

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT: General Administration

DATE: August 5, 2025

To: Justine Skawski, Managing Engineer

FROM: Richard L. Martinez, Jr., Diversity Administrator 

SUBJECT: Review of 25-RFP-06, FERC Relicensing for Lockport Powerhouse

The Diversity Section has completed its review of the subject Request for Proposal ("the RFP" or "this Project"). We have concluded that the RFP should not contain goals for affirmative action participation.

The history of this Project indicates that on November 2, 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) issued a license to the District enabling continued operation and maintenance of Lockport Project No. 2866. This project includes an existing 385 foot long Powerhouse containing two (2) generating units with a total installed capacity of 13.5 Megawatts (MW); a dam between the Federal Navigation Lock and the Powerhouse consisting of concrete and masonry structures; a 20 foot wide sluice gate section; a 12 foot non-overflow section; a fender wall approximately 530 feet long for debris skimming and ice protection; an existing transmission line; an access road approximately one mile long; and appurtenant facilities.

The referenced FERC license issued to the District on November 2, 2000, will expire November 30, 2031. The District has until November 30, 2026, by 4 p.m., to file a Notice of Intent to relicense Lockport Project No. 2866. The District has until November 30, 2029, to file the associated license application.

In view of this background, the District is seeking proposals from qualified consultants concerning the management and completion of all tasks, documents, studies, coordination, meeting attendance and all other tasks necessary to successfully receive relicensing of Project No. 2866 from the FERC. In sum, the District seeks proposals from qualified consultants to plan and coordinate the FERC relicensing in its entirety, with respect to the Lockport Powerhouse Hydropower Generation Facility.

The anticipated award date for the contract to a professional consultant for services as outlined will be in January 2026 and will terminate after timely relicensing of the continued operation and maintenance of the Lockport Powerhouse.

The District has divided this Project into seven (7) major tasks as defined and categorized under Section II, *Scope of Work*. In addition to providing detailed environmental studies, consultation and miscellaneous services, these major tasks encompass the filing of: Notification of Intent (NOI) to file A License Application; Pre-Application Document (PAD); Preliminary Licensing Proposal; and the associated completed License Application.

In determining that the RFP should not contain goals for affirmative action participation, the Diversity Section considered several factors. Among them were the highly specialized skills required by any subcontractors designated on the RFP, including a minimum of five (5) consecutive years providing consulting/contracting services comparable to those described in Section II, *Scope of Work*, and as referenced in the paragraph immediately above. Also, review of the predecessor RFP (1996-98), revealed no affirmative action goals, coupled with no reference to any subcontractors in the prime contractor's billing.

As described above, the RFP requires adherence to voluminous technical specifications and deadlines, together with the continuity required by a single consultant to coordinate the timely accomplishment of the relicensing of the operation and maintenance of Lockport Project No. 2866. Overall, this Project does not provide practical opportunities for subcontracting. Therefore, based on the factors noted above, Appendices A and V should not be included in the RFP.

If further information about this review is desired, please contact Diversity Officer Fred Fortier at (773) 999-6715.

RLM/FF

Attachment

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