



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Annise D. Parker**

Mayor

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September 8, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Clarification No. 1  
Clarifier Maintenance Repair and Replacement Services for Drinking Water

**REFERENCE:** Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. S17-L25117

**TO:** All Prospective Respondents

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reason(s):

• **To revise the above referenced solicitation as follows:**

The Electronic Bid Form for the subject ITB has been revised, therefore, any previously submitted bids will have to be revised and re-submitted.

• **The following questions and City of Houston responses are hereby incorporated and made a part of the Request for Proposal:**

1. Do you have a yearly budget?

**Answer:** Yes, there is a yearly budget estimate. The City of Houston is not at liberty to disclose budget estimates in the bidding process.

2. Can a bid item be added for the cost of the general contractor to perform evaluations? This work should be billed separately from repairs or maintenance as an evaluation may or may not result in work being performed. It appears that this may be included for evaluation work our subs and vendors would do but not for our portion of the work.

**Answer:** Evaluations, diagnostics, teardowns are already included for under Line Item 6 – Non-repairable Shop Costs. Please refer to Section 2.5, page 11 of the ITB which states that if unit is considered non-repairable, the Contractor should use the “non-repairable shop cost” to invoice for costs associated with reports, diagnostics, tear down.

3. How long do you anticipate it will typically take to get approval to proceed with work after an evaluation is submitted?

**Answer:** It is difficult to estimate the length of time the approval process is likely to take, since the operational needs of the Facility will dictate the priorities given to equipment covered in this bid. Note however, the equipment under this bid are critical to the Drinking Water Operations and each Facility will have specifically assigned contract representatives, who will also have the authority to approve the work. Once a decision has been made to repair/replace equipment, the contract representatives will issue the instructions to proceed immediately.

4. Is it possible to add a bid item for bonds? We will be expected to pay our bond company in a timely manner regardless of the decisions that are made during the evaluation and approval process to perform maintenance and/or repairs

**Answer:** The City cannot accommodate this.

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5. Can you confirm that it is not required to submit Office of Business Opportunity documents (MWBE) with the bid.

**Answer:** Bidders are not required to submit MWBE documents at the time of bid closing. The City will request the pertinent documents from the recommended bidder.

6. It seems that given possible unforeseen conditions the "Other Services" bid items may not contain enough money for necessary repairs. Is the estimated total a not-to-exceed number or just an estimate for bidding purposes?

**Answer:** It is just an estimate for bidding purposes.

7. It may be necessary, in some cases, to cut and reweld some clarifier bridge structural members to remove a clarifier drive. Please confirm this would be acceptable as long as we return the bridge to its original condition by rewelding and repairing the coating at the welds.

**Answer:** None of the surface water plants have bridges that would require cutting as they all "Un-bolt" from the structure.

8. When leveling a clarifier mechanism, the quality or levelness of the floor grout is typically the controlling factor for how well this can be done. Please clarify what bid item would cover floor grout repair or replacement if we were unable to achieve an acceptable degree of levelness due to the conditions of the floor grout.

**Answer:** With approval from the CTR, "Other Services" should cover floor grouting repair/replacement.

9. Please clarify that the "Other Services" bid items are to cover additional clarifier work the City may require us to do, including unforeseen conditions that impede completion of another bid item.

**Answer:** With the approval of the Contract Technical Representative, "Other Services" will cover additional clarifier work required to get the equipment to operable conditions. Work not reasonably covered by the Bid Form will be paid for on a reimbursable cost-plus basis. Bidder will be required to submit supporting documentation for work falling into the latter category. Bidder will always need prior approval before commencing any "additional service".

10. For the bid items "Parts and Materials (original invoice)", "Cost to Replace a Unit (original invoice)" and "Crane and Rigging (Rented: original invoice)", please clarify the function of the estimated totals for these items on the bid form. Please confirm that these are estimates for bidding purposes and not a disqualification to perform the work should the original invoice or sum of original invoices exceed this number.

**Answer:** These are estimates for bidding purposes only.

11. I apologize for all the emails but I got myself a little mixed up on entering the numbers on the new contract. On year four group one it is missing disassemble, transport, overhaul, return unit, and reassembly of unit. It goes straight into labor.

**Answer:** This is an error. The line items for disassemble, transport, overhaul, return unit and reassemble are inadvertently missing for Groups 52-80 and 150-180 for the years in question. A clarification for this will be done.

When issued, Letter(s) of Clarification shall automatically become a part of the proposal documents and shall supersede any previous specification(s) and/or provision(s) in conflict with the Letter(s) of Clarification. All revisions, responses, and answers incorporated into the Letter(s) of Clarification are collaboratively from both the Strategic Purchasing Division and the applicable City Department(s). It is the responsibility of the proposers to ensure that it has obtained all such letter(s). By submitting a proposal on this project, proposers shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into this proposal.

If you have any questions or if further clarification is needed regarding this Invitation for Bid, please contact me at 832-393-8736.

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Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murdock Smith III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct "III" at the end.

Murdock Smith III  
Senior Procurement Specialist

**END OF LETTER CLARIFICATION NO. 1**