



CITY OF HOUSTON
Department of Public Works and Engineering

Annise D. Parker

Mayor

Daniel W. Krueger, P.E.
Director
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

T. 832 395-2500
F. 832 395-2480
www.houstontx.gov

Date: September 13, 2011

Subject: Letter of Clarification No. 3
Fire Hydrants and Parts Certification
For Public Works and Engineering Department

Reference: Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. S35-Q24024

To All Prospective Suppliers:

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reason:

- 1) The submittal due date has been moved from September 15, 2011 to September 23, 2011.

The following questions/e-mails were received from the Pre-Submittal meeting held on August 10, 2011 and City of Houston responses are hereby incorporated and made a part of the Invitation to Bid.

- 1) Will vendors be able to use previous data for testing information or will everyone be required to re-test whether or not their Certificate is current or not?

Answer: *If any vendor needs to apply for or renew their certificate, the approval date of their application shall be within the five year period after their performance testing date.*

- 2) How long is performance data testing good for?

Answer: *Five years.*

- 3) Vendors with Certificates expiring in December are asking for their Certificate to be extended. We can go back to council and extend Certificates although we have never done this.

Answer: *No.*

- 4) Vendors that are testing are requesting a six month extension to complete the testing. Is this OK?

Answer: *No. It has been answered in question # 1.*

- 5) Please provide the current specification for Fire Hydrant Section 0520 and Section 0520S.

Answer: *The current specification for Section 0520 and 0520S can be found at the following web address.*
<http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/document-center/division-02-16-standard-specifications/index.htm>

6) On the Check List – A vendor has requested an electronic (non-PDF) version or a template that would allow them to put in the information without changing the core information. Can we do this?

Answer: *No. It needs to be in PDF format and non-changeable.*

7) Can we put out some type of timeline for future requests of Certificate Renewals?

Answer: *This will be considered for the future.*

8) As long as there is no change of substance to the BOM or design of the hydrant Kennedy Valve would desire to have the flow test and break test be considered valid for a minimum of 10 years.

Answer: *5 years required at this time.*

9) Kennedy Valve would desire the re-submittal process to be published a minimum of 9 months ahead of the recertification date.

Answer: *We have reviewed your suggestion, and may consider in the future.*

10) Kennedy Valve would ask to change the inlet water temperature requirement during impact testing to the same parameters as AWWA recommendations for gate valves (33°F – 125°F). Because the hydrant is in the closed position during and after impact testing, we do not see any technical reason to maintain 70°+/- 5° water temperature.

Answer: *No proposed changes at this time. We will discuss it with City Staff.*

11) Kennedy Valve would further ask to change the water temperature requirement during hydraulic flow testing to be (49°F – 75°F). If there is a viscous effect at lower temperatures that would decrease flow capacity or increase pressure loss, it would occur at temperatures. If hydrants are tested at lower temperatures, and if there was any effect, the results would be conservative and we would still be required to meet the Houston flow requirements.

Answer: *No proposed changes at this time. We will discuss it with City Staff.*

12) Kennedy Valve would request that alternate coatings (Epoxies and Ken-Guard TGIC) be allowed or considered as long as they perform as well or better than the current coatings stated in the Houston specification. Any new coatings would of course be submitted as samples for review by the City of Houston prior to usage.

Answer: *Any product to be used has to get approval from the City prior to usage.*

13) Lastly we would request that any change to the test parameters or other pertinent criteria be highlighted to assure awareness.

Answer: *We have reviewed your suggestion, and may consider in the future.*

This letter of Clarification shall be considered part of the solicitation referenced above.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each bidder to obtain any previous Letter(s) of Clarification associated with this solicitation.



Delbert Nave
Senior Procurement Specialist
PW&E
319 St. Emanuel
Houston, Tx 77002
832.395.3663

mw
MW:DLN: dln

C: file