

Louisiana Public Service Commission



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Deputy Undersecretary

April 4, 2022

VIA EMAIL

RFP 22-2 (REVISED) Docket No. R-36227, Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte. In re: Assessment of Louisiana's current electric utility infrastructure for resilience and hardening for future storm events.

To all LPSC qualified consultants:

Enclosed please find a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for an **independent engineering consultant, with specialized electric engineers on staff**, 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, April 25, 2022 at 4:30p.m. Selection of consultants is anticipated to take place at the Commission's April 2022 Business and Executive Session.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KB' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kathryn H. Bowman
Executive Counsel

Encl.

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

RFP 22-2 (REVISED)¹
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFP”)
April 4, 2022

DOCKET NO. R-36227, Louisiana Public Service Commission, ex parte, In re: Assessment of Louisiana’s current electric utility infrastructure for resilience and hardening for future storm events.

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, with specialized electric engineers on staff**, who will assist Commission Staff with collaboration efforts with regulated electric utilities and possible other state or federal agencies in the design of a statewide resiliency plan.

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 22-2 (REVISED) are anticipated to be on the Commission’s April 2022 Business and Executive Session (“B&E”), which is currently scheduled for April 27, 2022.

I. Overview

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

In light of recent storms over the past two years, both tropical and winter, the apparent increase thereof, the broad devastation those storms have repeatedly had on Louisiana’s electric utility infrastructure, and because such devastation ultimately comes as a costs to Louisiana utility customers, I direct Staff to open a docket and use whatever means necessary, including but not limited to the hiring of an independent engineering firm, to assess the current electric utility infrastructure in Louisiana and propose a plan of resiliency and hardening that could better prepare Louisiana’s electric grid for future storms and interruptions. This docket should include creative proposals that will solve Louisiana’s specific infrastructure problems and allow staff to explore all options from hardening to microgrids to solutions not yet known to the Commission.

At the Commission’s March 30, 2022 B&E, the Commission directed Staff to re-issue RFP 22-2 to provide a well-defined scope of services for Docket No. R-36227. Discussions had at the March B&E indicated the Commission’s desire to have a complete investigation into the current resiliency efforts, including resiliency plans, of all jurisdictional electric utilities and whether those efforts

¹ This RFP is being reissued based upon Commission directive. RFP 22-2 (REVISED) is replacing RFP 22-2 that was issued on January 5, 2022.

and plans could be improved. Further, the Commission clarified it is seeking to establish a statewide resiliency plan; therefore, any scope of work provided in response hereto should encompass not only the jurisdictional Investor-Owned Utilities (“IOUs”), but also the jurisdictional Electric Cooperatives (“Co-Ops”).

As such, Staff re-issues RFP 22-2 (REVISED) based on the clarification in scope.

II. Scope of Representation

Applicants will be assisting Commission in-house Staff (Legal, Utilities, and Auditing Divisions), and outside counsel in: collaborating with the jurisdictional electric utilities (IOUs and Co-Ops) on current and planned resiliency efforts; drafting, reviewing, 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 resiliency and hardening efforts and/or plans; conducting independent research and analysis on methods where Louisiana’s electric infrastructure – related to hardening and resiliency - can be improved, if any; assisting in drafting requests for information/comments to stakeholders; reviewing and analyzing comments filed by all parties; participating in technical conferences, as needed; conducting site visits, if necessary; preparing technical analysis as requested by Staff; collaborating with state or federal agencies, if deemed necessary; draft a single comprehensive report on Louisiana’s electric infrastructure related to hardening and resiliency; assist in drafting a Staff recommendation based on the single, all-inclusive comprehensive report, including the possibility of rules associated with resiliency efforts; defending, participating and testifying regarding any proposed recommendation and rules, which could include assistance in seeking federal or any other applicable funding for implementation of a statewide resiliency plan; participating in meetings with stakeholders, utilities, or Commissioners, as necessary; ensuring that any rules and regulations issued by the Commission conform with national regulatory standards for regulated electric utilities; and attending and testifying at the Commission’s B&E Sessions as needed. This scope of representation will go through the completion of a report and presentation of said report and recommendations to the Commission at a future B&E.

All proposals shall include an outline of a plan of action for the above defined scope of representation, i.e., collaboration with the jurisdictional utilities and creation of a single, all-inclusive comprehensive report. 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 maximum time period to complete the above Scope of Representation is 12 months, with a status update/preliminary report provided no later than 9 months after a Commission hire.

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) The Commission's General Order dated March 12, 1974 prohibiting "promotional practices" by public utilities;
- 2) The Commission's General Order dated April 20, 2012 (Corrected) (Docket No. R-30021) regarding electric utilities filing Integrated Resource Plans;
- 3) Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") tariffs, rules and planning processes, generally;
- 4) Southwest Power Pool ("SPP") tariffs, rules and planning processes, generally;
- 5) Construction, design and operation of electric utility infrastructure, including but not necessarily limited to the distribution and transmission systems; and
- 6) 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 electrical 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 with fees separated from expenses. Applicants responding to this RFP shall quote their rates on an hourly basis, shall submit a total budget, as well as a budget separated by professional fees and 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 should 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 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:

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, April 25, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.** **Selection of consultants is anticipated to take place at the Commission's April 2022 Business and Executive Session, which is currently tentatively scheduled for April 27, 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.