Louisiana Public Service Commission

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September 29, 2015

VIA E-MAIL:

Re: RFP 15-12 LPSC, ex parte, *In re: Investigation of the retail load assignment between Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC, Vinton Public Power Authority and Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency and certain interstate contracted electric power supply agreements.*

To all LPSC qualified consultants:

Enclosed please find a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for outside contract **regulatory consultant** issued by the Louisiana Public Service Commission for the above referenced subject. 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 (5) five copies and an electronic copy must be received on or before 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 19, 2015. Selection of a consultant is anticipated to take place at the Commission's October 28, 2015 Business and Executive Session.**

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

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Frey
Executive Counsel

cc: Eve Kahao Gonzalez

RFP 15-12
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ("RFP")

LPSC, ex parte, *In re: Investigation of the retail load assignment between Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC, Vinton Public Power Authority and Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency and certain interstate contracted electric power supply agreements.*

The Louisiana Public Service Commission ("Commission" or "LPSC"), in accordance with the requirements of the LPSC's General Order dated November 10, 2014 regarding the selection of contract employees to represent the Commission("Contract Order"), issues this Request for Proposals ("RFP") to **regulatory consultants** who will assist the Commission in reviewing the issues contemplated in the above captioned investigation. The Commission reserves the right to reject any proposal or decline to undertake this review at this time.

I. Overview

Staff, pursuant to Commission directive at the August 26, 2015 Business and Executive Session, was directed to issue an RFP to assist in the above-captioned investigation. To date, Staff has gathered information regarding an existing arrangement in place between Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, LLC. ("EGSL"), Vinton Public Power Authority ("VPPA"), and Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency ("SRMPA"). This agreement, and/or its predecessor agreements, may have some impact on retail loads in Louisiana, and ultimately Commission-jurisdictional ratepayers. The current agreement appears to have been filed with, and approved by, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"), although prior agreements appear to have been approved by the LPSC.

If a consultant is retained in response to this RFP, that consultant will be expected to assist Staff in the further investigation of the issues enumerated above, as well as a determination as to whether the current (or prior) arrangement(s) have an impact on Louisiana-jurisdictional ratepayers.

II. Scope of Representation

Applicants will be assisting in-house Staff counsel in reviewing the contracts currently in place, prior contracts involving the load assignment, formulating issues list(s), financial data, and drafting discovery requests. While the proceeding is not yet docketed, should the initial results of the investigation necessitate more formal action in the result of a docketed proceeding, the consultant will be expected to participate in any technical conferences or evidentiary hearings scheduled, prepare topics for cross-examination of witnesses, draft and review reports and/or testimony in support of Staff's findings and to participate in open sessions wherein the matter is discussed.

All proposals shall include an outline of a plan of action for conducting the investigation (Phase I) and a plan of action for any formal docketed action if necessary (Phase II) and separate fees and costs associated with each phase of the representation. However, in the event an applicant is chosen, 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 résumé indicating the qualifications and experience necessary to meet the requirements of this RFP.

III. Period of Representation

The time period ("Period of Representation") estimated to complete the Scope of representation is approximately 6-12months. This is merely an estimate and the Commission makes no representations as to the accuracy of the Period of Representation.

IV. Minimum Requirements

To be considered, all applicants must meet the following minimum requirements in addition to those provided in this Commission's General Order dated November 10, 2014.

Consideration will be given to factors such as educational background and achievement, practical experience in the field of public utility regulation, and similar practice before other regulatory agencies or public utility commissions.

Applicants shall also, at a minimum, be experienced in the presentation of recommendations involving public utility regulation, or other regulatory issues on administrative and judicial levels. Consideration given to indicia of competence such as previous experience and success in regulatory rulemaking processes, success on appeals, publications of a regulatory nature, educational achievement and other previous employment suggesting competence in the matters involving the above areas; significant personal experience before regulatory agencies such as the SEC, FERC, FCC, or other similar entities may be a favorable factor. Firm size may be considered in matters likely to be prolonged, complex, or involving multiple forums.

Consultants shall have a working knowledge of Louisiana Public Service Commission jurisdictional issues; applicable Commission regulations; financial accounting and auditing of public utilities and public utility contracts.

V. Estimate of Costs

All proposals shall include fees and costs associated with consulting in the docket. All applicants responding to this RFP shall quote their rates on an hourly basis and submit a total budget, and shall separate professional fees from costs. However, applicants shall only be allowed to charge for actual hours of work performed and costs incurred. Once selected, an applicant's rates and budget shall not be altered except by formal approval of the Commission.

VI. Conflict of Interest

Applicants shall prominently 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 will 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 he 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 utilities, 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 to 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 other than the lowest offer with regard to price. 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), 5 copies, and e-mail an electronic copy** of the proposal to:

Attention: Kathleen Richardson
Louisiana Public Service Commission
Office of the General Counsel
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: kathleen.richardson@la.gov and Brandon.frey@la.gov

To be considered, an electronic copy of the proposal must be received on or before **4:30 pm on October 19, 2015. Selection of a consultant is anticipated to take place at the Commission's October 28, 2015 Business and Executive Session.** Information concerning billing procedures and the Commission's RFP policy may be obtained from the address listed above, or by calling (225) 342-9888.