M E M O R A N D U M

PROC #20-06

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS
CLARIFICATION NO. 1

SENT VIA E-MAIL

DATE: February 24, 2020

TO: **POTENTIAL RESPONDENTS**

FROM: Margaret M. Maddalena, Contract Administrator

RE: **RFP #001-2020 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE FINANCE, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A FLOATING SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM**

Question #1: Water levels: RFP shows a low water level of 256 ft. (lowest historical form 1960s) and 302.4 ft. as highest design water level (spillway elevation). This represents as overall level variation of 46.4 feet as opposed to the approx. 30 ft. water level variation suggestion. What variation should be utilized in our preliminary design?

Response: ***The design parameters shall be based on recorded historical data. Please note in certain circumstances during storm surges, the depth of flow over the Overflow Weir can increase 6 to 12 inches.***

Question #2: Wind: What is max design wind velocity? Please also specify (if it is gusts i.e. 30s,….or some mean wind of i.e. 10 min?).

Response: ***The Commission does not record maximum wind velocity. Therefore, we have no data.***

Question #3: Waves: What is the design max wave height if any? Could be from wind, boat wake (if boats are allowed on the body of water?).

Response: ***The Commission does not measure nor record the maximum wave height on the reservoir. Boats are not allowed on the reservoir except for those owned by the Commission. The Commission's largest boat is a 21-foot pontoon boat with a 40 Hp outboard motor.***

Question #4: Currents: What is the max current velocity (if applicable)?

Response: ***The Commission does not measure nor record current velocity readings. However, Wanaque River flow readings downstream of the Overflow Weir can be found on the USGS website for informational purposes.***

Question #5: Anchoring: Do you have soil samples? Any preference in the type of anchoring (assuming we should design but just to be clear)?

Response: ***A geotechnical investigation must be performed by the Selected Respondent at the proposed anchoring locations for the system design after the locations are approved by the Commission. Please note, as stated in the Pre-Proposal meeting, the Commission prohibits anchoring into the dams. The anchoring design should be based on best engineering practices used by the design engineer and approved by the Commission.***

Question #6: Site Controls: Is there a separate site control agreement from the PPA or is the site control agreement embedded in the PPA?

Response: ***As noted in Section 2.1 of the RFP, the Commission intends to work with the Selected Respondent to establish a site license agreement, which will be separate from the PPA.***

Question #7: Is there a PPA performance security required?

Response: ***The RFP stipulates the performance and bond requirements. See Section 2.2(d) regarding the PPA's Expected and Minimum Electricity Output Requirements and Section 2.2(k) regarding the bond requirements.***

Question #8: Behind the Meter: Is the project technically behind the meter or in front of the meter? Any anticipated interconnection upgrades of costs?

Response: ***It is anticipated that the system will be installed "behind the meter"/load side, however, the final location and design shall***

be determined by the Selected Respondent. There are no anticipated upgrades to the existing plant substations due to the new interconnection.

Question #9: Launch Location: Can you confirm the launch location is at (41.072755°, -74.282697°), approximately 2 miles northeast of the proposed array location? If this is the case, how high is the bridge and how wide are the opening where the array blocks will need to be towed into place?

Response: ***The launch location is accurate and approximately 2.0 miles to the center of the anticipated array location. With regards to the West Brook Bridge opening, the minimum vertical height with a normal pool reservoir elevation (W.S.E. = 302.4') was designed for an 8 foot clearance, while a 6 foot clearance was provided at the 100-year pool elevation. The minimum horizontal distance between support structures is approximately 260 feet.***

Question #10: Permits: Is there any discretional permitting risk or all permits non discretional?

Response: ***It is the Selected Respondent's responsibility to determine the appropriate permits for the project. Note, construction permit approval will be required from state agencies. Environmental permits such as wetlands, flood hazard or state open waters, among others, may also be required.***

Question #11: What type and sizes of boats/barges are permitted on the reservoir?

Response: ***The Contractor shall determine the size of the boat/barges to be used based on the West Brook Bridge opening specified in Response to Question #9. It should be noted, however, that obstacles such as rock outcroppings should be considered during lower water surface pool elevations. The Commission also requires the Contractor to inspect, clean and treat if necessary, all boats and equipment being placed in the reservoir to ensure no zebra mussel or other invasive aquatic species contamination.***

Question #12: What types and sizes of motors for the boats are permitted?

Response: ***Since boats are not allowed on the reservoir, there is no motor type and size limitations. The Commission will review the Successful Proposer's motor specifications for approval.***

Question #13: What other additional staging/access areas are allowed around the area?

Response: ***A Pre-Construction site visit will be conducted with the Selected Respondent to determine any additional required staging areas.***

Question #14: Can additional temporary gates be added to the perimeter security fencing to accommodate material staging/array installation?

Response: ***Yes, additional temporary gates can be added to the perimeter fencing. The location and layout of the area shall be submitted to the Commission's Security Department for approval. Additionally, a set of keys shall be provided to the Commission's Security Department for any area that will be locked and secured.***

Question #15: Where is the main electric meter located?

Response: ***The Main Electric Meter is located at the top of Orechio Drive, at the main entrance to the treatment plant.***

Question #16: Reconfirming per the meeting that it is permissible to stage small equipment to the left of the dam?

Response: ***Small equipment, not exceeding the dam weight limit, can be staged on the south end of Raymond Dam as discussed in the Pre-Proposal meeting.***

Question #17: Can work start at 7am vs 8am?

Response: ***Work can start at 7am as long as local noise ordinances are not violated. Confirm allowable work times with the local municipality.***

Question #18: Are there any upgrades to the facility or demand increases anticipated that would increase the total annual electric usage?

Response: ***None are anticipated at this time.***

Question #19: Is the perimeter of the lake considered a dam? How much of the perimeter (bounds) is considered a dam?

Response: ***The natural perimeter of the reservoir is not considered a dam. There are, however, numerous dams that were constructed in order to create the reservoir. Those closest to the anticipated area of the solar array are Raymond Dam, Midvale Dam, and Furnace Dam. Dams include features such as walls, embankments, chutes, tunnels or shafts. The extent of dams shall include the horizontal intercept of manmade and natural grade, as well as the extent of intercept for the toe and heel of each dam.***

Question #20: Are there Accessibility and weight restrictions on the dam?

Response: ***The maximum weight restriction for the dams is 40,000 lbs. Accessibility is limited based on roadway dimensions, grades, and surface conditions.***

Question #21: What is the local Union Hall?

Response: ***IBEW Local 102.***

Question #22: Are there specified suppliers or equipment manufacturers that must be used?

Response: ***There are no specified suppliers or equipment manufacturers in this Request for Proposals. It will the responsibility of each design firm to provide the best product at the most competitive price for goods and services associated with this project while maintaining compliance with the RFP.***

Question #23: Please provide West Brook Road Bridge Plans if available?

a. What is the height to the underside of the bridge on Westbrook Road?

b. What is the width of the pillars on the bridge on Westbrook Road?

Response: ***The West Brook Bridge is owned by Passaic County. Bridge plans may be available for viewing through the Passaic County Engineering Office or NJDEP's website portal. See also Response to Question #9.***

Question #24: In the onsite meeting, the water variance level was quoted as 30', however, it was also mentioned that since the 60's it was as low as 254' and the top (overflow) is 303' (50' elevation change). Please clarify?

Response: ***See Response to Question #1.***

Question #25: What is the voltage of the local three phase power (34.5Kv, ETC.)?

Response: ***The Commission has 34.5Kv supply entering our substations.***

Question #26: Can you provide the attendance sheets from the onsite meeting on Jan. 23?

Response: ***It is the Commission's policy not to share this information.***

Question #27: Can you provide the CAD file of the bathometric survey?

Response: ***The CAD file of the bathymetric survey will be provided to the Selected Respondent after award of the contract.***

Question #28: As a suggestion, the Commission should establish an allowance for utility interconnection fees so that bidders do not vary significantly in their assumptions.

Response: ***The Commission chooses not to provide an allowance.***

Question #29: Please provide single line and service entrance drawings for the point of interconnection.

Response: ***The single line and service entrance drawings will be supplied to the Selected Respondent. The point of connection shall be determined by the Selected Respondent.***

Question #30: Please provide dimensions and drawings of the Westbrook Road Bridge.

Response: ***See responses to Question #9 and Question No. 23.***

Question #31: Please provide site access requirements and procedures.

Response: ***Contractor shall follow standard Commission security procedures by submitting Access Approval forms for all visitors and working with Commission Project Manager to coordinate deliveries and storage of materials, etc.***

Question #32: Please provide shutdown procedures and requirements.

Response: ***Shutdown procedures may vary based on the point of connection (determined by the Selected Respondent). The Commission has the ability to isolate various portions of the distribution system (by running on generator) and will work with the Selected Respondent in coordinating any shutdowns.***

cc: Tim Eustace, Executive Director
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