



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. PSC-24-06

**PERFORM INDEPENDENT MANHOLE INSPECTIONS AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL AUDITING
AND CONSULTING SERVICES ON PEPCO'S MANHOLE INSPECTION AND UNDERGROUND
ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REMEDIATION PROGRAM**

Proposal Issue Date: October 17, 2023

Proposal Due Date: November 16, 2023
No later than 4pm

Submit Electronically to: Kimberly M. Gray
kgray@psc.dc.gov

Contact: Kimberly M. Gray
Contract Specialist
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
1325 G Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
Email: kgray@psc.dc.gov

SECTION A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A.1 Purpose

The mission of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (“Commission”) is to serve the public interest by ensuring that financially healthy utility companies provide safe, reliable and quality utility services at reasonable rates for District of Columbia customers while fostering grid modernization, conservation of natural resources, preservation of environmental quality, and advancement of the District’s climate policy commitments.

The purpose of the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) is to solicit proposals for a Contractor to perform independent manhole inspections and provide technical auditing and consulting services on Pepco’s manhole inspection and underground electrical distribution system remediation program. **This Request for Proposal is issued in the open market with a 35% subcontracting requirement as applicable in Section C.**

A.2 Contract Term

The contract term will be one year with the option to extend for four additional one-year periods at the Commission’s sole discretion.

A.3 Type of Contract

The contract resulting from this RFP will be Fixed Price for Task 1 and Time and Materials for Task 2.

A.5 Selection Criteria

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

A. 5.1	Experience & Past Performance	20 points
A. 5.2	Qualifications and Experience Key Personnel	20 points
A.5.3	Work Plan and Technical Approach	40 points
A.5.4	Price	<u>20 points</u> 100 points
A.5.4	CBE Preference Points (See Section C.1)	<u>12 points</u>
	Maximum Points	112 points

A.6 Anticipated Procurement Schedule

A.6.1	Publish RFP on Commission website	October 17, 2023
	Deadline for RFP questions	October 25, 2023
	Deadline for submission of proposals	November 16, 2023

Projected award date

Mid-December 2023

A.6 List of Attachments

Attachment A - Form of Offer Letter

Attachment B - Disclosure/Conflict of Interest Statement

Attachment C - Non-Disclosure Agreement

Attachment D - Past Performance Evaluation Form

Attachment E - SBE Subcontracting Plan

Attachment F - Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Agreement and Report

Attachment G - First Source Agreement and Revised Employment Plan

Attachment H - Language Access Policy

SECTION B: SCOPE OF WORK

B.1 Background

The Commission is statutorily charged with, among other things, ensuring that the facilities and services furnished by the public utilities are reasonably safe and adequate. Pursuant to its statutory mandate, the Commission opened Formal Case No. 991 on March 6, 2000, to investigate the manhole incidents that began occurring in the District of Columbia. On June 26, 2001, in Order No. 12036, the Commission directed, among other things, that Potomac Electric Power Company ("Pepco") file quarterly manhole inspection reports.

On May 16, 2003, the Commission released its Opinion and Order (Order No. 12735), regarding its investigation into the cause or causes of manhole explosions and fires in the District of Columbia. The Commission adopted several measures for Pepco to implement to address the problems identified and documented by the Commission's investigation. The Commission required, among other things, that Pepco expand its ongoing manhole inspection effort from 5,000 manholes a year to 10,000 manholes a year in order to complete the inspection of all of its approximately 60,000 manholes every six (6) years. The Commission also required Pepco to prepare a plan and provide periodic reports on the implementation of remedial actions mandated by the Commission as a result of the investigation, as well as those undertaken by Pepco's own initiative. Since the implementation of these requirements, Pepco has taken several remedial actions and instituted the reporting requirements mandated by the Commission.

Further, the Commission has initiated additional formal cases related to the safety and reliability of Pepco's distribution system. The Offeror will be required to assist the Commission in resolving technical, safety, and reliability issues in other formal cases relating to manhole inspections.

B.2 Scope of Work

The Contractor shall perform the following tasks:

B.2.1. Task 1- Inspect and Report on PEPCO Manhole Activity

The Contractor shall monitor, assess, evaluate, and report on Pepco's implementation of all remedial and investigative activities required by Commission Order No. 12735 in F.C. No. 991. The Contractor will conduct inspections, studies and investigations, collect and analyze data, and draft findings regarding the safety and reliability of Pepco's underground, above ground and overhead electrical distribution system. The Contractor will be required to file periodic and annual reports that detail its findings and Pepco's compliance with the Commission's directives.

B.2.1.1 The Contractor shall independently inspect and report on 300 Pepco manholes in the district. Select 300 of the 10,000 manholes by using stratified random sampling methodology. The Contractor shall consider geographic diversity in the District, recent inspections by Pepco's Contractors, inspections along feeders appearing and re-appearing on the annual least performing feeders list, and at locations of recent manhole events, particularly the severe events.

B.2.1.2 Review manhole inspection reports and the maintenance history of manholes involved in manhole events in the past year.

B.2.1.3 Review and analyze the loading history and rating of the feeders and report on overloading incidents within the last five (5) years.

B.2.1.4 Visually inspect and digitally photograph the contents of all 300 manholes, including all cables, splices and equipment. Identify all reportable conditions for remediation. Take temperature readings using a thermal gun and report any and all readings found to be above maximum allowable for the specific cables and splices and recommend remedial action(s).

B.2.1.5 Review and comment on the accuracy of Pepco's description of the network transformer primary cabinet failures. Help assure that Pepco's future equipment-related manhole event reports reflect corrosion as a descriptive cause whenever observed.

B.2.1.5.1 Monitor to validate that Pepco includes observation of significant rusting (corrosion) on transformers and other critical equipment as a Priority 1 Reportable Condition requiring corrective action within five (5) days in Pepco's manhole inspection program Repair Priority Schedule.

B.2.1.5.2 Investigate and validate the number of infrared surveys and mappings conducted by Pepco to detect hot spots/potential fault spots.

B.2.1.5.3 Conduct a detailed and meticulous inspection of each cable splice to check and report on evidence of:

- Paper insulation wrinkled during the splicing process
- Paper insulation damaged while bending the conductors
- Irregularity or void in the insulation
- Joints submerged under water
- Voids in the outer lead covering or in the filler
- Water infiltration into the splice
- Oil infiltration into the splice
- Arc proof tape applied to imploded areas/dents on PILC splices
- Leaks from splices.

B.2.1.5.4 Verify quality assurance ("QA") by comparing inspection findings with Pepco's inspection documentation and recently inspected manholes. Examine and assess the results from Pepco's manhole inspection quality control ("QC") program and determine the extent to which Pepco's contractor inspections have been accepted or rejected by Pepco based on protocol and re-inspection samples performed by Pepco personnel. Review the status and performance of the manhole inspection training program and refresher training efforts.

B.2.1.5.5 Review and comment on Pepco's inspection of manholes adjacent to the event manhole during the post-event repair and inspection procedure.

B.2.1.5.6 Examine and inspect Pepco's manhole inspection records and reports to ensure/validate that: 1) all of the 10,000 manholes scheduled for inspection each year were actually inspected, 2) all of the 60,000 manholes in Pepco's distribution system have been inspected at least once during the six-year inspection cycle with no repeat inspection of any manhole conducted counted towards the 10,000-manhole inspection target per year or the 60,000 manhole inspection target over six years.

B.2.1.5.7 Provide detailed analysis of results of the manhole-related findings and issues and make specific recommendations on new technologies for manhole construction and rehabilitation/rebuilding of existing manholes.

B.2.1.5.8 Provide analysis and comments if requested and required by the Commission and Staff on inspection and maintenance items including but not limited to Pepco's quarterly manhole inspection reports and reports in response to Commission orders in FC991 PEPMIR, as required.

B.2.1.5.9 Prepare and submit an Annual Technical Audit Report.

B.2.1.6 Review and analyze Pepco's outages, the causes and the frequency of the manhole incidents implicated in the outages. In order to accomplish this, the Contractor will:

B.2.1.6.1 Review and analyze Pepco's power outage and manhole event reports by cause categories (e.g., equipment failures, weather/precipitation/chemicals, animals, etc.) and summarize the trends and root causes. Conduct analyses of manhole events and trends, including the severity of events (explosions, fires, smokers), number of manhole events by primary vs. secondary system, and primary voltage levels, geographic location, including clustering of events by neighborhood, cable/splice type and date, equipment and date, identity of technician/splicer, and secondary splice technologies.

B.2.1.6.2 Examine and comment on Pepco's underground system reliability performance vis-à-vis the Commission's standards such as the Electricity Quality of Service Standards ("EQSS") (blue sky System Average Interruption Frequency Index ("SAIFI"), System Average Interruption Duration Index ("SAIDI"), Customer Average Interruption Duration Index ("CAIDI")), Customers Experiencing Multiple Interruptions ("CEMI"), and major (storm) outage restoration benchmarks ("MSO"), as appropriate.

B.3 Task 2- Technical Assistance

The Contractor shall assist the Commission in resolving technical, safety, and reliability issues in other formal cases relating to manhole inspections and events.

B.4 Interviews and Site visits.

The Contractor shall schedule visits and conduct interviews with Pepco's management, professional, and technical personnel regarding topics of current interest and concern. The topics to be discussed may include the following:

- a. the manhole inspection program;

- b. the status of the expanded use of slotted/vented manhole covers;
- c. the status of the secondary splice technologies pilot project;
- d. the Paper Insulated Lead Cable (“PILC”) replacement programs with the latest generation of solid dielectric cable;
- e. changes or enhancements to Pepco’s asbestos and asbestos-containing materials (“ACM”) management and reporting policies, procedures, and practices, and appropriate recommendations for improvement; and,
- f. results of Pepco’s cathodic protection and corrosion control/abatement program for the period. Additional topics may be addressed in light of investigative findings, and with the approval of the Contract Administrator (“CA”).

B.5 Communication. The Contractor shall:

B.5.1 Provide contact information to the CA. This will include office and cell phone numbers, email addresses, and office addresses.

B.5.2 Respond to inquiries from the CA within 24 hours of notification and the Project Manager shall be available on short notice throughout out the duration of the contract.

B.5.3 In the event issues and/or concerns arise that require immediate attention by the CA, the Contractor will communicate such items to the CA withing 24 hours.

B.5.4 All data requests and planned visits to Pepco must first be submitted to and formally approved by the CA.

B. 6 Applicable Documents

Item #	Document Type	Title	Version/Date
1	Formal Case 991	In the Matter of the Investigation into Explosions Occurring in or Around the Underground Distribution Systems of the Potomac Electric Power Company	March 6, 2000
2	Oder No. 12036		June 26, 2001
3	Order No. 12735		May 16, 2003

B.7 Deliverables

Item	Description	Frequency	Due Date (Calendar days)
1	Periodic Project Status Report	Quarterly	15 days following end of each Qtr.

2	Annual Technical Audit Report for PEPMIR	Annually	By January 30 of each year.
3	Drafts of PEPMIR related memoranda, data requests, and opinions	As Needed	TBD

SECTION C: ECONOMIC INCLUSION

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

General: Under the provisions of the Small, Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Amendment Act of 2005,¹ preference 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 preferences shall be awarded in evaluating an Offeror’s proposal:

- 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.

C.2 Mandatory Subcontracting Requirements

C.2.1 DSLDBE Participation

The Commission requires that significant participation by business enterprises certified by the Department of Small and Local Business Development as: (i) a local business enterprise; (ii) a small business enterprise; (iii) a disadvantaged business enterprise; (iv) having an owned resident business; (v) being a longtime business resident; or (vi) having a local business enterprise with its principal office located in an enterprise zone.

Accordingly, and in addition to the preference points conferred by Section C.1 to certified prime contractors, the Commission requires that business enterprises so certified must participate in at least 35% of the work unless the prime contractor is certified as a small, local or disadvantaged business enterprise.

C.2.2 If there are insufficient SBEs to completely fulfill the requirement of paragraph C.2.1,

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

then the subcontracting may be satisfied by subcontracting 35% of the contract value to any qualified certified business enterprises (CBEs); provided, however, that all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that SBEs are significant participants in the overall subcontracting work.

C.2.3 A prime contractor that is certified by DSLBD as a small, local, or disadvantaged business enterprise shall not be required to comply with the provisions of Sections C.2.1 and [C.2.2].

C.2.4 Except as provided in C.2.5 and C.2.7, a prime contractor that is a CBE and has been granted a bid preference pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-218.43, or is selected through a set-aside program, shall perform at least 35% of the contracting effort with its own organization and resources and, if it subcontracts, 35% of the subcontracting effort shall be with CBEs. A CBE prime contractor that performs less than 35% of the contracting effort shall be subject to enforcement actions under D.C. Official Code § 2-218.63.

C.2.5 If the prime contractor is a certified joint venture and has been granted a bid preference pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-218.43, or is selected through a set-aside program, the CBE member of the certified joint venture shall perform at least 50% of the contracting effort with its own organization and resources and, if it subcontracts, 35% of the subcontracting effort shall be with CBEs. If the CBE member of the certified joint venture prime contractor performs less than 50% of the contracting effort, the certified joint venture shall be subject to enforcement actions under D.C. Official Code § 2-218.63.

C.2.6 Each CBE utilized to meet these subcontracting requirements shall perform at least 35% of its contracting effort with its own organization and resources.

C.2.7 A prime contractor that is a CBE and has been granted a bid preference pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-218.43, or is selected through a set-aside program, shall perform at least 50% of the on-site work with its own organization and resources if the Contract is \$1 million or less.

C.2.8 Offerors will be required to submit a SBE Subcontracting Plan (Attachment E) with their proposals. The SBE Subcontracting Plan must demonstrate how this requirement will be met and, to the extent possible at this stage in the project, should identify the specific firms that will be used and their respective roles.

C.2.9 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., 9th 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, 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.

C.3 HIRING OF DISTRICT RESIDENTS AS APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

C.3.1 For all new employment resulting from this contract or subcontracts hereto, as defined in Mayor's Order 83-265 and implementing instructions, the Awardee shall use its best efforts to comply with the following basic goal and objectives for utilization of bona fide residents of the District of Columbia in each project's labor force:

C.3.1.1 At least fifty-one (51) percent of apprentices and trainees employed shall be residents of the District of Columbia registered in programs approved by the District of Columbia Apprenticeship Council.

C.3.2 The Awardee shall negotiate an Employment Agreement with the Department of Employment Services (DOES) for jobs created as a result of this contract. The DOES shall be the Awardee first source of referral for qualified apprentices and trainees in the implementation of employment goals contained in this clause.

C.4 51% DISTRICT RESIDENTS NEW HIRES REQUIREMENTS AND FIRST SOURCE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

C.4.1 For contracts for services in the amount of \$300,000 or more, the Awardee shall comply with the First Source Employment Agreement Act of 1984, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 2-219.01 et seq. (First Source Act).

C.4.2 The Awardee shall enter into and maintain during the term of the contract, a First Source Employment Agreement (Employment Agreement) with the District of Columbia Department of Employment Service's (DOES), in which the Awardee shall agree that:

- (a) The first source for finding employees to fill all jobs created in order to perform the contract shall be the First Source Register; and
- (b) The first source for finding employees to fill any vacancy occurring in all jobs covered by the Employment Agreement shall be the First Source Register.

C.4.3 The Awardee shall not begin performance of the contract until its Employment Agreement has been accepted by DOES. Once approved, the Employment Agreement shall not be amended except with the approval of DOES.

C.4.4 The Awardee agrees that at least 51% of the new employees hired to perform the contract shall be District residents.

- C.4.5** The Awardee hiring and reporting requirements under the First Source Act and any rules promulgated thereunder shall continue for the term of the contract.
- C.4.6** The CO may impose penalties, including monetary fines of 5% of the total amount of the direct and indirect labor costs of the contract, for a willful breach of the Employment Agreement, failure to submit the required hiring compliance reports, or deliberate submission of falsified data.
- C.4.7** If the Awardee does not receive a good faith waiver, the CO may also impose an additional penalty equal to 1/8 of 1% of the total amount of the direct and indirect labor costs of the contract for each percentage by which the Awardee fails to meet its hiring requirements.
- C.4.8** Any Awardee which violates, more than once within a 10-year timeframe, the hiring or reporting requirements of the First Source Act shall be referred for debarment for not more than five (5) years.
- C.4.9** The Awardee may appeal any decision of the CO pursuant to this clause to the D.C. Contract Appeals Board as provided in Article 7 of the Department of General Services Standard Contract Provisions (Construction Contracts), Disputes and or Article 14 of the Department of General Services Standard Contract Provisions (Supplies and Services Contracts) (January 2016).
- C.4.10** The provisions of the First Source Act do not apply to nonprofit organizations which employ 50 employees or less.

C.5 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AGREEMENT AND REPORT

In accordance with the District of Columbia Administrative Issuance System, Mayor's Order 85-85 dated June 10, 1985, the forms for completion of the Equal Employment Opportunity Information Report are incorporated herein as **Attachment F**. An award cannot be made to any Offeror who has not satisfied the equal employment requirements.

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.3.1 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.3.2 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 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.3.3 Topics

The Offeror may present information about its capabilities and special qualifications, including the qualifications of key personnel.

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 and Past Performance (20 POINTS TOTAL)

D.4.1.2 Qualifications and Experience of Firm and/or Team Members, including subcontractors, and partners

Offerors will be evaluated, on their demonstrated experience, qualifications, capabilities, and past performance for each category. Offerors shall provide at a minimum the following verifiable information:

D.4.1.2.1 Descriptions of work the Offeror has completed in the last 5 years that is similar in scope and complexity to that required by the requirements in Section B of this RFP. **(10 points)**

D.4.1.2.2 Identification of the Key Personnel, if any, who performed the work described in response to D.4.1.2.1 who are proposed as key personnel for this RFP. **(5 points)**

D.4.1.2.3 Offerors shall return a minimum of three (3) completed Past Performance Evaluation Form Attachment C, preferably for the work described in response to D.4.1.2.1. **(5 points)**

D.4.2 Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel (20 POINTS TOTAL)

Offerors will be evaluated on the qualifications and experience of key individuals assigned to the work.

D.4.2.1 Offerors shall identify the persons who will perform the work described in this RFP and provide a detailed resume for each that describes the experience and qualifications applicable to the performance of the work for which they would be responsible. **(10 points)**

D.4.2.2 Offerors shall designate a primary point of contact and this person shall be responsible for project management, reporting, coordination, and accountability for all work. The Commission must be notified of changes to the Commission's point of contact. **(10 points)**

D.4.3 Work Plan and Technical Approach (40 points)

D.4.3.1. The Offeror shall present a proposed Work Plan that demonstrates its methodology for completion of Task 1. The Work Plan should include milestones, tasks, activities, events, deliverables, and timeframes that will facilitate completion of Task 1 on an annual basis. **(20 points)**

D.4.3.2 Offerors will be evaluated based on, but not limited to: (a) the thoroughness, clarity and soundness of the proposed approach, (b) the method of communicating, both orally and in writing, with Commission staff and, and (c) a Work Plan that demonstrates Project Management expertise in (1), implementing this project and meeting the deadlines for the scheduled

deliverables, (2) adjusting to changing circumstances, and (3), tracking the progress of the project. The Offeror's Resource Schedule described in section D.4.3.2 will also be reviewed as part of this factor. **(20 points)**

D.4.4 Price (20 points)

The Commission desires a Fixed Price for Task 1 and Time and Materials for Task 2. To that end, Offerors are required to quote a lump sum fixed price for Task 1 and Hourly Rates with for Task 2, as indicated on **Attachment A**.

For evaluation purposes, price points will be assigned based on the total fixed price for Task 1 of the project. Price will initially be evaluated using an objective rating scale with the lowest estimated price receiving the maximum point score and others receiving a proportionately lower score. In addition, the Commission may evaluate each Offeror's price 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 Competitive Range

If the Contracting Officer elects to hold discussions with Offerors, then discussions will be held with all Offerors in the competitive range, which will be established based on the evaluation criteria set forth in Subsections D.4.1 to D.4.3 and Section C.1. 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 in 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 disqualification.

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 for 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 Submission Identification

Submissions shall be emailed with the subject header: " **PERFORM INDEPENDENT MANHOLE INSPECTIONS AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL AUDITING AND CONSULTING SERVICES ON PEPCO'S MANHOLE INSPECTION AND UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REMEDIATION PROGRAM**"

Submissions shall be emailed to:

Kimberly Gray
Contract Specialist
kgray@psc.dc.gov

E.2 Date and Time for Receiving Submissions

Submissions shall be received no later than 4:00 p.m., EST, November 16, 2023. Offerors assume the sole responsibility for timely delivery of their submission, regardless of the method of delivery.

E.3 Submission Size, Organization and Offeror Qualifications

All submissions shall be submitted electronically. The Commission is interested in a qualitative approach to the presentation material. Brief, clear, and concise material is more desirable than quantity. **The Offeror shall submit a separate technical and price proposal. The submission shall be organized as follows:**

E.3.1 Table of Contents

Offeror's must include a Table of Contents with page numbers for each section.

E.3.2 Disclosure/Conflict of Interest Form

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

E.3.3 Executive Summary

Each Offeror should provide an overview of the project team that includes the following information for the principal firm and any subcontractor or joint venture partner firms:

- A. Name(s) and address(es), and principal(s) of each firm.
- B. Firm profile(s), including:
 1. Firm(s) size in annual revenue, number of employees, and number of years in business.

2. Organizational Structure depicting reporting chain and relationships between partners and subcontractors
3. Areas of expertise including the roles and responsibilities of each partner and subcontractor.
4. DC Certified Business Enterprise (provide certification, if applicable)
5. Please include a copy of the Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy, if available.

E.3.4 Non-Disclosure Agreement

Each Offeror shall submit a Non-Disclosure Agreement substantially in the form of **Attachment C**.

E.3.5 Certificate of District City-wide Clean Hands

The taxpayer must self-generate and provide the agencies with the Clean Hands Certificate from the OTR self-service portal located at – **mytax.dc.gov**

E.3.6 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.3.7 Experience & Past Performance

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

E.3.8 Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel

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

E.3.9 Work Plan & Technical Approach

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

E.3.10 Price

The Offeror shall submit **Attachment A**, Form of Offer Letter, as applicable.

DO NOT INCLUDE PRICING INFORMATION IN YOUR TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

THE FORM OF OFFER LETTER (ATTACHMENT A) SHALL BE SEPARATED FROM THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL INFORMATION.

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:

Kimberly M. Gray
Contract Specialist
kgray@psc.dc.gov

F.1.1 Questions

All inquiries must be made on or before **October 25, 2023**, to the attention of Kimberly M. Gray at the email address above. RFP No. PSC-24-06 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.dcpssc.org under RFP No. PSC-24-06.

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 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 Language Access Policy

Contractors, including third party providers, hired by the Commission to carry out services, programs, or activities directly to the public are required to **a)** collect data regarding contact with LEP/NEP customers and report this data to the Commission on a quarterly basis, **b)** provide oral interpretation services, **c)** translate vital documents, and **d)** train personnel on all compliance requirements according to the same standards required of the Commission, **e)** by agreement, certify in writing that LA Act compliance requirements will be satisfied by contractors, and **f)** display relevant multilingual signage.

F. 10 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.11 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 (US\$1,000,000) for liability for bodily injury, death and property damage arising from any one occurrence and One Million Dollars (US\$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 (US\$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 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.