

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 20-58

### Q&A'S FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC, FIBER, WATER, SEWER, AND GAS UTILITY LOCATING SERVICES

JANUARY 6, 2021 AT 3:00 PM (EDST)

1. General questions: (RFP identifies 4 main departments, Water, Sewer, Electric, and Fiber Utilities).
  - a. Please identify if GUC has a separate member (CDC) code(s) for each of the four utility types or is this just 1-member code that will encompass all four utilities? **One code for all utilities**
  - b. What is the start date GUC is anticipating this work to begin? **Sometime in April 2021**
  - c. As you indicated there is a broadband project coming and many of your locates will require additional time based upon the complexity of the utility and the project at hand. Given there are multiple utilities, where a ticket can remain open for a long period of time and can take several hours to complete (I.e. road projects, fiber overlays, etc.). Therefore, will GUC include an hourly or quarterly pricing after the first 30 minutes to their initial RFP? **Price is per ticket**
  - d. Who is currently performing the locating services for GUC? **We have internal staff**
  - e. Currently, how many individuals are assigned on a full-time basis to locating the GUC utilities? **7 FTEs**
  - f. What was the 2019 annual spend/budget allocated by the GUC for the utility locating service? **We use internal staff currently**
  - g. What is the clear -vs- paintable per utility type? **We had 591 site visits only from March 2020 to Nov 17, 2020. Located tickets are in RFP.**
  - h. Is it possible for USIC to receive a sample copy of GUC's utility map(s)? **After ranking RFPs**
  - i. Who is to complete the Design Ticket as defined in your Definitions? Will this be sent back to the GUC since most of these requests are for maps or will you allow a separate price for Design tickets? (Indicated on pg. 5 of the RFP) **GUC will handle survey tickets**
  - j. Can you please define "As Needed to assist GUC's locating staff?" (page 2 of RFP) **GUC staff is projected to need assistance for the fiber contractor that will be coming in to our area.**
  - k. If USIC is Solely Responsible for determining existence of Underground Facilities – Does this mean we will need to respond to 100% of the tickets. (I.e. Will a truck roll be required for all tickets received from the NC one-call)? **No we are only looking at the fiber contract project tickets**

- l. Can GUC provide USIC with a positive response report from NC811 for the utilities indicated within the RFP? -
  - m. USIC has several years providing locating services to municipalities. Can USIC utilize our agreement in response to the RFP? If not, are you open to us redlining and/or discussions around your T&C's / SOW? (For example, but not limited to Arbitration, Indemnity language, termination rights for both parties, Liability, and further definitions). If you would be interested in using our language, we are open to your redlining of it too? **TBD after ranking of RFPS**
  - n. If we must use your contract for T&C's / SOW can you send a full copy to our attention so can review prior to final RFP submittal? **TBD after ranking of RFPS**
  - o. You reference this being a one-year contract with 3 one-year options. USIC costs, as most businesses escalate each year with items such as labor and equipment. To cover this cost we typically add an annual escalator to the contracts when they are renewed. How would you like us to approach this escalator? **TBD after ranking of RFPS**
  - p. USIC provides service to many utility companies and municipalities across 46 states. We have seen in most cases there are many other services overlooked so we have crafted additional price line items for our customer. These are services we want to extend out customer with the appropriate pricing. Are you open to us adding additional pricing for Watch and Protect, Testimonial Support, Damage Investigations (IF USIC IS NOT AT FAULT), and Normal Daytime Emergency? **Can be provided.**
2. The following questions are to better understand marking of the Water Utility.
- a. Please identify what format the utility map records will be provided to the locating vendor? (i.e. PDF, GIS, etc.) **GIS, JPG, PDF and possibly more**
  - b. Water Damages. Please identify the low and high cost of water damages that have been billed as a result of the water being damaged. This is very important to help us identify the estimated value and risk. -
  - c. How many water damages in 2019 were the fault of the locating vendor? If you could, possibly identify a few of the reasons so that we are better prepared. -
  - d. Do the Utility Map Records identify measurements for the services and mains? **Yes but not all**
  - e. What is the composition makeup of the Water utility mains and services (For example: Plastic, HDPE, Iron, Transite, etc.)? Please identify all material. **All above, ACP, Steel**
  - f. How much of the water utility is Non-Locatable where an electronic tone cannot be transmitted on the main? -
  - g. What is the procedure the GUC has in place for the water utility that is un-toneable and has no measurements? Only way to mark it is best guess. How is your current locating vendor now performing these locates and what is the procedure so that minimizes or removes the risk to the locating vendor should a damage occur for these types of un-locatable Water utilities?  
**GPR or getting Water Dept assistance**

- h. Currently, does GUC locate water laterals? If so, are these laterals locatable? What is the current procedure used for locating? **Services, yes&no, measurements, electromagnetic locator**
- i. Water Services
- Are they on the utility map records? **yes & no**
  - Is there a meter pit or curb stop box in the public right of way and are they visible? If not, what is the procedure to find these locations? **yes but not always visible, magnetic locator**
- j. Transmission Mains
- What is the material type of these mains? **Ductile iron and PVC**
  - What are the size of these mains? **varies**
  - What are they feeding to and from? **-**
  - What is the difficulty level of marking these mains and hook up locations to transmit a signal? **-**
  - Has any of these mains been damaged and what was the estimated cost of repair and was there any other 3<sup>rd</sup> party claims for the damage from the water? **We are not aware of any damages in the last 20 yrs**
- k. Is there any information that the Water Department could identify that has been a problem with the locating of their Water utility? **-**
3. The following questions are to better understand marking of the Sanitary & Storm Sewer.
- a. Is this for both Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer? **Sanitary only**
- b. Please identify what format the utility map records will be provided to the locating vendor? (i.e. PDF, GIS, etc.) **same as water**
- c. How many Sewer lift pump stations are located throughout GUC? **-**
- d. With these lift pump stations comes forced mains. What is the composition makeup of the forced mains? **PVC, Ductile iron**
- e. Are any of these forced mains unlocatable with electronic locating device? If so: **yes**
- Are there measurements to properly identify the location of the main? **yes & no**
  - If no measurements and or if the main is un-toneable, please identify how these mains are now being properly marked? **GPR and Water Dept assistance**
- f. How many Sewer main and lateral damages in 2019 were the fault of the locating vendor? If you could, possibly identify a few of the reasons so that we are better prepared. **-**
- g. Sewer Damages. Please identify the low and high cost of sewer damages that have been billed as a result of the sewer being damaged. Please break this down by the Sanitary and Storm Sewer. This is very important to help us identify the estimated value and risk. **-**
- h. Sanitary Sewer Laterals:
- Are 100% of the Sanitary laterals on the GUC's utility map records? **No**
  - Please identify how these laterals are now being marked to the Public right of way accurately? **If identified by measurements, GPR and assistance from Water Dept.**
  - Are any laterals being marked to the home? **No**

- If laterals are marked currently is the locating vendor financially liable if the lateral is damaged if only having approx. measurements to the Wye confection and nothing else to identify the direction of the lateral after it leaves the wye? **Our measurements are to the clean-out not to the wye**
  - i. If the system is a combined Sanitary & Storm collection system, will the utility map records identify this to be a combined system? **-**
  - j. Is there any information that the Sewer Department could identify that has been a problem with the locating of their Sewer utility? **-**
4. The following questions are to better understand marking of the Electric Power
- a. Is there any Electric Vaults in the system? **Yes**
  - b. If so, these vaults (aka - submersible transformers), can be very cumbersome at times to mark since the hookup locations are very limited and simply inducing the power in a power mode (60hz) is not always a good way for accurately marking the utility. Please identify: **Not many in our system**
    - How is your current vendor now accurately marking the electric running in and out of these electric vaults? **Pad mount transformers can be used for conductive locating. Also meters**
    - Has there been any electric damages for the power in these buried vaults, please identify the number of damages that occurred in 2019 where an electric line was struck due to locator error and high and low of the electric repair? **No**
    - Has the GUC's Electric team needed to assist with the current vendor to mark these lines with hooking them up direct to the neutral? **Yes**
    - Does the current locating vendor access any of the electric vaults? **Accessed by GUC staff ONLY**
  - c. Substations, is notification required when marking any electric that is marked in and out of a substation? **Yes**
  - d. Will the locating vendor be required to mark inside of any substations? **Possibly**
  - e. Will the vendor have to enter into any energized enclosures, if so, is your current incumbent now entering into these types of enclosures and how is the city regulating the OSHA requirement? **No**
  - f. Is all the data on a GIS map record? Please identify? **As far as we know**
  - g. Is there any information that the Electric Department could identify that has been a problem with the locating of their Electric utility? **-**
5. The following questions are to better understand marking of the Fiber Optic.
- a. Is the Fiber utility map records separate from the Electric utility map records? If so, what format are they in? **GIS layer**
  - b. What traffic is on the fiber? **-**
  - c. Is the fiber in conduit or direct buried? **Both**
  - d. Is there tracer wire with the fiber or does it have an armored sheath? **Yes (most) and some without, unshielded**

- e. What and where are the hookup locating locations the locating vendor will hook onto to mark the fiber? **handholds**
  - f. How many approximate times in the year did the fiber need to be marked? **as needed**
  - g. How much fiber is buried -vs- aerial? **Refer to RFP**
  - h. Has the fiber ever been damaged and what was the high and low cost to repair? **Yes**
  - i. Are there any traffic signals associated with the fiber utility? **No**
  - j. Is there any information that the Electric Department could identify that has been a problem with the locating the fiber utility? **Areas where cable is unshielded**
6. Of the tickets located during March 2020 – Nov 17 2020 (638 – Electric, 8 Fiber Optic, 339 Water, 241 Sewer, 509 Gas and projected project ticket load), what is the anticipated overall percentage of assistance from the Contractor? **The tickets will be the one that the Fiber Contractors will be calling in. Existing staff will be locating our existing work load.**
7. What is the format of GUC’s location maps and records? **ArcGIS**
8. How many GUC locate staff are there, presently? **7**
9. What determines whether a locate is “as needed to assist GUC’s existing Locate staff” and sent to the awarded Contractor? **GUC staff is projected to need assistance for the fiber contractor that will be coming in to our area.**
10. Will the selected contractor in charge to locate all tickets for GUC? **NO** Or will locate only a portion of the tickets received? **Portion of tickets related to the fiber project.** The RFP states that: The goal of the RFP is to perform underground facility locates for all GUC installed assets as needed to assist GUC’s existing locate staff.
11. If only a portion of the ticket will be assigned to the Locating contractor, please kindly state the estimated volume of tickets per month per utility that will be assigned to the contractor. **Fiber contractor indicated that they expect to call in at start around 80 tickets per week and within several months call in 200 tickets per week.**
12. The disclosed ticket volume refers to “Located Tickets.” Please clarify if the volumes are for “received tickets” or for tickets that were located and mark in the field? **located and mark in the field**
13. Can you please disclose the number of tickets per month, per utility that are marked, and those who are not in conflict? **Marked tickets are in the RFP, 591 total tickets were site visit only from March 2020 to Nov 17, 2020. The fiber project will be different and concentrated in areas with more utilities.**

14. Can you please provide the last 12 months of invoices for the current contract? **No current contract**
15. What type of license, if any, is required for an out-of-state vendor to provide the service? **This is the responsibility of the vendor to find out.**
16. In what format are the utility map records available? **Digital in GIS**
17. Are Utility map records integrated and visible from Utilisphere? **Yes, but will need to use GIS for reliability.**
18. Does GUC have a sole source of information for its maps records? Or does the contractor have to search multiple plan sources to research the utility information? **GIS and other scanned maps may be needed.**
19. How often are the maps records updated? **Daily**