecretary

June 5, 2018

VIA E-MAIL

Lane Kollen
Randy Futral
J. Kennedy and Associates, Inc.
570 Colonial Park Drive, Suite 305
Roswell, GA 30075

Re: *Docket No. TBD: In re: Solicitation for under \$50,000 bid to assist Staff in Reviewing Cleco Power LLC's upcoming application for renewal of blanket financing authorization.*

Dear Mr. Kollen and Mr. Futral:

Cleco Power, LLC ("Cleco" or "Company") has notified the Commission via the attached correspondence dated May 31, 2018 that it intends to file an application next week to renew its existing blanket finance authorization, initially approved by the Commission in Order No. U-28765-A, and extended in Order Nos. U-31299 and S-32218. Cleco intends to request that the Commission take action on its application at or before the Commission's October 2018 B&E.

Your firm has previously assisted the Commission with Docket No. S-33218 which makes your firm uniquely qualified to assist in this review. Therefore, by way of this bid solicitation letter, the Commission is seeking a proposed budget from your firm to act as independent technical consultant to assist the Commission in conducting a review of Cleco's filing and to work closely with in-house Legal, Utilities, and Auditing Staff.

If you are retained in this matter, you will perform all necessary steps to bring this matter before the Commission including but not limited to the following: review the application and supporting documentation; review the prior authorizations granted; prepare and review data requests and responses; prepare for filing any required memoranda; prepare a report and/or pre-filed testimony in support of Staff's ultimate recommendations, together with exhibits supporting the report and/or pre-filed testimony. The scope of the work shall continue through a Commission vote on Staff's Recommendation. Further, if the blanket finance authorization is

ultimately renewed, you will perform all necessary steps to review notice filings for future debt issuances that would be covered by the blanket financing authorization, including but not limited to the following: review the notice filing and supporting documentation; prepare and review formal and/or informal data requests and responses; prepare a report and/or letter of non-opposition in support of Staff's ultimate recommendation; and review any follow-up documentation provided by the Company.

The November 10, 2014 General Order states, in part:

A. No Formal RFP Process Required

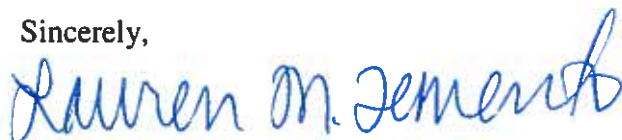
1. Contracts for consulting and/or legal services which are anticipated to result in a maximum bid amount of compensation, including all professional fees but excluding expenses, to not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), may be considered and approved by the Commission without the necessity of an RFP. The expenses allowed for such services shall be limited to twenty percent (20%) of the total bid amount, unless the Commission specifically authorizes a greater amount.

In instances where no formal RFP process is required, the Commission Staff may select one or more qualified counsel and/or consultants (whichever applies) from the Consultant Lists which are compiled and kept on file at the Commission. Except in the event of a Procurement Emergency, Staff will notify in writing Selected Qualified Counsel and/or Consultants who will be asked to submit proposals for Staff review within the time frame specified in the request. The request shall provide sufficient detail regarding the appointment. All responsive proposals complying with the expense and cost limitation of the preceding paragraph responses shall be submitted to the Commission for formal vote at a properly noticed Business and Executive Session or at a Special Executive Session.

Based on the three prior blanket financing authorizations, the Commission Staff anticipates that, based on prior proceedings, the budget necessary to satisfactorily perform the services described herein is less than \$50,000.00. Therefore, no formal RFP is required.

This hire is on the agenda for the Commission's June 20, 2018 Business and Executive Session. If you would like to submit a bid, please do so electronically to brandon.frey@la.gov and lauren.temento@la.gov on or before **June 11, 2018**.

Sincerely,



Lauren M. Temento
LPSC Staff Attorney

Encl.
cc: Brandon Frey

ALAN C. WOLF
Partner
(504) 584-9316
wolfa@phelps.com

May 31, 2018

12922-401

By Email and Express Delivery

Mr. Brandon Frey
Executive Secretary
Louisiana Public Service Commission
Galvez Building, 12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Cleco Power, Planned Application for Renewal and Extension of Blanket Financing Authority

Dear Mr. Frey:

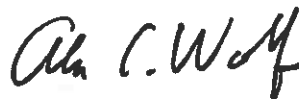
This is on behalf of Cleco Power LLC (Cleco Power).

Cleco Power plans to file an application with the Commission by June 12 of this year under the Commission's General Order, "In re: Commission Approval of Security Issues and Assumptions of Liability," issued November 13, 1996. More specifically, Cleco Power plans to apply to the Commission to renew and extend for an additional term Cleco Power's existing blanket financing authorization, due to expire December 31 of this year, as authorized in the Commission's Order No. S-33218, issued December 8, 2014. In its application, Cleco Power plans to request Commission B & E action in time for the new authorization to become effective January 1, 2019.

We recognize that in many cases such as this, the Commission determines that it is appropriate to retain outside economic expertise to assist Staff in its review of such applications. Should that be the case here, we request that the Commission consider retaining such expertise at the Commission's next B & E, scheduled in June of this year. The reason for this request is to avoid any undue delay in the Staff's review of the application planned to be filed, as mentioned, by June 12, in order to facilitate Cleco Power's aim for B & E action this Fall on coming application.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Yours truly,



ACW/hlk

Cc: Lauren Temento, LPSC
Robert Cleghorn, Cleco Power
Kristin Guillory, Cleco Power
John O. Shirley, Phelps Dunbar
Nathan G. Huntwork, Phelps Dunbar

COUNSELORS AT LAW