

# Louisiana Public Service Commission



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Executive Counsel

December 16, 2019

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Deputy Undersecretary

## VIA EMAIL

***RFP 19-23 DOCKET NO. R-35423 – Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte, In re: Rulemaking to Study Renewable Energy Tariff Options with a Focus of Bringing New Renewable Resources into Louisiana.***

To all LPSC qualified consultants:

Enclosed please find a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for **outside independent technical 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 **Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** Selection of a consultant is anticipated to take place at the Commission’s **December 18, 2019 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

**19-23**  
**LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFP”)**  
**December 16, 2019**

***DOCKET NO. R-35423, Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte, In re: Rulemaking to Study Renewable Energy Tariff Options with a Focus of Bringing New Renewable Resources into Louisiana.***

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”) to represent the Commission, issues this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to **outside consultant** who will assist Commission Staff in this proceeding. It is anticipated that qualifying proposals will be placed on the January 2020 Business and Executive Session (“B&E”) Agenda for Commission consideration.

**I. Overview**

This docket was initiated pursuant to the unopposed directive of Commissioner Greene at the November 13, 2019 B&E, which directed Staff to open a rulemaking to look into renewable energy tariff options with a focus on bringing new renewable resources into Louisiana. Commissioner Skrmetta also directed Staff, in connection with Commissioner Greene’s directive, to “open up a dialogue with Statkraft, an electric generation company owned by Norway, to find potential inclusion in Louisiana for osmotic pressure electric generation.”<sup>1</sup> Notice of this proceeding was published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin dated November 27, 2019 for a 25-day intervention period. At this time, five parties have intervened: Entergy Louisiana, LLC; Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation; Louisiana energy Users Group; Alliance for Affordable Energy; and Southwestern Electric Power Company.

**II. Scope of Representation**

All proposals shall include an outline of a plan of action for conducting this rulemaking proceeding. Additionally, the bidder must be prepared to assist Commission Staff in continuing research on various renewable energy tariff options throughout the nation, reviewing all documentation provided by intervening parties, identification and research of legal and policy issues, drafting requests for comments and reviewing responses thereto, drafting proposed rules, presiding over technical conferences, preparing briefing materials for Staff and Commissioners, appearing before the Commission at B&Es, and conducting informal meetings with the parties and Commissioners as necessary. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> See Ex. 6-Reports of the November 13, 2019 B&E Minutes.

### **III. Period of Representation**

The time period estimated to complete the Scope of Representation is approximately 12 months. However, 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 the Commission's 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, and similar practice before this or other regulatory agencies, in addition to the bidder's knowledge of Louisiana ratemaking standards and regulatory law. Bidders shall be qualified and prepared to assist in drafting and issuing requests for information, proposed rules, and recommendations with respect to all issues addressed in this RFP, and which are likely to arise in this proceeding.

Bidders shall have a working knowledge of Louisiana Public Service Commission rulemakings and jurisdictional issues, and applicable Commission and federal regulations. Bidders should also have a working knowledge of renewable resources and various tariff options related to renewable resources. Bidders shall also, at a minimum, have knowledge of:

- 1) The Commission's General Order No. 2 dated July 1, 1921 requiring all regulated public utilities to maintain tariffs on file with the Commission, as well as the "filed rate" doctrine.
- 2) The Commission's General Order dated March 12, 1974 prohibiting "promotional practices" by public utilities.
- 3) The Commission's General Order dated April 20, 2012 (Corrected) (Docket No. R-30021) regarding electric utilities filing Integrated Resource Plans.
- 4) The Commission's General Order dated July 1, 2019 (Docket No. R-34738) providing requirements for all jurisdictional electric utilities when filing tariffs, rate schedules and rate riders with the Commission.
- 5) Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") tariffs, rules and planning processes, generally.
- 6) Electric utility ratemaking and general issues such as accounting standards and practices; and
- 7) General familiarity with Demand Response programs and products offered by public utilities.

**V. Estimate of Costs**

All proposals shall include fees and costs associated with this RFP. All bidders 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, a bidder's hourly rates and budget shall not be altered except by formal approval of the Commission, including the specific increase in budget, and corresponding hourly rate.

**VI. Conflict of Interest**

Bidders 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 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 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 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:

Kathryn H. Bowman  
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: [kathryn.bowman@la.gov](mailto:kathryn.bowman@la.gov)

To be considered, an original, five copies, and the electronic copy of the proposal must be received on or before **January 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.** **Selection is anticipated to take place at the Commission's January 2020 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.