

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

IN RE: PUBLIC UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW
Assessment of the Public Utility Infrastructure Review responses received from Mississippi's electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunication public utilities.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

At its May 4, 2021 Open Docket Meeting, the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") voted to issue this Request for Proposals ("RFP") for the Public Utility Infrastructure Review (Review), announced on February 24, 2021, from qualified firms interested in providing services described but not limited to the scope of work detailed below. The applicant awarded the contract shall be bound by the terms outlined herein. Further, the awarded applicant shall be compensated for its assessment in an amount not exceeding \$50,000 (fifty thousand).

Scope of Work

Pursuant to the above-referenced Review, the Commission requests proposals from qualified, independent firms to examine the resiliency, reliability, fitness and weatherization, access to key materials, communication plans with the Commission and consumers, methods used to secure additional personnel, and efficiency and effectiveness of management decisions made during extreme weather events.

1. The selected applicant will do this by examining the responses given to the Commission from the Public Utility Infrastructure Review questions issued to the state of Mississippi's electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunication utilities.

2. From these responses, the selected applicant shall develop and create a written report of the findings based on the information contained within the responses provided by the utilities.
3. The selected applicant may also conduct interviews with key utility personnel, issue additional data requests or conduct other research as needed to accumulate data, information or other knowledge for the purpose of providing a comprehensive assessment of resilience, reliability, fitness and operability of the infrastructure critical for the generation, transmission and/or distribution of essential electric, natural gas, water, and/or telecommunication utilities.
4. The selected applicant can follow but is not constrained to the report outline provided by the Commission in Attachment A.
5. Based on the firm's review, the firm will then also make written recommendations for each utility sector and cross-cutting actions regarding policy, regulation, system management, and emergency response.

The Commission anticipates that examination of responses and submission of report shall be completed within 3 months (90 days) from the date of contract execution.

Eligible Offerors

To be eligible, participants must be neutral and impartial without any conflict of interest related to the Mississippi Public Service Commission. Eligible participants must demonstrate competence, relevant experience, and resources to perform the duties as described in the Scope of Work section of this RFP.

Proposal Requirements

All proposals submitted in response to this Request for Proposals must include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The legal name of the firm(s) and the location of the firm's principal place of business.
2. A thorough Executive Summary of the Proposal.
3. Evidence of the firm's experience and abilities in the specified area directly related to the proposed service including, but not limited to, a list and supporting documentation reflecting the specific expertise and experience in performing work in the relevant area.
4. The qualifications and experience of all persons who would be assigned to provide the required services.
5. A detailed description of how the service will be provided including, but not limited to, a description of major tasks and sub-tasks.
6. A Project schedule and details of how each task identified will be best accomplished.
7. Thorough and detailed pricing information.
8. Any available references for contracts of similar size and scope. Include the name of the organization; the length of the contract; a brief summary of the work; and, the name and telephone number of a responsible contact person.
9. A statement verifying that the prospective auditor has/has not retained any person or agency on a percentage, commission or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.

10. Discuss any conflicts of interest that may arise, if your proposal is accepted.
11. Any additional information that will aid in evaluation of the response.

Evaluation of Proposals

Factors to be considered in the evaluation of proposals include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Responsiveness to all items set forth in this Request for Proposals.
2. Applicant's ability to provide the required services as reflected/ evidenced by qualifications and experience.
3. Whether adequate personnel and other resources to perform the services are currently available or demonstrated to be made available at the time of contracting.
4. The overall detailed description of the proposed plan for performing the required services.
5. A record of past performance of similar work

Legal Requirements

By submitting a response, applicants represent and warrant to the Commission that all information provided in the response is true, correct, and complete. Applicants who provide false, misleading, or incomplete information, whether intentional or not, in any documents presented to the Commission for consideration in the selection process may be excluded.

The selected firm shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and mandates relative to the services to be provided under this RFP. The selected firm

shall have the appropriate liability insurance written by an insurer authorized to transact insurance in the State of Mississippi.

Submission of a response indicates acceptance of the conditions contained in this RFP, unless clearly and specifically noted in the response and confirmed in the contract with the selected firm.

Under no circumstances shall an applicant whose submittal is not accepted be entitled to any claim for compensation. The Commission shall not be responsible for the costs incurred by anyone in the submittal of a response to this RFP.

Applicants shall not offer any gratuities, favors, or anything of pecuniary value to any Commissioner or any Commission staff member for the purpose of influencing this selection. Any attempt by an applicant to influence the selection process by any means other than disclosure of qualifications and credentials through the proper channels, will be grounds for exclusion from the selection process.

Reservation of Rights

The Commission reserves the right to extend any deadline set forth herein.

The Commission, reserves the right to evaluate all responses submitted in response to this RFP, to waive any irregularities therein, to select candidates for the submittal of more detailed or alternate proposals, to accept any submittal or portion of a submittal, and /or to reject any or all applicants, should it be deemed in the best interest of the public.

The Commission reserves the right to cancel the entire RFP process.

Conclusion

Interested applicants must provide a detailed Proposal conforming the requirements of this RFP. Proposals may be submitted electronically, mailed, and/or

hand-delivered to the Commission. All Proposals must be received by the Commission no later than June 15, 2021 at the following email katherine.collier@psc.ms.gov and/or at the following address:

Mississippi Public Service Commission
Attn: Katherine Collier, Executive Director
501 N. West Street, Suite 201-A (39201)
P.O. Box 1174
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1174

All questions or comments should be directed to Katherine Collier, Executive Director, at 601-961-5405.



ISSUED this, the 18th day of May, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Katherine Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style.

KATHERINE COLLIER
Executive Director

Brandon Presley, Commissioner
Brent Bailey, Commissioner
Dane Maxwell, Chairmen

Attachment A

Public Utility Infrastructure Review **Report Outline**

Report

- I. Introduction to Issue
 - a. Purpose of Investigation – Regulatory Authority
 - b. Method of data collection
- II. Recent Extreme Weather Events (and quantify impacts to utility Service)
 - a. February 2021 Winter Storms
 - b. October 2020 Hurricane
 - c. Tornado Outbreaks
 - d. Other Threats (Earthquake; Cyber Attacks; Physical Attacks)
- III. Managing Utility Infrastructure for Resiliency & Reliability
 - a. Electric
 - i. Investor Owned Utilities
 - ii. Co-ops
 - b. Natural Gas
 - i. Investor Owned Utilities
 - ii. Municipality/Districts
 - c. Water/Sewer
 - i. Rural Water Associations
 - ii. Municipalities
 - iii. Districts
 - d. Telecommunications

- i. Private/Local
 - ii. Incumbent
- IV. Event Management – Planning, Preparation, & Response for Electric, Water/Sewer, Natural Gas, Telecommunications
 - a. Continuous Actions
 - b. Imminent Event Actions
 - c. Managing the Response
 - d. Post-Event Evaluation (Lessons Learned)
- V. Communications to Key Stakeholders (Protocols & Process, Platforms & Mediums, Timing & Alert Triggers)
 - a. Customers
 - b. Regulators
 - c. Vendors
 - d. RTOs/Other
 - e. Trade Association
 - f. Emergency Management
 - g. Local Officials
- VI. Recommendations for Each Utility Sector and Cross-Cutting Actions
 - a. Policy
 - b. Regulatory
 - c. System Management
 - d. Emergency Response
 - e. Communication