



CITY OF HOUSTON

Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department
Strategic Purchasing Division

Annise D. Parker
Mayor

Calvin D. Wells, Deputy Director
City Purchasing Agent
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

F. 832.393.8755
<https://purchasing.houstontx.gov>

January 26, 2010

Subject: Letter of Clarification No. 3 to Invitation to Bid No. S50-C23516 for Clean Out Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Wet Wells for the Public Works and Engineering Department

To: All Prospective Contractors:

This letter of Clarification is being issued for the following reasons:

- **To revise the solicitation document as follows:**

- 1.) Electronic Bid Form:
The electronic bid form has been revised to answer your questions concerning weights and measurements, regarding "Wet Ton" as your unit of measure, to place your bid.
- 2.) Section "B" Scope of Work / Specifications:
Delete pages 4, 6, 7, & 8 Of 19, and replace with the revised pages 4, 6, 7 & 8 of 19, marked, Revised 01/21/2010.

- **The following questions and City of Houston responses are hereby incorporated and made a part of the Invitation to Bid:**

Question 1: On the bid, there is a discrepancy on the tons of solids to be removed at an approximate? It states 70 tons in one part of the bid and talks about 100tons in another part.

Response: This question has been addressed in Section "B", of the revised Scope of Work. (See the attached revised pages 6, 7 & 8 of 19 of the Scope of Work)

Question 2: Will samples be allowed for classification? (TCLP)

Response: Upon mobilization the Contractor shall contact Wastewater Operations personnel for assistance in obtaining a sample of the debris contained in each of the wet wells proposed to be cleaned by providing access to the wet well. The Contractor shall bear all costs incurred in the sampling and testing required to obtain the required Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) is a federal EPA test method to characterize waste as hazardous or non-hazardous for the purpose of disposal. The cost to obtain the required TCLPs shall be included in the mobilization pay item.

Question 3: What are the prevailing wages for technicians and operators?

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Response: The classification of technician is not covered by the City's prevailing wage rates, so as long as the employee is not performing work in any of the classifications listed on the wage rate table, then they can be classified as technicians on the certified payroll. As for operators they will fall under the wage rate pertaining to the equipment they are operating, i.e. loader operator or the type of truck they operate. If this is specialized equipment that the City doesn't reference in the wage rate table then contact the Department Manager to discuss in detail. (Reference, Affirmative Action Department / 2009 Engineering Wage Decision)

Question 4: Do we understand correctly, that pay item 1 is intended to be per site and if so, why would the QTY be 1?

Response It has been addressed in the revised on-line E-Bid Form.

Question 5: Do we understand correctly that if only 50 tons is removed from 1 of the 4 wet wells that the contractor would still be paid for 100 tons under line item no. 2?

Response No, the Contractor will get paid per each ton removed. See the updated Scope of Work. (See the attached revised Scope of Work, pages 6, 7, & 8 of 16, marked, Revised 01/21/2010)

Question 6: Is it a requirement to provide a bid online if you still need to turn one in to the City Secretary?

Response Yes.

Question 7: Upon our scheduled site visit to Chocolate Bayou Lift Station at 8AM 1-19-10, it seemed evident that the plans that were published to be the ones for that station didn't match the station that we were looking at. Are there going to be revised plans published of what is actually out there?

Response The most updated drawings were provided. See response # 10.

Question 8: In light of the fact that the site visits didn't follow the published schedule causing some to miss the opportunity to visit Upper Brays and WCID 111, can a second site visit be scheduled for those 2 stations?

Response The Public Works and Engineering Department will re-schedule site visits for each lift station wet well proposed for cleaning. This schedule is as follows:
January 28, 2010:

Chocolate Bayou	9:00am – 9:45am;	Upper Brays	1:00pm – 1:45pm
Southwest	10:30am-11:15am;	WCID # 111	2:15pm – 3:00pm

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Question 9: Influent flow statistics, i.e. peak & low-flow volumes and corresponding time frames for each wet well?

Response If they are requested they can be provided.

Question 10: Current “as-built” information showing ALL influent pipes, diameters and flow line elevations. WCID 111 drawings show only (1ea.) w/o its elevation, but I saw at least (2ea.) incoming flows during the site visit. They could be @ the same elevation, but is not shown on the drawing. This information is also lacking in other structural drawings we were furnished.

Response Contractors are encouraged to obtain any additional drawings from the Plan File Room at 611 Walker

Question 11: What areas of the wet wells’ flooring are be cleaned? Are the “influent” sides of the weirs included? (If yes, the influent pipes will have to be cleaned in order to eliminate the progression of solids upstream of the weirs.)

Response All debris shall be removed from the wet wells to the limits stated in the Scope of Work.

Question 12: What is the lift pump bottom of suction bell/volute elevations from the floor at each wet well?

Response This information can be found on the drawings, see response # 10.

Question 13: As for the “Waste Generator”, will the City furnish a “Generator Waste Profile Sheet” and “Third Party Signature Authorization” for Solid Waste Disposal? It is my understanding that each WWTP wet well must be treated as separate waste “sources” and will require a full “Laboratory Waste Analysis Report” for each “Source”, the cost of each will be paid by the “Third Party” Bidder/Contractor.

Response See response # 2

Question 14: Whereas, draining the wet wells to ascertain the cleanliness is not feasible, will the City accept a “Sonar Survey”, or will an existing access hatch “gauging pole” method be acceptable?

Response See the revised Scope of Work, pages, 6, 7, & 8 of 19, marked; Revised 01/21/2010.

Question 15: The method of payment as discussed during the pre bid conference is not clear. As stipulated in the specs, pay item #1 has a \$15K upper limit to cover mobilization and equipment setup. This item must cover initial equipment purchases, partial equipment fees and setup/demobilization labor. Pay items #2

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and #3 costs should be generated using “KNOWN” or “MINIMUM PAY” quantities for solids disposal per location. Without minimum pay quantities or known quantities, a cost-effective charge for equipment time, F,O&R and labor expense cannot be formulated.

Response With prior notice, Contractors will be allowed to measure debris in each wet well. As per the Scope of Work, the Contractor will be paid for the actual amount of debris removed and as such there will be no minimum pay quantities.

Question 16: Does the City require the floatables and solids to be removed and disposed of separately?

Response No

Question 17: Will the City control (turn off) individual lift pumps during “close-proximity” cleaning operations?

Response Yes, as much as possible without causing upstream overflows.

Question 18: Will City personnel regulate flows from off-site influent “sources” in order to minimize sewage levels within the wet wells during the Contractor’s cleaning operations?

Response Yes, as much as possible without causing upstream overflows.

Question 19: Will the Contractor be allowed to set up cleaning support equipment/tanks adjacent to the wet well structures’ exterior walls?

Response Yes.

Question 20: Will the City allow the Contractor to use potable water sources such as closest plant hose bibs or closest fire hydrants relative to the wet wells?

Response Water for cleaning shall be drawn from a COH fire hydrant through a transient water meter and as such water used shall be paid for by the Contractor. Contractor will also be required to use a proper Backflow Preventer to prevent contamination of the drinking water supply.

Question 21: Are there any specific time periods that cleaning operations must or must not be performed?

Response Cleaning operations will be performed during scheduled shift hours of treatment plant Operations personnel (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.) and scheduled by advanced arrangement for unmanned treatment plants. During heavy rain events cleaning operations may not be allowed to continue.

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Question 22: Is Pay Item #1 the charge for “each” WWTP mob & setup? **(Pay items 2 and 3 indicate quantity ranges to be removal and disposal of “per site”.)**

Response See response #4.

Note: No further questions will be accepted after the publication of this Letter of Clarification.

When issued, Letter(s) of Clarification shall automatically become a part of the bid documents and shall supersede any previous specification(s) and/or provision(s) in conflict with the Letter(s) of Clarification. It is the responsibility of the bidders to ensure that it has obtained all such letter(s). By submitting a bid on this project, bidders shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into this solicitation.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each Contractor to obtain any previous Letter of Clarification associated with this solicitation.

Arturo Lopez

Arturo Lopez
Senior Procurement Specialist
832-393-8731

Attachment:
Pages, 4, 6, 7 & 8 of 19, Marked, Revised 01/21/2010.

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QUALITY AND WORKMANSHIP

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The bidder must be able to demonstrate upon request that it has satisfactorily performed services similar to the services specified herein. The bidder will provide records of **having provided similar** services **in the past** upon request by City. The City of Houston shall be the sole judge as to whether the services performed are similar to the scope of services contained herein and whether the bidder is capable of performing such services.

All quantities listed are estimated quantities. The actual quantities may be higher or lower than any estimates, and Contractor shall be paid only for actual wet well cleaning performed, subject to prior direction and approval of the Director's designee.

BID BOND:

The Contractor shall be required to provide and submit with the bid a Bid Bond in the amount of 10% of the total amount bid by the Contractor. The Bid Bond shall be in the same form as that distributed by the City, and attached hereto, all duly executed by this Bidder (as "Principal") and by a corporate surety company licensed to do business in the State of Texas, and if the amount of the bond is greater than \$100,000.00 the surety must hold a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury, or a Cashier's or a Certified check in a like amount. Company or personal checks are not acceptable.

PERFORMANCE BOND and PAYMENT BOND:

The successful Contractor(s) shall be required to provide a Performance and Payment Bond in the total amount (100%) of the Contract if the award is in excess of \$25,000.00.

The Performance and/or Payment Bond shall be in the same form as that distributed by the City, and attached hereto, all duly executed by this bidder (as "Principal") and by an incorporated surety company licensed to do business in the State of Texas. If the amount of the bond is greater than \$100,000.00 the surety must hold a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury.

The Contractor(s) shall be required to provide a Performance and/or Payment Bond as outlined above, which will be delivered to the City Purchasing Agent of the City, on or before the tenth (10th) day following the day the bidder receives notice from the City.

MAINTENANCE BOND:

The Contractor shall furnish a maintenance bond in the total (100%) bid amount in the form required by the City (samples attached). One bond, also referred to as the One Year Maintenance Bond, will be conditioned upon Contractor's repair, replacement or restoration of any work or any portion of the work which is found to be defective or fails in any way to comply strictly with this contract or the plans and specifications for such work within a period of one (1) year from the date of acceptance of such work by the City Council or after the date that the "CO", or his designee in writing, determines, in a written notice to the Contractor, to be the date upon which the project is both substantially complete and available for the full and beneficial occupancy or use of the City.

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**SECTION B
SCOPE OF SERVICE/SPECIFICATIONS
FOR CLEAN OUT OF SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION WET WELLS**

Part I Scope

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1.1 Project Description

- 1.1.1 This project involves the cleaning of from minimum one (1) to maximum four (4) sanitary sewer pump/lift station wet wells of all floating debris and settled solids. The debris and solids may consist of, but not be limited to oil, grease, plastic, rags, sand, grit, rocks, etc. including any item that may be introduced into a sanitary sewer or appurtenance. The debris will then be immediately removed from City property and disposed of by the Contractor according to all applicable laws.
- 1.1.2 The pump/lift stations proposed for cleaning, in the order that they are to be addressed, are the influent lift stations at former Water Control and improvement District (WCID) #111 WWTP, Upper Brays WWTP, Southwest WWTP and the Chocolate Bayou WWTP. It should be noted that the City of Houston will fund cleaning for a minimum of 1 up to a maximum of 4, as above.
- 1.1.3 The Contractor should determine and put into operation the means and methods required to successfully clean the debris from each lift station. The City will review and approve the Bidders Work Plan. The Contractor may not use the City pumps installed in these pump stations to clean the wet well nor may he pump or move the debris to be cleaned from these wet wells into a tank, channel, chamber or basin of the treatment plant or downstream sewer without the approval of the City Engineer. If the contractor is allowed by the Engineer to move the debris from the wet well and into the downstream sewer or a treatment plant tank, basin, channel, box or chamber he shall then immediately remove this debris from same and dispose of it as required before the wet well is considered to be cleaned.

1.2 Project Sequencing/Operation

- 1.2.1 The Contractor is to furnish all permits, equipment, supervision, transportation, tools and personnel necessary to clean the influent lift station at WCID #111 and begin the first cleaning effort. Once this wet well has been cleaned of all debris and accepted by the City, the Contractor will mobilize to the next lift station to be cleaned and begin his next cleaning effort. The Contractor **shall** be allowed to mobilize to and work at **more than** one location at a time **after he successfully cleans the first lift station wet well of all debris as required.**
- 1.2.2 If logistically possible and required to allow the plant to stay in service and/or to prevent severe surcharging of the upstream sewers, the Contractor will be required to partition or dam off a portion of the wet well to facilitate cleaning operations and allow the station to remain in service. In the event that heavy rains occur which in turn result in heavy volumes of flow in the sewers influent to the station being cleaned, the Contractor shall breakdown or dismantle his cleaning equipment and appurtenances to allow the station to return to full/normal service at no extra cost to the City. If the Contractor is unable to allow the station to return to full/normal service he must provide and maintain auxiliary bypass pumps, both the number and size required to equal or exceed the pump capacity lost or placed out-of-service as a result of his

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ongoing cleaning effort, to address these increased flows. The bypass pump(s) shall be complete with necessary piping and valves as required for a fully operational bypass pumping system.

- 1.2.3 All debris removed from each wet well shall be placed in a water-tight roll off or closed container for transportation to a proper dump/disposal site/landfill that is permitted to accept the debris/waste. The water-tight roll off box or closed container shall have no free-stand water or supernatant visible at the time it is transported to the disposal site.

1.3 Project Completion

- 1.3.1 The project will be considered complete when all wet wells proposed and issued for cleaning have all floating and settled debris removed and properly disposed of as required by law. The wet well will be considered clean when approximately 95% of all floating debris, not to exceed a 1/2" thick blanket of floating debris uniformly placed across the entire wet well surface, and 90% of all settled debris, not to exceed a 2" thick layer of settled debris uniformly placed across the entire bottom of the wet well, has been removed from the wet well and properly disposed by law at an approved dump or landfill site. The wet well will then be considered complete and the Contractor shall be allowed to fully mobilize to the next wet well(s) to be cleaned and begin setting up his equipment.

1.3.2 Performance Time

- 1.3.2.1 The Contractor shall have **120 calendar days** to complete all work specified in the contract scope of work after receipt of the Notice-To-Proceed from the City.

Part II Bidders Qualifications

- 2.1 The Bidder's qualifications shall be determined by the review and verification of the information provided in the attached "Contractor's Questionnaire". Bidders must have at least five (5) years of previous experience at cleaning sanitary sewer pump station wet well and wastewater treatment plant tanks, chambers, channels and basins. On at least one of these referenced projects the Bidder must have been the Prime Contractor. These projects must be similar to this project in both scope and project cost. This prior experience shall be documented by completing the attached Contractor's Questionnaire. Please complete the Questionnaire in its entirety with current information, listing at least three (3) similar projects completed within the past four (4) years. The references of the Bidders shall be verified.

Part III Required Deliverables/Documentation

- 3.1 The Contractor will be required to provide either visual verification, video documentation or a scaled drawing with actual physical measurements that accurately profile the bottom of the wet well, tank, chamber, basin, box or channel that will show they have been cleaned of debris as required. **The Contractor may be allowed to use other available technologies (sonar, etc.) to confirm the complete cleaning of the settled debris as required once the validity and accuracy of these technologies are confirmed by the City Engineer.** The Contractor shall also be required to provide property completed waste manifests for all debris removed that shall confirm that the debris removed was properly disposed of as required.

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Part IV Payment

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- 4.1 The Bid Item amounts, being full compensation for the cleaning of each wet well as specified above, will be paid to the Contractor as follows:
- 4.1.1 The Contractor will be paid for mobilization and equipment set-up for each job site. The amount paid for each mobilization and set-up will be the lesser of the Contractor's Bid price for Mobilization and Equipment Set-up or \$15,000.00, whichever is less, NET 30 days after receipt of invoice.
- 4.1.2 Upon successfully removing, transporting and properly disposing of floating and settled debris as specified above, the Contractor will be paid his Bid prices per wet ton weight, first at the price stated for 0-50 wet tons and, if required, next at the price stated for greater than 50 wet tons, for each wet ton of debris removed, transported and disposed of from each wet well, NET 30 days after receipt of invoice. Weigh tickets of actual gross and actual tare weighs from State of Texas certified public scales shall be required for payment from these items.
- 4.1.3 There will be no pay item for Demobilization (equipment tear-down and haul off). Demobilization shall be considered incidental to the Mobilization and Equipment Set-up item.

Part V Bid Evaluation Criteria

- 5.1 Bids will be evaluated based on the below criteria, in the order of importance. Bidders may be contacted by PWE representatives for clarification purposes.
- 5.1.1 Best Value Bid
- 5.1.1.1 Documented and verified at least 5 years similar work experience. Bidders should provide previous work history for verification purposes.
- 5.1.1.2 At least three similar projects which they have completed within the past four years. Bidders must provide the name and current contact information of the customer's contact person (reference) for each project listed. The contact person named must be intimately familiar with the project.
- 5.1.1.3 Price
- 5.1.1.4 Work Plan. Bidders are to submit a Work Plan of sufficient detail to enable evaluation of the cleaning process proposed.

Part VI Post Award Meeting

- 6.1 The successful Bidder may or may not be required to meet or participate in a conference or conference call with PWE representatives prior to the bid award to discuss and examine his proposed Work Plan.