



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. PSC-20-20**

**"FORMAL CASE NO. 1162, TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TO ADVISE THE COMMISSION IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE EXISTING RATES AND CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE."**

**Proposal Issue Date:** March 31, 2020

**Proposal Due Date:** No later than April 27, 2020 at 4:00pm

**Proposal Submission:** ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY

**Point of Contact:** Karen M. Hester  
Contract Specialist

Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia  
1325 G Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Email: [khester@psc.dc.gov](mailto:khester@psc.dc.gov)

## **SECTION A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **A.1 Purpose**

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (“Commission”) is an independent agency of the Government of the District of Columbia, which is responsible for regulating the electric, natural gas, and telecommunications industries in the District of Columbia.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) is to solicit proposals for one or more Contractors to advise the Commission in the matter of the application of Washington Gas Light Company for authority to increase existing rates and charges for natural gas service.

### **A.2 Contract Term**

It is anticipated that the contract term will be one year from date of contract award with the option to extend for two one-year periods.

### **A.3 Type of Contract**

The contract(s) resulting from this RFP will be labor hour contracts with a not to exceed contract ceiling amount.

### **A.4 Basis of Award**

Awards made as a result of this RFP will be made separately for each category of work described in Section B.3.1. This means there will be one Offeror selected for each category, however, the same Offeror can submit a proposal on and receive an award for more than one category of work.

### **A.5 Qualifications**

The Technical Advisory Staff (Staff) of the Commission seeks assistance from qualified firms and individuals with respect to revenue requirement, engineering, and rate design issues.

#### **A.5.1 Revenue Requirements Category Qualifications**

For revenue requirement determination, the successful Offeror should have extensive experience regarding the development of a gas utility’s overall revenue requirement, including depreciation, cost of capital and capital structure. Offerors must also be able to calculate alternative utility revenue requirements in real-time and present various options in a quick and efficient manner, based upon the testimony and exhibits filed in the rate case, as well as upon directions from the Commission. The revenue requirement offeror must also be able to provide complex depreciation study analysis and incorporate the results of such analysis in the overall revenue requirement determination.

#### **A.5.2 Engineering and Capital Expenditure Review Category Qualifications**

For engineering issues, the offeror must have experience in reviewing the engineering and technical aspects of a gas distribution utility’s gas plant in service, construction work in progress, long term

capital expenditure planning, environmental remediation and greenhouse emissions, leak survey detection and repair, and operational performance.

### **A.5.3 Rate Design Category Qualifications**

For rate design issues, the successful Offeror should have experience in performing rate design in gas rate cases. The selected Offeror should be prepared to develop alternative rate design scenarios and options for the Commissioners to consider.

### **A.5 Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with Part D of this RFP. The following evaluation criteria will be used:

- Experience & Past Performance (30 points)
- Work Plan & Technical Approach (30 points)
- Key Personnel (25 points)
- Price (15 points)

### **A.6 Anticipated Procurement Schedule**

Publish RFP on Commission website	March 31, 2020
Deadline for RFP questions	April 8, 2020
Responses to questions posted on the Commission's website	April 15, 2020
Deadline for submission of proposals	April 27, 2020
Establish Competitive Range	May 7, 2020
Best and Final Offers submitted	May 18, 2020
Contract Executed	May 29, 2020

### **A.7 List of Attachments**

- Attachment A - Offer Letter/Bid Form
- Attachment B - Disclosure Statement
- Attachment C - Tax Certification Affidavit
- Attachment D - Past Performance Evaluation Form

## **SECTION B: SCOPE OF WORK**

### **B.1 Introduction**

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (Commission) requires the assistance of one or more technical consultants in Formal Case (FC) No. 1162, Washington Gas Light Company's (WGL) rate case.

### **B.2 Background**

On January 13, 2020, WGL filed an Application requesting authority to increase existing rates and charges for natural gas service in the District of Columbia. According to the filing, the requested rates are designed to collect approximately \$200.4 million in total annual revenues, which represents an increase in the Company's weather normalized annual revenues of no more than \$35.2 million and would result in an overall increase of approximately 14.7% in revenue collection over and above that collected through current bills. This revenue increase includes \$9.1 million associated with natural gas system upgrades previously approved by the Commission and currently paid by customers through monthly surcharges.

WGL's proposal anticipates that, if approved, residential heating/cooling customers would see an increase of 16.7 percent in their overall monthly bills. The typical bill for a residential sales service, heating/cooling customer using, on average, about 59 therms of gas per month would increase by \$12.86. WGL claims that its requested increase is necessary because its existing rates do not provide the Company an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return in the District.

The entire rate case is scheduled to be completed in approximately 9 months.

### **B.3 Scope of Work**

#### **B.3.1 Specific Tasks**

In its advisory role to the Commission, the Contractor shall provide technical assistance to staff in Formal Case 1162 and take the lead in conducting such analyses as may be necessary to address the tasks in one or more of the following categories of work: Category 1 – Revenue Requirements; Category 2 – Engineering and Capital Expenditure Review, and Category 3 – Rate Design

##### **B.3.1.1 Category 1 -- Revenue Requirement/Cost of Service Determination and Depreciation**

###### **Revenue Requirement/Cost of Service Determination**

- (1) Rate Base;
- (2) Cost of Capital;
- (3) Operating Revenues;
- (4) Operating Expenses;
- (5) Taxes;
- (6) Cash Working Capital;
- (7) Executive Compensation (including review of Long-term Incentive Plan, Short-term Incentive Plan, Corporate Scorecard);

- (8) Pension and other post-employment benefits;
- (9) Outsourcing contracts;
- (10) Weather Normalization;
- (11) Other cost of service items;
- (12) Detailed modeling of overall revenue requirement with alternative adjustments in real-time; and
- (13) Seamless integration of all components of parties' revenue requirement proposals and alternative revenue requirement proposals into a pre-and post-hearing memorandum with associated pre- and post-hearing PowerPoint presentations.

**Depreciation**

- (1) Determining whether WGL's 2019 Depreciation Rate Study ("Study") is current, comprehensive and accurate;
- (2) Determining whether the methods used in the Study to compute depreciation rates are appropriate and consistent with Commission orders and precedents;
- (3) Determine whether the service lives used in the Study are appropriate and consistent;
- (4) Determine whether the survivor curves used in the Study are appropriate and accurate;
- (5) Determine whether the salvage value figures are reasonable and appropriate;
- (6) Determine whether the accruals, reserves, and depreciation rates are calculated accurately;
- (7) Determine whether WGL complied with the Commission's directive in FC 1137 (the last WGL rate case) regarding revisiting its policy to allocate 16.5% of the cost of main and service replacements to cost of removal in developing its new depreciation study;
- (8) Determine if and how WGL's cost of removal for PROJECTpipes is reflected in the Study; and
- (9) Other depreciation issues.

**Cost of Capital/Capital Structure/Peer Group Analysis**

- (1) Review and Analysis of Capital Structure;
- (2) Review of Peer Group;
- (3) Review and Analysis of Credit Ratings of Company and similar investment grade utilities; and
- (4) Review, Analysis and Determination of Return on Equity and cost of capital (including DCF, CAPM and Risk Premium Analysis).

**B.3.1.2 Category 2 – Operational & Engineering and Capital Expenditure Review**

- (1) Review of WGL's Capital Expenditure plan;
- (2) Review of WGL's request to move PROJECTpipes rate base into Base Rates;
- (3) Review of WGL's Gas Plant in Service and Capital Project Additions;
- (4) Review of Environmental Remediation and Greenhouse emissions;
- (5) Review of Leak Survey Detection and Repair Review;
- (6) Review of Operational Excellence and Performance.

**B.3.1.3 Category 3 - Rate Design**

- (1) Distribution of Revenue Requirement among Rate Classes;
- (2) Jurisdictional Cost Allocation Study;
- (3) Class Cost of Service Study (including Interruptible); and

(4) Other rate design/tariff items.

### **B.3.2 General Tasks**

The tasks listed below are applicable to all categories of work;

- The Contractor(s) must be prepared to meet with Staff, the Commissioners, technical staff, and legal staff and consultants as necessary, to provide information and explain technical matters over the course of the Commission's deliberations in the proceeding. However, the Contractor(s) is not asked to submit testimony in this proceeding.
- Review all relevant filings in this proceeding, including, but not limited to the application, proposals, comments, motions, testimony, data requests and data responses, and briefs;
- Review relevant laws and Commission decisions, and activities and decisions of other jurisdictions;
- Research, as necessary, technical issues as reflected in the Specific Tasks section below;
- Perform modeling and analyses in determining alternative revenue requirements, rate design and/or other areas as assigned;
- Preparing analytical advisory memoranda as assigned;
- Preparing and conducting briefings as requested;
- Attending hearings, if requested by the Commission; and
- Assisting and advising the Commission's technical and legal staff and consultants in drafting orders in this proceeding;
- The Commission must be notified of changes to the personnel assigned to work on this project(s).

## SECTION C: ECONOMIC INCLUSION

### **C.1 Preference for Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises or Businesses Operating in an Enterprise Zone**

#### **THIS SECTION IS ONLY APPLICABLE IF THE PRIME CONTRACTORS IS CERTIFIED BY THE DC DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**General:** Under the provisions of the Small, Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Amendment Act of 2005,<sup>1</sup> preference points shall be given to Offerors that are certified by the Department of Small and Local Business Development (“DSLBD”) as having resident business ownership, being a Local Business Enterprise, being a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, or as operating in an Enterprise Zone. (A copy of the certification acknowledgment letter must be submitted with the Offeror’s submission and, if applicable, the Technical Proposal.) In accordance with these laws, the following preference points shall be awarded in evaluating a proposal submitted by a certified business enterprise:

- Three points shall be awarded if the Offeror is certified as a small business enterprise;
- Five points shall be awarded if the Offeror is certified as resident-owned business;
- Ten points shall be awarded if the Offeror is certified as a longtime resident business;
- Two points shall be awarded if the Offeror is certified as a local business enterprise;
- Two points shall be awarded if the Offeror is certified as a local business enterprise with its principal office located in an enterprise zone; and
- Two points shall be awarded if the Offeror is certified as a disadvantaged business enterprise.

A Certified Business Enterprise (“CBE”) shall be entitled to any or all of the preferences provided in this section, but in no case shall a CBE be entitled to a preference of more than 12 points or a reduction in price of more than 12 percent.

**Information:** For information regarding the application process, contact the DSLBD at the following address or telephone number:

Department of Small and Local Business Development  
Government of the District of Columbia  
One Judiciary Square  
441 - 4th Street, N.W., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 970 N  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 727-3900 (Telephone Number)  
(202) 724-3786 (Facsimile Number)

Any Offeror with Local Business Enterprise or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise certification as its joint venture or constituent entity, shall be entitled to the applicable preference points provided for in the Small, Local, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Act,

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Code §2-218.01 *et. seq.* (2006 Repl. & Supp. 2008).

Part D, Subpart 2, Sec. 2343 in direct proportion to the percentage of the effort to be performed by the Local Business Enterprise or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. A copy of the certification acknowledgment letter must be submitted with the Offeror's Proposal.

## **SECTION D: EVALUATION AWARD CRITERIA**

### **D.1 Evaluation Process**

The Commission will award the contract to the Offeror whose proposal, in light of all factors, is most advantageous to the Commission. Each Offeror will be evaluated in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria listed below, the procedures set forth in this RFP and the Commission's procurement regulations.

### **D.2 Evaluation Committee**

Each proposal shall be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria. The Evaluation Committee shall prepare a written report summarizing its findings and submit the same to the selection official(s). The selection official will consider the report prepared by the Evaluation Committee, in making an award decision.

### **D.3 Oral Presentation**

The Department reserves the right to interview Offerors in the competitive range if necessary. If the Department conducts such interviews, each Offeror within the competitive range shall make an oral presentation to the Department's Evaluation Committee and participate in a question and answer session. The purpose of the oral presentation and the question and answer session is to permit the Evaluation Committee to fully understand and assess the qualifications of each Offeror and the Offeror's key personnel.

#### **D.3.2 Schedule**

The order of presentation will be selected randomly and the Offerors will be informed of their presentation date before the beginning of oral presentations. The Commission reserves the right to reschedule the date and time of any Offeror's presentation.

#### **D.3.3 Offeror Attendees**

The oral presentation will be made by the Offeror's personnel who will be assigned the key jobs for this project. Each Offeror will be limited to 4 persons. The job functions of the persons attending the presentation will be considered to be an indication of the Offeror's assessment of the key areas of responsibility that are deemed essential to the successful completion of the project.

#### **D.3.4 Topics**

The Offeror may present information about its capabilities and special qualifications, including the qualifications of key personnel. The Offeror may be asked to present its proposed Work Plan.

#### **D.4 Proposal Evaluation**

Each proposal will be scored on a scale of 1 to 100 points. In addition, Offerors will be eligible to receive up to 12 preference points as described in **Section C.1** of this RFP for participation by Local, Small or Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Thus, the maximum number of points possible is 112.

##### **D.4.1 Experience & Past Performance (30 points)**

Offerors will be evaluated based on the demonstrated experience, qualifications, capabilities, and quality of past performance in completing projects of similar scope and complexity to that required by **Section B** of this RFP.

###### **D.4.1.1 Experience (20 points)**

Offerors shall list all projects that the Offeror has completed in the last 5 years that are similar to this scope of work with descriptions that best illustrate the Offeror's relevant experience and capabilities. In addition, identify any personnel who were assigned to those projects, who are proposed to provide services required under this RFP

Offeror shall provide at a minimum the following verifiable information:

1. Project name and location
2. Name, address, contact person, and telephone number of reference contact
3. Description of the work performed by the Offeror
4. Time period
5. Identification of Offeror's personnel involved who are proposed as key personnel for this RFP

###### **D.4.1.2 Past Performance (10 points)**

Offerors shall return a minimum of three completed Past Performance Evaluation Forms (**Attachment D**), preferably for each project named in section D.4.1.1.

##### **D.4.3 Work Plan and Technical Approach (30 points)**

###### **D.4.3.1 Work Plan (15 Points)**

The Offeror shall present a proposed work plan that demonstrates how all work will be completed within 90 days from the date of contract execution. Offerors will be evaluated based on, but not limited to: (a) the thoroughness, clarity and soundness of the proposed approach, (b) (c) a Work Plan that demonstrates Project Management expertise in (1),

implementing this project and meeting the deadlines for the scheduled deliverables, and (2), tracking the progress of the project.

#### **D.4.3.2 Technical Approach (15 points)**

Offerors must provide a Key Personnel Resource Schedule which shows the level of effort by number of hours and position that the Offeror believes will be necessary to support its proposed work plan. This Key Personnel Resource Schedule will be evaluated to determine whether the Offeror fully understands the project and has allocated appropriate resources for this project.

#### **D.4.2 Key Personnel (25 points)**

##### **D.4.2.1 Team Members (15 Points)**

Offerors will be evaluated on the experience and qualifications of the key team members assigned to this project, excluding the Project Manager. Offerors shall identify the persons who will perform the work described in this RFP and provide a detailed resume for each individual that describes the experience and qualifications applicable to the performance of the tasks for which they would be responsible.

##### **D.4.2.2 Project Manager (10 points)**

Offerors will be evaluated on the experience and qualifications of the team member designated as the Project Manager and this person shall be responsible for project management, reporting, coordination, and accountability for the entire project.

#### **D.4.4 Price (15 points)**

Offerors are required to submit fixed hourly rates and an estimated total price on a separate Attachment A for each proposed category of work. The Commission may evaluate each Offeror's estimated price and hourly rates against its technical proposal to determine which combination of price and technical merit is most advantageous to the Commission.

#### **D.5 Written or Oral Discussions**

Section 2202.12 of the Commission's procurement regulations permits the Contracting Officer to conduct oral discussions with Offerors that tender submissions.

##### **D.5.1 Award Without Discussions**

The Commission may award the prospective contract without either written or oral discussions. Therefore, each Offeror is advised that it should submit a complete and thorough submission that is fully compliant with the instructions in this RFP.

##### **D.5.2 Written or Oral Discussions**

If the Contracting Officer elects to hold discussions with Offerors, then a competitive range will be established based on the evaluation criteria set forth in this RFP. Upon completion of discussions, the Contracting Officer will issue to all Offerors in the competitive range a request for best and final offers. After receipt of best and final offers, the Contracting Officer will not reopen discussions unless it is clearly in the best interest of the Commission

to do so.

**D.6 Retention of Submissions**

All submissions shall be retained by the Commission and therefore shall not be returned to the Offerors.

**D.7 Examination of Submissions**

Offerors are expected to examine the requirements of all instructions (including all amendments, addenda, attachments and exhibits) in this RFP. Failure to do so shall be at the sole risk of the Offeror and may result in disqualifications.

**D.8 Late Submissions: Modifications**

Any submission or best and final offer received at the office designated in this RFP after the exact time specified for receipt shall not be considered. Any modification of a submission, including a modification resulting from the Contracting Officer's request for best and final offers, is subject to the same condition.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the Commission is the time-date stamp of the Commission on the submission cover page or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the Commission. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this RFP to the contrary, a late modification of an otherwise successful submission that makes the terms more favorable to the Commission may be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

Submissions shall be irrevocable and remain in full force and effect for a period not less than 120 days after receipt of submissions.

**D.9 No Compensation for Preparation of Submissions**

The Commission shall not bear or assume any financial obligation or liability regarding the preparation of any submissions in response to this RFP or prepared in connection therewith, including but not limited to any submissions, statements, reports, data, information, materials or other documents or items.

**D.10 Rejection of Submissions**

The Commission reserves the right, in its sole discretion:

1. To cancel this solicitation or reject all submissions.
2. To reject submissions that fail to prove the Offeror's responsibility.
3. To reject submissions that contain conditions and/or contingencies that, in the Commission's sole judgment, make the submission indefinite, incomplete, otherwise non-responsive, or otherwise unacceptable for award.

4. To waive minor irregularities in any submission provided such waiver does not result in an unfair advantage to any Offeror.
5. To take any other action within the applicable procurement regulations or law.
6. To reject the submission of any Offeror that has submitted a false or misleading statement, affidavit or certification in connection with such submission or this RFP.

## **SECTION E: PROPOSAL ORGANIZATION AND SUBMISSION**

This section outlines specific information necessary for the proper organization of the Offeror's proposal and manner in which the proposal should be proffered.

### **E.1 Delivery of Submission**

Submissions shall be delivered **ELECTRONICALLY** to:

Karen M. Hester  
Contract Specialist  
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia  
[khester@psc.dc.gov](mailto:khester@psc.dc.gov)

The subject line shall be:

**Proposal in Response to RFP No. PSC-20-20, Formal Case No. 1162**

### **E.3 Date and Time for Receiving Submissions**

Submissions shall be received no later than 4:00 p.m., EST, April 27, 2019. Offerors assume the sole responsibility for timely delivery of their submission.

### **E.4 Proposal Size, Organization and Offeror Qualifications**

**A SEPARATE TECHNICAL AND PRICE PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH CATEGORY OF WORK.** Each proposal shall be formatted to 8-1/2" x 11" size and typewritten. The Commission is interested in a qualitative approach to presentation material. Brief, clear, and concise material is more desirable than quantity. The submission shall be organized as follows:

#### **E.4.1 Table of Contents**

The pages of the proposal(s) must be numbered with index tabs included for each section.

#### **E.4.2 Disclosure Form**

Each Offeror shall submit a Disclosure Statement substantially in the form of **Attachment B**.

#### **E.4.3 Executive Summary**

Each Offeror should provide an Executive Summary of no more than two pages. At a minimum, the Offeror shall indicate the category(ies) of work (delineated in Section B.3.1) for which it is submitting a proposal.

#### **E.4.4 General Team Information**

Each Offeror should provide the following information for the principal firm and any subconsultants or joint venture partner firms:

- A. Name(s), address(es), and role(s) of each firm (including all sub-consultants)
- B. Firm profile(s), including:
  - i. Age
  - ii. Firm history(ies)
  - iii. Firm size(s)
  - iv. Areas of specialty/concentration
  - v. Current firm workload(s) projected over the next six months
  - vi. Please include an organizational chart showing reporting relationships of team personnel.
  - vii. Provide a list of any contracts held by the Offeror where the contract was terminated (either for default or convenience). This list should also identify any contracts that resulted in litigation or arbitration between the Owner and the Offeror. If the Offeror has multiple offices, only contracts held by the office submitting this proposal need be listed.
- C. **Corporate Information**

Offerors, if incorporated, shall attach to the proposal, a current franchise tax Certificate of Good Standing, issued by the District of Columbia Comptroller's Office. Offerors shall provide to the Commission, Offeror's 9-digit Federal Employer's Identification Number (FEI#) or Social Security Number (SSN) if Offeror is an individual. If a domestic corporation, Offerors shall also provide to the Commission the corporation's charter number issued by the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. If a foreign corporation, Offerors shall also provide to the Commission a copy of a valid Certificate of Authority to do business in the District of Columbia, issued by the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

#### **E.4.5 Experience and Past Performance**

The Offeror should submit information consistent with the requirements delineated in Section D.4.1.

#### **E.4.6 Key Personnel**

The Offeror should submit information consistent with the requirements delineated in Section D.4.2.

#### **E.4.7 Work Plan and Technical Approach**

The Offeror should submit information consistent with the requirements delineated in Section D.4.3.

#### **E.4.8 Price**

The Offeror shall submit **Attachment A**, Form of Offer Letter and Bid Form. In addition, the Offeror should submit cost information consistent with the requirements delineated in Section D.4.4.

#### **PRICE PROPOSAL INFORMATION SHALL BE SEPARATE AND EXCLUDED FROM TECHNICAL PROPOSAL INFORMATION**

#### **E.4.9 Tax Affidavit**

Each Offeror must submit a tax affidavit substantially in the form of **Attachment C**. In order to be eligible for this procurement, Offerors must be in full compliance with their tax obligations to the District of Columbia government.

## **SECTION F: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **F.1 Contact Person**

Any company or person wishing to obtain clarifying information about this RFP may submit inquiries *in writing* to:

Karen M. Hester  
Contract Specialist  
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia  
1325 G Street, N.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
[khester@psc.dc.gov](mailto:khester@psc.dc.gov)

#### **F.1.1 Questions**

All inquiries must be made on or before **April 8, 2020**, to the attention of Karen M. Hester. at the above-stated Commission's office or email address. RFP No. PSC-20-20, must be identified as the subject. Answers to all written questions timely received will be issued by Addendum and posted on the Commission's Contracting and Procurement webpage, at [www.dcpsc.org](http://www.dcpsc.org) under RFP No. PSC-20-20.

### **F.2 Explanations to Prospective Offerors**

Offerors should carefully examine this RFP and all amendments, addenda, or other revisions, and be thoroughly familiar with all requirements prior to proffering a submission. Should an Offeror find discrepancies or ambiguities in, or omissions from, the RFP and amendments, addenda or revisions, or otherwise desire an explanation or interpretation of the RFP, any amendments, addenda, or revisions, it must submit a request for interpretation or correction in writing. Any information given to an Offeror concerning the solicitation shall be furnished promptly to all other Offerors as an amendment or addendum to this RFP if, in the sole discretion of the Commission, that information is necessary in proffering submissions or if the lack thereof would be prejudicial to any other prospective Offerors. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract shall not be binding.

### **F.3 Protests/Disputes**

Protests and disputes shall be governed by Sections 2206 and 2207 of the Commission's Procurement regulations (15 DCMR §§ 2206-7). As provided in Section 2206.1, protests alleging defects in this solicitation must be filed within ten (10) business days of the solicitation. If an alleged defect does not exist in this initial RFP, but was incorporated into the RFP by an amendment or addendum, a protest based on that defect must be filed before the next closing time established for proffering submissions. In all other cases, a protester shall file the protest within ten (10) days after the protester knows or should have known, whichever is earlier, of the facts and circumstances upon which the protest is based. All protests must be made in writing to the Office of the Commission Secretary and must be filed in duplicate. Protests shall be served on the Commission by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from the Office of the Commission

Secretary. Protests received by the Commission after the indicated period shall not be considered. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope shall be labeled "Protest." The written protest shall be signed by the protester or its representative and shall include at a minimum the following:

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
2. Appropriate identification of the procurement, i.e., the RFP number and, if a contract has been awarded, its number;
1. A concise statement of the grounds for the protest and a specific request for a ruling from the Chief Contracting Officer of the Commission; and
2. Supporting exhibits, evidence or documents to substantiate any claims, unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date should be indicated.

#### **F.4 Authority**

This Request for Proposals ("RFP") is released pursuant to the Commission's procurement regulations, 15 DCMR § 2200 *et. seq.* (2000), which is published on the Commission's website at [www.dcpssc.org](http://www.dcpssc.org) or click on <http://dcpssc.org/PSCDC/media/PDFFiles/Procurements/Chapter22.pdf> .

#### **F.5 Time**

Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, time, if stated in number of days, shall include Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

#### **F.6 Licensing, Accreditation and Registration**

The selected Offeror shall comply with all applicable District of Columbia and federal licensing, accreditation, and registration requirements and standards necessary for the performance of the contract.

#### **F.7 Limitation of Authority**

Only the Commission or a person with prior written authority from the Commission shall have the express, implied, or apparent authority to alter, amend, modify, or waive any clause or condition of the contract. Furthermore, any alteration, amendment, modification, or waiver of any clause or condition of this RFP is not effective or binding unless made in writing and signed by the Commission or its authorized representative.

#### **F.8 Conformance with Laws**

It shall be the responsibility of the selected Offeror to perform under the contract in conformance with the Commission's procurement regulations and all statutes, laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules, requirements, orders, and policies of governmental bodies, including, without limitation, the U.S. Government and the District of Columbia government; and it is the sole

responsibility of the selected Offeror to identify the procurement regulations, statutes, laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules, requirements, orders and policies that apply and their effect.

**F.9 Statement Regarding Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Each Offeror shall identify any relationships between itself or its employees and the companies under the jurisdiction of the Commission, or any parent, subsidiary or affiliate, of such companies. The extent, nature and time aspects must be identified. If there have been no such relationships, a statement to that effect shall be included in the proposal. Failure to provide the statement on potential conflicts of interest will automatically disqualify the Offeror.

**F.10 Financial Capability**

The selected awardee may be required by the Commission to describe their financial capability to complete the work required and to sustain operations for the term of the contract. Acceptable evidence of financial capability may include, if requested, an audited financial statement within the past 12 months from a certified public accountant.

## **SECTION G: INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **G.1 Required Insurance**

The Contractor will be required to maintain the following types of insurance throughout the life of the contract.

**G.1.1** Commercial general public liability insurance (“Liability Insurance”) against liability for bodily injury and death and property damage, such Liability Insurance to be in an amount not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for liability for bodily injury, death and property damage arising from any one occurrence and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) from the aggregate of all occurrences within each policy year. The policy should include completed operations coverage and must be maintained for a period of at least three (3) years after substantial completion occurs.

**G.1.2** Workers’ compensation and Employers Liability coverage providing statutory benefits for all persons employed by the Offeror, or its contractors and subcontractors at or in connection with the Work.

**G.1.3** Automobile Liability, including Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage.

#### **G.1.4 Additional Insured**

Each insurance policy shall be issued in the name of the Contractor and shall name as additional insured parties the Public Service commission and the District of Columbia and shall not be cancelable or reduced without thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Commission.

### **G.2 Waiver of Subrogation**

All such insurance shall contain a waiver of subrogation against the Commission and the District of Columbia, and their respective agents.

### **G.3 Strength of Insurer**

All insurance shall be placed with insurers that are reasonably acceptable to the Commission and with an A.M. Best’s rating of not less than A- (Excellent) and a surplus size of not less than XV. All such insurers shall be licensed/approved to do business in the District of Columbia.