

Louisiana Public Service Commission



POST OFFICE BOX 91154
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-9154
www.lpsc.louisiana.gov

COMMISSIONERS

Eric F. Skrmetta, Chairman
District I
Lambert C. Boissiere, Vice Chairman
District III
Foster L. Campbell
District V
Mike Francis
District IV
Craig Greene
District II

Telephone: (225) 342-9888

EVE KAHAO GONZALEZ
Executive Secretary

BRANDON M. FREY
Executive Counsel

JOHNNY E. SNELLGROVE, JR
Deputy Undersecretary

November 3, 2017

Re: Solicitation for under \$50K bids from independent counsel to assist Staff in reviewing Docket No. X-34674 *In re: Dispute between Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“WST”) and Cleco Power LLC regarding WST’s expired franchise agreement with the City of Slidell. DEADLINE EXTENDED!*

Dear Counsel:

At the Commission’s September 20, 2017 Business and Executive Session, Chairman Skrmetta directed Louisiana Public Service Commission (“LPSC” or “Commission”) Staff to open a docket to review the dispute between WST and Cleco and the City of Slidell regarding WST’s expired franchise agreement with the City of Slidell. There was no opposition to the directive and Docket X-34674 was subsequently published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin dated October 20, 2017 for informational purposes. Cleco Power LLC and WST are automatically made parties to the docket.

By way of this bid solicitation letter, the Commission is seeking bids from independent counsel to assist the Commission Staff through to the resolution of Docket No. X-34674 including but not limited to possible interpretation of the applicable franchise agreements and possible mediation. At a minimum, general knowledge of regulatory and contract law will be required. All proposals shall be accompanied by a professional firm resume indicating the qualifications and experience necessary to assist the Commission with this project.

The November 10, 2014 General Order states,

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.

¹ This solicitation letter is being reissued to include counsel inadvertently omitted from the previous notice.

The Commission Staff anticipates that, based on prior proceedings, the counsel hired in this proceeding will be able to satisfactorily perform the services described herein for a bid amount less than \$50,000.00 and, thus, an RFP is not mandated.

Commission Staff intends to place this hire on the agenda for the Commission's November Business and Executive Session, currently scheduled for November 17, 2017. If you would like to submit a bid, please do so electronically to rene.robertson@la.gov, melanie.v@la.gov and kim.trosclair@la.gov on or **before Thursday Monday, November 13, 2017 at 12pm noon.**

Sincerely,

**Melanie A. Verzwylvelt
Staff Attorney**