

Louisiana Public Service Commission



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KATHRYN H. BOWMAN
Executive Counsel

April 15, 2021

JOHNNY E. SNELLGROVE, JR.
Deputy Undersecretary

VIA EMAIL

RFP 21-10 – DOCKET NO. U-35936, Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for Certification of the Trinity Solar Project.

To all LPSC qualified consultants:

Enclosed please find a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for **independent technical consultant** issued by the Louisiana Public Service Commission for the above referenced docket. If your firm is interested in submitting a proposal, please review the RFP carefully to determine whether your firm meets the specific requirements to qualify for this representation. All Proposals must include a showing that your firm possesses the requisite qualifications and experience to represent the Commission in this matter. Also, please note that all Proposals, including the **original, plus (2) two copies, and an electronic copy** must be received on or before Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Selection of consultants is anticipated to take place at the Commission’s May 2021 Business and Executive Session.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KHB', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Kathryn H. Bowman
Executive Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Brandon M. Frey, Executive Secretary
Justin Bello, Staff Attorney

RFP 21-10
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFP”)
April 15, 2021

DOCKET NO. U-35936, Southwestern Electric Power Company, ex parte. In re: Application for Certification of the Trinity Solar Project.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (“Commission” or “LPSC”), in accordance with the requirements of the LPSC General Order dated November 10, 2014 regarding the selection of contract employees (the “Contract Order”), issues this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to outside consultants who will assist Commission Staff in the review of Southwestern Electric Power Company’s (“SWEPCO” or “Company”) application for certification of the Trinity Solar Project.

Deviations from the requirements contained herein, or conditional bid amounts may result in rejection of the bid as non-conforming. Consideration of qualifying bids received in response to RFP 21-10 are anticipated to be on the Commission’s May 2021 Business and Executive Session (“B&E”).

I. Overview

On March 18, 2021, SWEPCO applied for certification of the Trinity Solar Project pursuant to the Commission’s General Order dated September 20, 1983 (“Certification Order”).¹ The proposed Trinity Bluff Solar Project (“Project”) is for approximately 750 kW of solar generation in north Caddo Parish, Louisiana, adjacent to a planned subdivision. Per SWEPCO’s application, the Project would improve reliability and grid resiliency for SWEPCO customers and would include a planned solar array at the back of the subdivision, and include onsite battery storage of two, 320 kWh batteries.

The application also indicates SWEPCO intends to install advance metering infrastructure (“AMI”) for the Project. However, after discussions with the Company, the installation of AMI is a merely a possibility. Should SWEPCO decide to install AMI with this Project, the Company acknowledges it will first have to obtain approval from the Commission pursuant to the Commission’s General Order on AMI.² **This RFP does not seek proposals from Applicants on the AMI component of the Project.**

¹ Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: *In the Matter of the Expansion of Utility Power Plant, Proposed Certification of New Plant by the Louisiana Public Service Commission.*

² Commission General Order dated September 22, 2009 (Docket No. R-29213 consolidated with Docket No. R-29213 Subdocket A).

II. Scope of Representation

The scope of representation includes, but is not limited to: review certification application, along with testimony and exhibits; draft and assist in the drafting of data requests; analyze data responses; participate in formal status conferences, pre-trial conferences, depositions, and hearings (whether contested or stipulation); draft and prepare pre-filed testimony in support of Staff's ultimate recommendations, together with exhibits supporting the pre-filed testimony; review and respond to any rebuttal testimony; assist in preparing any necessary direct and cross-answering testimony; assist in trial preparation, including cross-examination of witnesses and drafting pleadings, motions, and exceptions related thereto; review and analyze potential stipulation terms; and assist in drafting briefing sheets and orders of the Commission, as necessary. Additionally, Applicants shall be available to participate in informal conference calls, meetings and conferences with the Commission and Staff as well as attending any B&Es. The scope of the work shall continue through the conclusion of the certification docket through Commission vote, regardless of whether said vote is the result of a stipulated agreement or contested hearing recommendation.

All proposals shall include an outline of a plan of action for this scope of representation. However, the Commission and its Staff shall have the right to determine how the tasks will be carried out. In addition, all proposals shall be accompanied by a professional firm resume indicating the qualifications and experience necessary to meet the requirements of this RFP. Deviations from the requirements contained herein, or conditional bid amounts may result in rejection of the bid as non-conforming.

III. Period of Representation

The time period estimated to complete the Scope of Representation is approximately 10 months. This is merely an estimate and the Commission makes no representations as to the accuracy of the Period of Representation.

IV. Minimum Requirements

To qualify, all Applicants must have requisite knowledge of the topics listed below, in addition to those provided in Commission General Order dated November 10, 2014. Consideration will be given to factors which indicate degrees of competence such as the amount of practical experience in the field of public utility practice, similar practice before this or other regulatory agencies, in addition to the Applicant's knowledge and experience regarding Louisiana resource acquisitions, certifications, regulatory law, and ratemaking principles.

Applicants shall, at a minimum, shall have a working knowledge of LPSC rulemakings and jurisdictional issues, applicable Commission and federal regulations, as well as the following:

1. The Commission's Rules and Orders pertaining to the acquisition of power supply resources, including but not limited to the Commission's MBM Order and its 1983 Order, as amended;

2. Principles associated with resource acquisitions and the competitive process, including but not limited to analyzing utility resource needs and whether the considered resource(s) is able to meet those needs, particularly for renewable/solar resources;
3. Whether or not a resource will provide reliable service at the lowest reasonable cost;
4. Resource planning methods to improve the efficiency of a utility's power supply operations and whether the utility is making use of any such methods;
5. Public interest criteria for approval of resources and purchase power contracts, particularly renewable/solar resources;
6. LPSC rules on affiliate transactions and cost recovery mechanisms for power supply resources, SWEPCO's Formula Rate Plan, and the Commission's General Order dated November 6, 1997 in Docket No. U-21497 regarding fuel cost recovery;
7. Appropriate accounting standards and practices for electric utilities, especially those for investor-owned utilities; and
8. SPP tariffs, rules and planning processes, generally, and specifically related to resource adequacy planning processes and use of zonal resource credits.

V. Estimate of Costs

All proposals shall include fees and direct costs associated with Applicant's services described above. Applicants responding to this RFP shall quote their rates on an hourly basis, and shall submit a total budget, separating professional fees from direct costs. Along with providing the above, Applicants should provide an overview of the estimated costs in the summary of the bid proposal.

Applicants shall only be allowed to charge for actual hours of work performed and costs incurred. Once selected, an Applicant's hourly rates and budget shall not be altered except by formal approval of the Commission.

VI. Conflict of Interest

Applicants shall prominently and separately disclose current, as well as past employment, which could possibly result in a conflict of interest. In addition, Applicants shall disclose matters in which they currently represent clients before the Commission.

VII. Billing Guidelines

As required by the November 10, 2014 General Order, all bills shall be rendered monthly and shall specifically identify and describe all work performed, the person performing such work, the time and charge for such work, and shall additionally show the total amount billed to date and the authorized original estimate. Bills will be rendered in strict accordance with the Commission's guidelines. Expenses shall also be separately disclosed with proof of such expenses attached.

Expenses, where applicable, shall be reimbursed at state authorized rates as specified in the Travel Policies and Procedures Memorandum issued by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration in effect at the time such expenses are incurred ("Allowable Expenses"). Any expenses that exceed the Allowable Expenses shall be borne by the contract employee and shall not be reimbursed by either the Commission, or the correspondent utility, unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

VIII. Reservation of Rights

The LPSC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to amend and/or supplement this RFP at any time, and to consider proposals or modifications thereof received at any time prior to LPSC vote at Open Session, if such action is found by the LPSC to be in the public interest. Pursuant to the General Order regarding the selection of contract employees, the LPSC has the right to accept any offer and does not have to accept the lowest bid amount. In addition, there is also no assurance, express or implied, that an award will necessarily be made pursuant to this RFP.

IX. Submission of Proposals

Interested parties should submit the **original (hard copy), 2 copies, and e-mail an electronic copy** of the proposal to:

Kathryn H. Bowman
Executive Counsel
Louisiana Public Service Commission
602 North Fifth Street (Galvez Building) (70802)
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-9154
Phone: (225) 342-9888
Fax: (225) 342-5610
Email: kathryn.bowman@la.gov

To be considered, an original, two copies, and the electronic copy of the proposal must be received on or before **May 6, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** **Selection of consultants is anticipated to take place at the Commission's May 2021 Business and Executive Session, which is currently scheduled for May 19, 2021.** Information concerning billing procedures and the Commission's RFP policy may be obtained from the address listed above, or by calling (225) 342-9888.