

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR:

RFP# 13-34, 10-18-13

RFP for Engineering Services for Gas Distribution System Improvements

1. The proposed routing of the high pressure steel gas line appears to follow an existing overhead electric power line corridor parallel to US 264. Can you confirm if the intention is place the new gas line inside the existing right of way of the power line or adjacent to the existing right of way (there appears to be a water line in the power line right of way already) in a separate easement?

Answer: The final alignment of the proposed gas line will be determined during the design of the project. Depending on several factors the gas line could be installed in the electric easement or it can be installed in its own easement adjacent to the electric easement.

2. Does GUC own this electrical power line? If so, what is the width of the power line right of way?

Answer: Yes, GUC does own the electric line, the easement is approximately 35 - 40ft. Easement and ROW research will be part of project design.

3. Does the City of Greenville own the water line that appears to be located in the power line easement? If so, is the water line DIP, PVC or other material?

Answer: The City of Greenville does not own the water line, however, GUC does own the water line located nearest the electric line easement and it consists primarily of Ductile Iron Pipe. PVC Sections, if any would be C900. Easement research will be part of project design.

4. If the gas line needs to be installed in a separate easement, how wide of an easement does GUC desire?

Answer: The necessity of additional easement will be determined during the design of the project, along with the width of all easements.

5. The planned improvements call for a regulator station where the high pressure gas line crosses Hwy 43. Can GUC confirm if this station will feed into an existing gas line at this location?

Answer: Yes, the regulator station at Hwy 43 will be tied into existing GUC distribution gas main. The interconnects will be included in the scope of work as stated on Page 3, "Perform services that result in the design of a high pressure distribution system, three (3) natural gas district regulator stations, cathodic protection rectifier size and location, and two distribution main interconnects".

6. There appear to be a number of stormwater retention ponds located on the north side of US 264 between Highway 43 and the Tar River along the proposed alignment. Does GUC intend for the gas line to cross these features by directional drill or route around them?

Answer: The gas line is planned to be routed around any retention ponds. The only planned water crossings will be the Tar River and any creeks or streams along the route. The final route will be determined during design.

7. In the Scope of Work, GUC states that Engineer "...will obtain easements or rent construction lay-down areas for the Project, if necessary." Can GUC confirm if the cost of easement acquisitions or lease of workspace paid for by GUC or the Engineer?

Answer: Permanent and construction easements will be purchased by GUC. The selected Engineer shall assist with research and identification of easement locations, as well as assisting with initial contact and negotiation with property owners.

8. Please confirm the Construction Specification and Special Provisions; Construction Bid Documents and Contract Preparation and Construction Administration services listed in the Scope of Work apply to the high pressure steel portion of the project only?

Answer: Correct, currently the Construction Specification and Special Provisions, Construction Bid Documents and Contract Preparation and Construction Administration Services is only intended for the high pressure steel portion of the project.

9. Does GUC have a gas materials catalog the Engineer can reference during the design to develop a Bill of Materials for the pipeline and stations? If not, is it up to the Engineer to call for the appropriate materials that GUC will accept for use in their system?

Answer: GUC does not have a material specification sheet. It will be the responsibility of the selected Engineer to produce a bill of materials and specifications. Once the bill of materials is generated it will be submitted to GUC for review during design.

10. Will GUC be responsible for providing the inspection personnel to oversee the installation of the new pipeline and associated facilities?

Answer: The selected Engineer will be responsible for providing inspection personnel to oversee the construction of new facilities. As page 6 of the RFP states "Engineer shall provide qualified surveying and engineering personnel for construction observation..."

11. Can GUC elaborate on the data collection requirements mentioned in the Construction Administration services section of the Scope of Work?

Answer: Data collection will include record drawing information, field notes, and any surveying work needed to support the record drawings (GPS points, spot elevations, etc.).

12. Will GUC obtain permission for survey?

Answer: The selected Engineer will need to obtain all permissions and permits for work related to this project.

13. Will GUC provide Construction Management/Inspectors and NDE Services?

Answer: The selected Engineer will provide Construction Management/Inspectors and NDE services will be included as part of the construction contract, which, the selected Engineer

will oversee. As page 6 of the RFP states “Engineer shall provide qualified surveying and engineering personnel for construction observation...”

14. Does GUC have their own Steel and MDPE Construction Specifications?

Answer: GUC does not maintain contractor Construction Specifications, the selected Engineer will provide GUC with specifications that will be reviewed during design.

15. Should the bid be submitted as a lump sum or will be pricing be based on the submitted rate schedule?

Answer: The Request is for Proposals only – no price bids will be received for Engineering services. Engineering fees will be negotiated/determined after selection.

16. What is does the proposed 8” STHP main tie into at the SW termination point (Main, existing station)?

Answer: The 8” Steel High pressure main will tie into an existing regulator station.

17. Are there currently distribution mains at the locations of the (2) regulation stations or will there need to be additional distribution mains run to connect to existing facilities?

Answer: Yes, interconnects will be needed to existing distribution main pipeline. The interconnects will be included in the scope of work as stated on Page 3, “Perform services that result in the design of a high pressure distribution system, three (3) natural gas district regulator stations, cathodic protection rectifier size and location, and two distribution main interconnects”.

18. Are the district reg stations planned to be an operator/monitor set up in below ground vaults, or do these facilities need to be above grade? Will there be any remote monitoring or control required?

Answer: The district regulator stations will be above grade and GUC will responsible for the installation of SCADA equipment. Details will be determined during project design.

19. Is it anticipated that any pipe or station facilities will be out of public ROW, or will this be a last resort?

Answer: We anticipate that the regulator station facilities will be on private property, i.e. GUC would have to acquire the property. Such parcels would need to be identified during project design, with the assistance of the selected Engineer. Final acquisition of property would be the responsibility of GUC. GUC prefers to use existing NCDOT ROW and existing GUC easements to the greatest extent feasible.

20. Has any environmental investigation been performed? Will environmental investigations and/or reporting be required as part of our scope of work?

Answer: Environmental investigation has not been performed, and will be part of the Engineering design services.

21. Will a detailed survey of the Tar River via boat be required or will the use of records and GIS information be sufficient?

Answer: The design of the Tar River crossing, and all associated surveys/data, will be determined by the selected Engineer. GIS records of all GUC-owned utilities in the area will be provided, as well as any mapping that GUC may have to support design. The selected Engineer will prepare all potential permit applications.

22. Have any geotechnical investigations been done in this area? If not, should pricing include cost to perform soil borings at river crossing?

Answer: Geotechnical investigations have not been performed. The selected Engineer will be responsible for selecting and procuring Geotechnical services. The only pricing considered will be a schedule of rates for any engineering firm and their sub-consultants.

23. Does Greenville Utilities have a GIS database with existing utility information that will be provided (this information would be verified in the field)?

Answer: All pertinent GIS records for GUC-owned utilities will be made available to the selected Engineer. GUC has extensive GIS records of all GUC-owned utilities.

24. Also, we have the following questions relating the AC mitigation portion of the project. Understanding that this in the preliminary stages, any detailed information relating to the questions below that you can provide to focus the scope would be helpful. AC mitigation is currently defined by two (2) levels of assessment, can you define what level would be required for this project? We would assume that at a minimum, the assessment and AC mitigation design would ensure that induced AC voltages be controlled (where required) to a level that meets safety requirements (less than 15 Vac)? Does Greenville Utilities also wish the AC mitigation assessment design to address the phenomenon of AC corrosion?

Answer: Selected Engineer shall identify all areas where AC mitigation is required as part of the design. Design parameters, and assessment of their levels, will be established during that phase. For corrosion protection, GUC anticipated incorporation of a cathodic protection rectifier into the design. Any other corrosion prevention measures, including AC mitigation, shall be identified, specified, and designed by the selected Engineer.

25. From the phenomenon of AC corrosion, there is some divergence in direction. Does Greenville Utilities wish to install monitoring along the pipeline – based on site specific locations identified – in order to assess/ confirm the potential for AC corrosion and then later design and install additional AC mitigation as necessary to protect against AC corrosion? In this role, the focus during design is on future monitoring.; or Does Greenville Utilities wish to have an assessment for AC corrosion, modeling as needed, and a design (typically a larger type design than simply for safety) that would result in a lowering of the voltages below the 15 Vac as necessary to a level required?

Answer: For methods for AC corrosion monitoring, GUC anticipates utilizing recommendation provided by the selected Engineer during design. GUC currently does not have a specific design for this application.

26. Does Greenville Utilities have any preferences for the design of mitigation? Zinc ribbon directly connected to the pipe? De-coupled zinc ribbon? Or the use of a decoupled copper cable system installed in select backfill (a preferred design)?

Answer: GUC has no preferences for mitigation design at this time, and will rely on the selected Engineer's recommendation.

27. Are the power line facilities in this area also under the operation of Greenville Utilities? If so, will you be able to provide fault, load, peak and 10 year forecasts for the power-line system that parallels this proposed pipeline?

Answer: Power line facilities in the areas are owned/operated by GUC. All requested information should be able to be provided by the GUC Electric department.

28. Does Greenville Utilities have any preferences for the installation of grounding equipment (to protect personnel) at above-grade piping systems (e.g., meter, regulation, mainline valves, etc).

Answer: GUC has no preferences at this time. During project design, GUC will coordinate with the Electric department to obtain their input on grounding equipment.

29. Are 11" x 17" pages allowed in the Proposal?

Answer: The size of paper is not specified in the RFP, however, we would prefer the majority of the Proposal to be on 8.5" x 11" size paper.

30. For past projects, the GUC's attorney provided the standard easement forms for use in the document package preparation. Will the GUC be providing the same for this project?

Answer: GUC can provide sample standard easement forms to the selected Engineer for their use during design.

31. Please provide a clear description of the roles of the engineer and of the City's attorney in the easement/property acquisition documents and in the acquisition itself. On past projects, the engineer/ROW agent negotiated the easement or property acquisition and prepared the documentation. The GUC actually conducted the purchase transaction and recorded the executed documents. Will the same procedure be followed for this project?

Answer: At this time, GUC anticipates that the selected Engineer will provide preparation of easement documentation (including surveys) and initial communication with affected property owners. GUC personnel will make the actual transaction and record the executed documents. The selected Engineer will be involved with initial negotiations with property owners. GUC will become involved if initial negotiations are stalled or unsuccessful.

32. Will the GUC provide their current materials costs to the engineer for developing the construction cost estimates (CCEs) since the GUC will be providing all major project materials?

Answer: GUC can provide recent material cost records to the selected Engineer to assist with cost estimate preparation. However, GUC material cost records may be limited and not comprehensive over the entire scope of the project.

33. The RFP implies that the engineer will be required to provide CCEs for the HP and PE mains. Since GUC crews will construct the PE main, will the GUC be providing the GUC's construction labor costs (and information such as normal installation times for gas main of comparable size, etc.) for the engineer to prepare the CCE for the PE main?

Answer: The selected Engineer will provide CCE's for both portions of the project, as if a contractor was performing construction.

34. In the past the GUC provided the Front-end construction contract documents for inclusion in the document package. Will they be providing these for this project?

Answer: The selected Engineer will provide the front-end construction contract documents. However, GUC will provide supporting documentation as required for completion of the contract document package.

35. Can the drawings be developed in AutoCAD , or is Microstation preferred?

Answer: The selected Engineer shall determine which CAD design software to use. GUC utilizes Microstation, but AutoCAD can be used to develop construction and record drawings.

36. Are front and back covers, tab sheets and cover letters counted as proposal pages (limit 40 pages)?

Answer: Page limit specified is for all documentation.

37. Will non-destructive testing (NDT) of the steel welds be part of the construction contractor's services or provided under a separate contract? Will these be part of the engineer-provided services and thus need to be included in the engineer's proposal?

Answer: NDT testing will be included as part of the Construction Contract. The selected Engineer shall witness all testing as part of Construction Observation services.

38. The RFP requires that the engineer provide the design and specifications for the CP system, but does not specifically include commissioning of the system once installed. Is commissioning if the CP system intended to be part of the engineer's services?

Answer: The selected Engineer will be present for commissioning of the CP system as part of Construction Observation services.

39. Will the contractor be required to perform his own staking of the alignment, or will this be required of the engineer?

Answer: Staking is typically included as part of the Contractor's responsibilities.

40. Will the current GIS information be available to the engineer?

Answer: GIS information (for all GUC-owned utilities), in the area of the project, will be made available to the selected Engineer.