

Louisiana Public Service Commission



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January 5, 2022

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Deputy Undersecretary

VIA EMAIL

RFP 22-1 Docket No. R-36226, Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Evaluation of Louisiana's electric grid regarding status, maintenance, and whether there is more that could have been done and can be done to benefit Louisiana customers.

To all LPSC qualified consultants:

Enclosed please find a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for an **independent engineering 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 Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:30p.m. Selection of consultants is anticipated to take place at the Commission's February 2022 Business and Executive Session.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kathryn H. Bowman
Executive Counsel

Encl.

cc.: Brandon M. Frey, Executive Secretary
Noh Hoggatt, Staff Attorney

RFP 22-1
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFP”)
January 5, 2022

DOCKET NO. R-36226, Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte, In re: Evaluation of Louisiana’s electric grid regarding status, maintenance, and whether there is more that could have been done and can be done to benefit Louisiana customers.

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”) seeking an **independent engineering consultant** who will assist Commission Staff in the evaluation of Louisiana’s transmission grid regarding status, maintenance, and whether more could have been done, or could be done, to benefit Louisiana customers.

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 22-1 are anticipated to be on the Commission’s February 2022 Business and Executive Session (“B&E”), which is currently scheduled for February 23, 2022.

I. Overview

This docket was initiated by an unopposed directive from Chairman Greene at the Commission’s November 17, 2021 B&E, which stated:

I direct Staff to open a docket and take all necessary action, including but not limited to the hiring of an independent engineering firm, to assess the status and maintenance of the transmission grid serving Louisiana, as well as investigate whether certain storm costs could have been avoided with more preemptive maintenance of the transmission grid throughout the state, and to provide recommendations to the Commission that would benefit Louisiana customers in reliability, decreased load pockets, and access to resources outside our load zone.

II. Scope of Representation

Applicants will be assisting Commission in-house Staff (Legal, Utilities, and Auditing Divisions), and outside counsel in: the drafting, review, and potential follow-up to data requests issued to jurisdictional electric utilities; analyzing information/data received from jurisdictional electric utilities regarding each utility’s respective maintenance plan(s) regarding transmission; conducting independent research and analysis on methods where reliability, accountability, and sustainability of Louisiana’s transmission grid can be improved, if any; assisting in drafting requests for information/comments to stakeholders; reviewing and analyze comments filed by all parties; participating in technical conferences; conducting site visits, if deemed necessary; participating in meetings with stakeholders, jurisdictional utilities, and Commissioners, as deemed necessary;

preparing technical analysis as requested by Staff; assisting with the drafting of a Staff recommendation, including the possibility of rules; defending, participating and testifying regarding any proposed recommendations and rules; ensuring that any rules and regulations issued by the Commission conform with the national regulatory standard for regulated utilities; and attending any B&E Sessions as needed. The scope of representation will go through a Commission vote on this matter.

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 12 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. *The Commission's Contract Order requires Applicants to be pre-qualified by the Commission in order to be considered eligible.*

Applicants shall, at a minimum, be qualified and prepared to assist in conducting research and analysis as outlined above, answer questions with respect to all of the issues addressed in this RFP, and be qualified and prepared to render testimony at a technical conference and/or a B&E regarding the same. Applicants shall, in addition to those requirements expressed above, be qualified and prepared to render expert testimony regarding and have knowledge of:

- 1) Public interest criteria for approval and monitoring of electric transmission facilities;
- 2) Construction, design and operation of transmission facilities;
- 3) NERC, SERC, SPP, MISO, and any other applicable standards associated with bulk electric transmission facilities to be located in the State of Louisiana;
- 4) Environmental criteria associated with the design and construction of bulk electric transmission facilities; and
- 5) At a minimum, familiarity with cost allocation methodologies for the allocation of investment and expenses among affiliates and utilities, including the relationship of a

parent company to its subsidiary operating companies; the transfer of investment and costs among affiliates and utilities, and the provision of services among affiliates and utilities.

Further, Applicants must be, or have on staff, a licensed engineer. Such engineer shall be licensed and in good standing with all applicable engineering licensing and certification boards. Applicants must be able to provide technical advice regarding industry standards and widely accepted industry practices regarding transmission grids, and maintenance thereof, as outlined above. Consideration will be given for experience and knowledge of transmission system standards, as well as utility regulation and cost allocation methodologies.

V. Estimate of Costs

Applicants shall provide an overview of the estimated costs in the summary of the bid proposal. All proposals shall include fees and expenses 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 expenses.

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. Potential conflicts could include, but are not be limited to, employment with regulated utilities, affiliates of regulated utilities, consumer advocacy groups, or any other party that comes before the Commission. 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 Contract Order, 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:

Kimberly N. O'Brian
Kathryn H. Bowman
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: kim.obrian@la.gov
kathryn.bowman@la.gov

To be considered, an original, two copies, and the electronic copy of the proposal must be received on or before **Monday, February 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.** **Selection of consultants is anticipated to take place at the Commission's February 2022 Business and Executive Session, which is currently tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2022.** Information concerning billing procedures and the Commission's RFP policy may be obtained from the address listed above, or by calling (225) 342-9888.