

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

1. Invitation to Propose

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to KRS 278.255 is seeking proposals for all consulting services required to perform a focused review of documentation filed in support of a Utility’s request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“Certificate”) to construct transmission lines within Kentucky. It is the intention of the Commission to develop and maintain a list of pre-qualified consulting firms with appropriate expertise to perform this work and advise the Commission. The list of pre-qualified consulting firms will contain firms capable of performing a review of the need (“Need Review”) for the proposed transmission line.

Once a notice of intent to file an application for a certificate is submitted to the Commission, a consulting firm with appropriate expertise will be selected from this list and contacted regarding availability, potential conflict of interest, and other factors. Upon selection to perform such a review, a contract will be signed between the Commission, the Utility and the consulting firm in accordance with the requirements set forth in this RFP and the Consultant’s proposal.

2. **Background Information**

In April 2004, the Governor of Kentucky signed into law an amendment, Senate Bill 246, to KRS 278.020 relating to the construction of certain electric transmission lines. The new law requires, in part, that before construction of any electric transmission line of 138 kilovolts or more and greater than 5,280 feet in length, jurisdictional electric utilities must obtain a Certificate from the Commission. This law was enacted to supersede a judicial decision that held most transmission lines to be

exempt from a Certificate. The current unamended version of KRS 278.020 is available at <http://psc.ky.gov/pschome.htm>. Senate Bill 246 became effective on July 13, 2004.

Relevant portions of SB 246 are as follows:

- (1) For the purposes of this section, construction of any electric transmission line of one hundred thirty-eight (138) kilovolts or more and of more than five thousand two hundred eighty (5,280) feet in length shall not be considered an ordinary extension of an existing system in the usual course of business and shall require a certificate of public convenience and necessity. However, ordinary extensions of existing systems in the usual course of business not requiring such a certificate shall include:
 - (a) The replacement or upgrading of any existing electric transmission line; or
 - (b) The relocation of any existing electric transmission line to accommodate constriction or expansion of a roadway or other transportation infrastructure; or
 - (c) An electric transmission line that is constructed solely to serve a single customer and that will pass over no property other than that owned by the customer to be served.

And

- (8) In a proceeding on an application filed under this Act, an interested person may request intervention, and the commission shall, if requested, conduct a public hearing in a county in which the transmission line is proposed to be constructed. The commission shall issue its decision no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the application is filed. The commission may utilize the provision of KRS 278.255(3) if, in the exercise of its discretion, it deems it necessary to hire a competent, qualified, and independent firm to assist it in reaching its decision. The issuance by the commission of a certificate that public convenience and necessity require the construction of an electric transmission line shall be deemed to be a determination by the commission that, as of the date of issuance, the construction of the line is a prudent investment.

3. Objectives and Scope of the Review

The objective of this project is to review an electric utility's efforts regarding the siting and, when necessary, the engineering aspects of new high voltage transmission lines. The Commission seeks an independent evaluation of the utility's analyses and conclusions that support the reasonableness of the proposed route of the transmission line and the need for the additional transmission line.

In determining the need for additional transmission routes, factors that utilities' should have considered include: the ability of existing facilities to reliably serve expected load; the upgrading of existing lines and routes; and the potential for wheeling through neighboring utilities' systems.

The Commission intends for this to be a focused review. The Consultant will review the utility's work only and not produce an independent transmission study. However, the Commission will require that such a review, if necessary, to encompass all the issues relevant to the need for siting new transmission lines. An evaluation of the overall cost of the proposed line will not be necessary. However, relative cost may be a consideration in the comparison of the proposed route over alternative options and alternative routes.

Need Review

When it has been determined that a Consultant should review the need for the transmission line, the scope of the focused review will also encompass, but not be limited to, the following Task Areas.

1. Review the utility's analysis of the ability of existing facilities to reliably serve existing and expected load, including the utility's power flow analyses and stability analyses.
2. Review and evaluate the analyses, which support the utility's need for the proposed transmission line. The evaluation should include, but not be limited to, whether adequate consideration was given to:
 - a. The upgrade of existing lines and routes, and
 - b. Whether wheeling power through neighboring systems would be a viable alternative to construction, and

- c. Whether distributed generation could be considered as a viable alternative, either delaying or negating the need for the proposed transmission line.

A written footnoted report, complete with supported findings and conclusions, must be filed with the Commission.

The Commission expects the final report to be objective and balanced and to include reasonable and meaningful recommendations, if warranted. In order to perform this review and to develop recommendations that meet these criteria, the Commission believes that it is imperative the selected consultants possess the specific engineering skills necessary to evaluate transmission power flow analyses and grid stability analyses. In addition, the consultant should possess the skills necessary to conduct a review of the operation, design and construction of transmission lines. The proposal should reflect the Consultant's understanding of all these issues and how they can affect the Utility and its customers.

4. Acceptance of Proposals

There will be **no bidders' conference** in conjunction with this RFP. As previously stated, the purpose of this RFP is to receive proposals in order to pre-qualify Consultants for review of documentation filed in support of a request for a certificate to construct transmission lines. The Consultant will not be required to perform separate studies as alternatives to supporting studies filed by the utility seeking the certificate.

All properly submitted proposals will be accepted for consideration and reviewed by the Commission. However, the Commission reserves the right to request necessary amendments to any proposal, reject all proposals, reject any proposal that does not meet the mandatory requirements of this RFP, or cancel this RFP.

The Commission also reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in proposals, providing such action is in the best interest of the Commission and the Utility. Waiver of minor irregularities shall in no way modify this RFP's requirements or excuse the Consultant from full compliance with the RFP's specifications and other contract requirements. The successful bidders' proposal, the proposal contents, and any proposed amendments, which are approved by the Commission, will become part of the Consultants' contractual obligations.

If your firm is interested in performing this work, you should submit 10 bound copies, one unbound, copy-ready copy, and one Microsoft Word electronic version of your proposal no later than 5:00 PM EST on September 13, 2004. The Commission reserves the right to not consider any proposal received after this deadline. An electronic copy **will not** be sufficient to satisfy the receipt deadline requirement. Any questions regarding this RFP must be directed in writing via mail, telefax (502-564-7189) or email to John A. Rogness III (jarogness@ky.gov). All proposals become the property of the Public Service Commission of Kentucky. Consultants who are deemed qualified to perform the tasks outlined above will be placed upon a pre-qualified list ("list") and the Consultant will be so notified.

Your response should be addressed to:

Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
211 Sower Blvd.
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

Attention: John A. Rogness III
Management Audit Branch

Note that the P.O. Box number should be used for all regular mail and the street address is only necessary for overnight deliveries, i.e. Fed Ex, UPS, etc.

Once the Commission receives a utility's notice of intent to file an application, a Consultant will be selected from the list and contacted immediately regarding availability and to certify that there is no potential conflict of interest. The Consultant will then be asked if it can accept the engagement and begin work immediately. Time will be of the essence. The Commission has only 120 days in which to fully consider an application. **The Consultant will only have 30 days from the date an administratively complete application is filed to visit the site, review the Utility's supporting documentation and studies, and submit a final report.** The Consultant should also expect to visit the proposed site and possibly attend a public meeting. Proposals submitted in response to this invitation shall be valid from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006.

It is anticipated that the project will culminate in the publication of a final report including findings and recommendations, if warranted. If the bidder thinks additional time is needed, justification should be supplied along with an estimate of additional time.

5. Contents of Proposal

Consultant's proposals should include the following:

A. STATEMENT OF THE PROJECT

State in succinct terms your understanding of the project presented in this RFP.

B. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Include a narrative description of the proposed effort, a discussion of project management techniques, tools and practices, and a list of the end products that will be provided to the Commission throughout the project and at the conclusion of the project.

C. WORK PLAN

Task descriptions are to be the guide in describing your technical plan for accomplishing the work plan. The task descriptions should be in sufficient depth to afford the Commission and its staff a thorough understanding of your work plan. The description should include an estimate of the number of hours each primary member of the review team will devote to each task, functional area, and special interest area. A proposal may be rejected if the work plan does not specifically detail how each of the task descriptions is to be accomplished.

D. PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Submit a statement of similar projects conducted in the previous five years. Provide a copy of the Consultants' most recently completed relevant review report. This requirement would also apply to a subcontractor, if appropriate. Indicate specifically any projects of utilities and provide copies of such audit reports. Experience cited should be that performed by your utility and specifically by individual team members. **Projects referred to should be identified and the name of the client shown, including the name, address and phone number of the responsible official of the client utility or agency who may be contacted.**

E. PERSONNEL

Include the names of all personnel -- executive, professional, management analysts, systems analysts, auditors, staff Consultants, etc. -- who will be engaged in the review. Their education and experience in performing or reviewing site / route impact analyses and mitigation efforts, as it relates to electric utilities generally and to electric transmission lines specifically, and in performing or reviewing the engineering aspects of transmission line siting and construction must be included. If the contract is awarded, the personnel assigned to conduct the review may not be changed without the written approval of the Commission or its designated representative.

F. STATEMENT ON POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

The Consultant shall identify any relationships between itself or any of its affiliated Companies or proposed subcontractors (including prior relationships of individual personnel engaged in performing the review) and the utility (or any affiliate), **i.e. AEP–Kentucky, Big Rivers Electric Corp., East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Kentucky Utilities Co., and Louisville Gas and Electric Co., which may be the subject of this contract.** This would include any services provided during the last five years to the utility, any subsidiaries, parent corporation, subsidiaries of the

parent corporation, or any other related organizations associated with the utility industry. If there have been no such relationships, a statement to that effect is to be included in the proposal. If, during the review, it is determined that an undisclosed conflict exists or has existed between the Consultant and the Utility, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the contract.

Any engagements, including but not limited to consulting or preparing studies or testimony, for another utility, a regulatory agency, consumer advocate group, attorney general, or similar entity shall also be disclosed.

The requirement to inform the Commission of any possible conflict of interest is a continuing obligation until the contract is completed.

G. BUDGET ESTIMATES

For each task described in Section 5.C. above, a cost estimate shall be provided. The cost estimate for each task shall include manpower costs, costs of supplies and materials, subcontractor costs, transportation costs and total cost. The manpower costs should be broken down to identify the category of personnel, possible estimated hours, rate per hour and total cost. **A firm, total not-to-exceed cost for the review will not be required.**

H. TIME

The review and submission of a final report must be completed in **30 days** from the date of an administratively complete application.

I. PERIOD OF OFFER

A statement should be included stating that the Consultant's proposal shall remain valid through June 30, 2006. The qualifications of each Consultant will be reviewed annually on the anniversary of the issuance of this RFP. The Consultant may update his hourly fees at that time if necessary. The Commission reserves the right to add qualified Consultants to the list as appropriate.

J. SIGNATURES

All proposals must be signed by an official authorized to bind the Consultant and any subcontractors to the proposal's provisions.

K. WILLINGNESS TO WORK

The Consultant's willingness to work with the Staff Project Officer in the manner described in this RFP should be stated in the proposal.

6. Selection Criteria

All proposals received will be evaluated by the Commission, including the Management Audit Branch. There are several factors that will be considered in selecting the proposal, which most closely meets the requirements of this RFP and the pre-qualifying process. These factors include: the Consultant's understanding of the Commission's needs and a proposed approach that satisfies these needs; the Consultant's willingness to work with the Utility and its staff; the experience and ability of the consulting staff assigned to the project and their capability to perform the proposed work; the proposal's description of tasks in the work plan to determine if the Consultant possesses the knowledge and understanding of the technical functions to be examined in the study; the Consultant's willingness to include the Management Audit Branch in the various stages of the review; demonstrated ability to meet stated deadlines; the project management techniques and practices; and comments from the Utility. **As this is a focused review of the Utility's supporting documentation for a certificate to construct a transmission line, the cost will be an important consideration.**

7. Role of Commission Staff

The Commission is the principal client and, therefore, it is necessary that the Commission maintain control of this engagement. Mr. John A. Rogness III will be the Staff Project Officer designated by the Commission to ensure satisfactory and timely

performance of the proposed work. Upon initiation of the review, Mr. Rogness will be the sole contact for the Consultant in any discussions with the Commission.

The Consultant will be responsible for including the members of the Management Audit Branch in the planning and organizational meetings and in all stages of the project as directed by the Staff Project Officer.

The Commission will rely upon the Staff Project Officer to answer questions from time to time about the progress and status of the project. It will be necessary, therefore, that the Staff Project Officer and the Management Audit Branch be involved in the work of the management Consultants. This involvement will include attending selected interviews, reviewing analytical procedures, and monitoring the project's progress as to scope, budget, work plans, time, etc. It is expected that the Consultant will frequently discuss the audit's progress informally and directly with the Staff Project Officer.

In order to be kept apprised of the project's progress, periodic oral and written reports will be necessary in addition to the informal contact between the Consultant's staff and the Staff Project Officer. These reports are described below:

Weekly Informal Reports: By the first of each week, the Consultant will provide written notice of the interviews and site visits scheduled for the next following week to the Staff Project Officer for review and approval. It will be important for the Consultant to closely coordinate the schedule for interviews and site visits with each individual Utility's coordinator and the Staff Project Officer in order to minimize disruption of daily management activities.

Monthly Written Status Reports: Based on the task plan submitted with the proposal, the monthly reports, if necessary, should consist of two parts:

- A. General narrative briefly describing progress-to-date and outlining reasons for any deviations from the task plan schedule. This narrative should also contain a statement indicating the status of the project in relation to time -- ahead, behind, or on schedule.

B. Status sheet indicating actual hours logged by category (i.e., project manager, senior analyst or auditor, junior analyst or auditor, etc.), by Consultant, material and supplies cost, and other costs, showing percentage of each in relation to proposal costs.

Monthly reports should be in the hands of the Staff Project Officer and the Utility's Coordinator by the tenth working day following the month's end and shall be submitted for any month worked.

Interview Summaries: By the fifth working day after each interview, formal summaries of each interview, including participants' conclusions and observations, data requests generated, issues identified, and follow-up required, shall be forwarded to the Staff Project Officer.

8. Draft/Final Report

Because of the short time for the review, a final report is due within 30 days from the date of a complete application. However, other interested parties may also file testimony, which may include alternate routes, mitigation measures, studies, etc. The due date for intervention from other interested parties will roughly coincide with the due date of the Consultant's final report. The Consultant will be expected to consider these alternatives and to file amendments as appropriate to its final report.

The final report must evolve from a draft report filed with the Staff Project Officer at least five (5) days prior to the submission of the final report. The draft report should contain functional area task reports and a management summary, which includes findings of fact and recommendations. All reports provided to the Management Audit Branch (task reports, draft report, final report) must be fully footnoted. The Management Audit Branch will review the findings of each task report prior to the issuance of the final report. Task reports shall be submitted early enough in the project to allow for additional in-depth analyses and subsequent revisions. The subject utility **will not** be afforded an opportunity to review the task reports. The Commission requires the final

report to be in a narrative form and include terminology that will be meaningful to the Utility's management and others generally familiar with the subject areas:

- A. General Statement and Summary;
- B. Findings and Conclusions with Respect to the Primary Objectives of the Review;
- C. Recommendations, if any, relating specifically to the Task Areas.

Findings, conclusions and recommendations must be justified and accompanied by adequate supporting information. **The final report should consist of a chapter describing the project, a summary chapter that ties all the issues together and chapters for each Task Area.**

The Commission expects a balanced report to be prepared.

The Consultant shall provide the Commission with **15 bound copies, one electronic copy, and one unbound, copy-ready copy of the final report. The Utility shall be provided with a total of 10 copies, one electronic copy, and one unbound, copy-ready copy of the final report.**

9. Testimony

It is highly likely that the Consultant will be required to testify at a public hearing before the Commission. The selected consulting firm must be willing to stand behind its findings, conclusions and recommendations by testifying, upon request of the Commission, in a hearing before the Commission at the Consultant's standard compensation rates as identified in the proposal. In addition, the selected firm can expect to be asked its opinion regarding any testimony submitted by the Utility or any intervenors in the proceedings.

All properly identified and related costs incurred by the Consultants for purposes identified under this Section will be paid by the Utility to the extent that: (a) the Consultant is providing testimony directly related to the content of the final report and action plans, (b) such testimony is within two years of the final report completion, and (c) the Consultant is providing testimony at the request of the Commission.

10. Work Papers

All work papers utilized by the Consultant during the course of the review shall be available to the Commission and the Utility as appropriate during the review and shall be turned over to the Commission concurrent with the submission of the final report. At a minimum, the work papers should include interview summaries, data request responses, and any special analyses prepared by the Consultant.

11. Contractual Arrangement

The contract for this engagement will be among the Commission, the Utility and the Consultant. KRS 278.255(3) provides for the Consultant to work for and under the direction of the Commission with the cost to be borne by the Utility. Payments to the Consultant on a contract entered into as a result of this RFP will be based upon hours actually expended and actual expenses incurred on this engagement at rates quoted in the proposal. Total cost includes itemized cost of supplies and materials, reasonable and customary cost of transportation and per diem expenses, and subcontract costs. Neither the Commission nor the Utility will be liable for any costs incurred prior to the issuance of the contract, including such costs incurred by the successful bidder and such costs shall not be included in the charges submitted by the successful bidder as part of the project cost.

The review must be completed in a timely manner. The final report shall be completed no later than approximately thirty (30) days from the commencement date unless the Commission and the Consultant agree to the extension. In the case of intervenor testimony being filed in the case, the Consultant must adhere to the procedural schedule in filing amendments to the final report. These amendments will consist of the Consultant's considerations of intervenor testimony. If the final report has not been issued within thirty (30) days from the commencement date or fails to adhere to the case procedural schedule, absent agreement, the Consultant may be required to forfeit ten percent (10%) of the total cost of the project.

The Consultants' invoices, with supporting documentation, shall be presented to the Staff Project Officer by the 10th of each month for services provided and expenses incurred in the previous month. The Staff Project Officer shall review and approve all invoices, and forward them to the Utility. The Utility shall make payment to the Consultant within 20 working days of receipt of the approved invoices.

12. Conflicts of Interest

It is the intent of the Commission to assure that any consulting firm, any employees of such firm, or any approved sub-contractor of the consulting firm and any employees of such sub-contractor, who are in a position to affect the outcome of the reports or services rendered under this contract, shall, during the course of the contract, strictly comply with the following provisions concerning conflict of interest:

A. Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts or Favors or Offers of Gratuities

No consulting firm or persons shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, meal, promise of future employment, favor, or service (except the Utility's services that are

provided under existing tariffs) from employees or representatives of the Utility (or any affiliate) which is the subject of this contract.

By submission of a bid, the bidder certifies that no member of or delegate of Congress, nor any elected or appointed official or employee of the Commonwealth of Kentucky ("the Commonwealth") has or will benefit financially or materially from this procurement. Any contract arising from this procurement may be terminated by the Commission if it is determined that gratuities of any kind were either offered to or received by any of the aforementioned officials or employees from the bidder, his agent or employee.

B. Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship

No consulting firm or persons shall have or accept any employment or enter into a contractual relationship with the Utility (or any affiliate) which is the subject of this contract for a period of two years following the completion of the audit. It is further required that any such relationship (held or acquired during the course of this contract) with any other utility, which is subject to the regulation of this Commission, shall be discussed with this Commission as to the timing and subject of such relationships. The consulting firm selected shall certify that it will not perform subsequent work for the Utility (or any affiliate) which is the subject of this contract for a period of two years following the completion of the audit unless authorized in writing by the Commission.

C. Disclosure or Use of Certain Information

No consulting firm or persons shall disclose to any other person or entity any confidential or proprietary information ("Confidential Information") concerning the Utility (or any affiliate or member) which is the subject of this contract which has been gained in the course of performing services under this contract, nor shall such firm or persons use such information for any purpose other than the subject audit, without the prior written approval of the Commission and the Utility which are the subject of this contract. The Consultant shall take all reasonable steps to safeguard such Confidential Information to prevent unauthorized disclosure or use. Access to the Confidential Information shall be limited to employees, representatives and agents of the firm who have a need to use the Confidential Information for the purposes of the audit and who have executed a Nondisclosure Certificate, as provided by the Commission (the "Authorized Recipients"). Such Authorized Recipients agree not to disclose Confidential Information to any other persons or entities or to retain or use Confidential Information obtained hereunder for any purpose other than the audit. In the event that disclosure of any Confidential Information is compelled by a lawful order of

a court or administrative agency with jurisdiction over the subject matter, the firm shall promptly give the Utility advance notice so that it can seek to protect its interests in keeping the information confidential.

The Utility has the obligation to clearly identify and mark any materials that they deem Confidential Information so as to alert the Consultant that such materials are governed by this provision and are to be maintained as confidential. The Consultant's obligations and Authorized Recipients hereunder shall survive the termination of the contract.

The forgoing shall not be construed to limit access to, or use of, any information gained by the Authorized Recipients during the course of the audit by the Commission or its duly authorized staff.

D. Disclosure of Specified Interests

If any firm or persons holds any interest (other than as described in Section 12.B.) or owns or acquires a material financial position in the net worth of the Utility (or any affiliate) which are the subject of this contract, a statement shall be filed disclosing such interests prior to signing any contract with this Commission, or immediately upon the establishment of such an interest, if it occurs during the course of the contractual obligation to this Commission.

E. Corporate Conflict of Interest Policy

All consulting firms desiring to do business with this Commission must submit, as part of their proposal or potential contract, a copy of their Corporate Conflict of Interest Policy, particularly in regard to stock ownership or financial relationships with clients. In the case of non-incorporated Consultants or where no corporate policy exists, a statement of intention to comply with the preceding provisions must be submitted.

13. Conditions

The following are additional conditions to the RFP. Bidders must state in the proposal that they will comply with these conditions.

- A. General - The Contract among the Commission, the Utility, and the Consultant shall consist of (1) the RFP and any amendments thereto, (2) the Consultant's offer submitted in response to the RFP, (3) any amendments to the Consultant's offer which are approved by the Commission, and (4) the Letter of Agreement between the Commission, the Utility, and the Consultant. In the event of a conflict in language among

these documents, the provisions and requirements set forth and/or referenced in the Letter of Agreement, then the RFP shall govern.

No modification or change of any provision in the Contract shall be made unless agreed to in writing by the Consultant, the Utility, and the Commission.

The Contract shall be construed according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Any legal proceedings against the Commission or the Utility regarding this RFP or any resultant contract shall be brought in Commonwealth of Kentucky administrative or judicial forums. Venue will be in Franklin County, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

- B. Deviations from the Contract - The stated requirements appearing elsewhere in this RFP and the Letter of Agreement shall become a part of the terms and conditions of any resulting contract. Any deviations therefrom must be specifically defined in the Consultant's proposal which, if successful, shall become part of the Contract, but such deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of this offer.
- C. Entire Agreement - The RFP, the Letter of Agreement, and the selected Consultant's proposal, as accepted by the Commission, represent the entire agreement ("the Agreement") among the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral, among the parties relating to its subject matter and shall be independent of and have no effect upon any other contracts.
- D. Advertising Award - The Consultant agrees not to refer to award of the Contract in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the firm or its services are endorsed or preferred by the Commission, the Utility, or the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- E. Notices - After the Contract is awarded, all notices under this contract shall be deemed duly given when: (1) delivered by hand or (2) sent by registered mail, receipt requested. All notices to the Commission are to be delivered to the Staff Project Officer. All notices to the Utility are to be delivered to the respective Utility's coordinator.
- F. Titles - Titles of paragraphs are used to facilitate ease of reference only and shall not be construed to express or infer a contractual construction of language.
- G. Contract Term - The Contract established from this RFP shall begin on the date of the Letter of Agreement.

- H. Termination of Contract - The Contract resulting from this RFP shall be subject to the following termination provisions. The Contract may be terminated by the Commission for:
- a. Default - Any Consultant who is determined in writing by the Commission to be in breach of any of the terms or conditions of a contract with the Commission may, in the discretion of the Commission, be declared in default and such contract may be terminated as a result of such default. A default in performance by a Consultant for which a contract may be terminated shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, failure to perform the contract according to its terms, conditions and specifications; failure to make delivery within the time specified or according to a delivery schedule fixed by the contract.
 - b. Consultant Bankruptcy - In the event of the filing of a petition in bankruptcy by or against the Consultant, the Commission shall have the right to terminate the Contract upon the same terms and conditions as a termination for default.
 - c. Unavailability of Funds - In the event that the Commission determines that funds for the Contract become unavailable, the Commission shall have the right to terminate the Contract without penalty and upon the same terms and conditions as a termination for convenience. Availability of funds will be determined at the sole discretion of the Commission.
 - d. Convenience - The Commission shall be authorized to terminate for its own convenience all contracts for the procurement of services when the Commission has determined that such terminations will be in the public interest. When it has been determined that a contract should be terminated for the convenience of the Commission, the Commission shall be authorized to negotiate a settlement with the Consultant according to terms deemed just and equitable by the Commission.

The Consultant shall be paid all monies due for services rendered up to the termination date, as well as all monies due for commitments which cannot be terminated at such termination date or be otherwise mitigated.

Whenever a contract is terminated for the convenience of the Commission, the Consultant shall have the burden of establishing the amount of the compensation due, by submission of complete and accurate cost data as presented in his bid for the contract and

evidence of expenses paid or incurred and services performed in connection with the contract from the date of award through the date of termination. Payment of the sum agreed to in settlement of a contract terminated for convenience of the Commission shall be made from the same source of funds or account as the original contract.

- I. Procedure on Termination - Upon delivery by certified mail to the Consultant of a Notice of Termination specifying the nature of the termination, the extent to which performance of work under the Contract is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective, the Consultant shall:
 - a. Stop work under the Contract on the date and to the extent specified in the Notice of Termination.
 - b. Place no further orders for services except as may be necessary for completion of such portion of the work under the Contract as is not terminated.
 - c. Terminate all orders to the extent that they relate to the performance of work terminated by the Notice of Termination.
 - d. Assign to the Commonwealth in the manner and to the extent directed by the Commission all of the rights, titles, and interests of the Consultant under the orders so terminated. The Commonwealth shall have the right, at its discretion, to settle or cause payment of any or all claims arising out of the termination of such orders with the approval or ratification of the Commission and settle all outstanding liabilities arising out of such termination of orders, the cost of which would be reimbursable in whole or in part, in accordance with the provisions of the contract.
 - e. Complete performance of that part of the work not terminated by the Notice of Termination.
 - f. Take such action as may be necessary, or as the Commission may direct, for the protection and preservation of the property related to the Contract which is in the possession of the Consultant and in which the Commission has or may acquire an interest.

The Consultant shall proceed immediately with the performance of the above obligations notwithstanding any delay in determining or adjusting the amount of any item of reimbursable price under this clause.

- J. Termination Claims - After receipt of a Notice of Termination, the Consultant shall submit to the Commission any termination claim in the

form prescribed by the Commission no later than two (2) months from the effective date of termination.

If the Consultant fails to submit the termination claim within the time allowed, the Commission may, subject to any review required by the Commonwealth procedures in effect as of the date of execution of the Contract, determine, on the basis of information available to it, the amount, if any, due to the Consultant by reason of the termination and shall direct that payment of that amount be made.

In the event the Consultant and the Commission fail to agree in whole or in part on the costs to be paid to the Consultant in connection with the total or partial termination of work, the Commission shall determine on the basis of information available the amount, if any, due to the Consultant and shall direct that payment of that amount be made.

The Consultant shall have the right of appeal, as stated under Disputes, from any such determination made by the Commission.

- K. Consultant Personnel - Personnel commitments identified in the Consultant's proposal shall be considered mandatory to the work to be performed under this RFP. Personnel assignments in the proposal shall not be changed without prior written consent of the Staff Project Officer. Replacement of such personnel, if approved, shall be with personnel of equal or superior ability and qualifications. The Commission may, at any time, require the Consultant to reassign or otherwise remove any employee found not qualified or otherwise unacceptable to the Commission.
- L. Changes in Scope - The Commission may, at any time and in writing, change the general scope of the Contract upon prior notice to and input from the Utility. If any approved change affects the cost of, or the time required for, the performance of any part of the work, an adjustment shall be made in the contract which shall be modified in writing accordingly.
- M. Force Majeure - Consultant shall not be liable for any damages for any inability to perform, or for any delays or interruptions beyond Consultant's reasonable control in performing any of Consultant's obligations under this Contract, including but not limited to, those arising from acts of God, fires, floods, riots, quarantines, strikes by Consultant's employees or embargoes. Consultant shall advise the Commission and the Utility immediately of any failure, delay, or interruption upon occurrence thereof. Any such inability, delay or interruption, even though existing on the date of the Contract or on the date of the start of the work, shall require Consultant to submit a recovery plan detailing the manner in which the delay shall be remedied, the revised schedule and any added expenses. Consultant shall use reasonable diligence to proceed with the work notwithstanding the

occurrence thereof. Force Majeure shall apply only to the part of the Work directly affected by the particular failure, delay or interruption, and shall not apply to the work as a whole or any other unaffected part thereof.

- N. Disputes - Prior to the initiation of any action in a court by any party to this Contract concerning any contract, claim, or controversy, the Commission may, subject to any limitations or conditions imposed by regulations, settle, compromise, direct payment to be made or otherwise adjust the claim by or against, or controversy with, the Consultant relating to the Contract, including, but not limited to, a claim or controversy based on breach of contract, mistake, misrepresentation, or other cause for contract modification or rescission.
- O. Disclosure of Proposal Contents - The contents of any proposal in response to this RFP shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than the Commission and its staff, and the Utility and their agents until a contract selection is made. Upon selection of a proposal by the Commission, the proposal of the Consultant selected to perform the service and the proposals of all unsuccessful Consultants shall be made available for public inspection.
- P. Confidentiality of Contract Terms - The Consultant, the Utility, and the Commission agree that all information communicated among them before the effective date of the Agreement shall be received in strict confidence and shall not be disclosed by the receiving party, its agents, or employees without prior written consent of the other parties. Such material will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law until the effective date of the Agreement, at which time the Agreement shall be made available for public disclosure.
- Q. Consultant Responsibility - Any contract that may result from the RFP shall specify that the Consultant is solely responsible for fulfillment of the Contract with the Commission. Any subcontractors shall be identified in the proposal.
- R. Consultant Affiliation - If any affiliate of the Consultant takes any action which, if done by the Consultant, would constitute a breach of the contract, the same shall be deemed a breach by the Consultant. "Affiliate" shall mean a parent, subsidiary or other utility controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Consultant.
- S. Assignment - The Consultant shall not assign the Contract in whole or in part or any payment arising therefrom without the prior written consent of the Commission. Any assignment without the written consent of the Commission shall be void.

- T. Hold Harmless - The Consultant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Commonwealth, the Commission, and the Utility, its officers, agents, and employees from:
- a. Any claims by or losses to any person or firm alleging injury or damage resulting from the intentional or negligent acts of the Consultant, its officers or employees in the performance of the Contract.
 - b. Any failure of the Consultant, its officers or employees to observe the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including but not limited to labor and minimum wage laws.
- U. Permits, Licenses, Taxes and Registration - The Consultant shall procure all necessary permits and licenses and abide by all applicable laws, regulations and ordinances of all federal, state and local governments in which work under this Contract is performed.

The Consultant shall pay any sales, use or personal property taxes arising out of this Contract and the transaction contemplated hereby. Any other taxes levied upon this contract, the transaction, or the equipment or services delivered pursuant hereto shall be borne by the Consultant.

- V. Employment Practices - The Consultant shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (except as provided by law), marital status, political affiliations, or handicap. The Consultant must take affirmative action to ensure that employees, as well as applicants for employment, are treated without discrimination because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (except as provided by law), marital status, political affiliations, or handicap. Such action shall include, but is not limited to, the following: employment, promotion, demotion, or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Consultant agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this clause.

The Consultant shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Consultant, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (except as provided by law), marital status, political affiliation, or handicap, except where it relates to a bona fide occupational qualification.

The Consultant shall comply with the nondiscrimination clause contained in Federal Executive Order 11246, as amended by Federal Executive Order 11375, relative to Equal Employment Opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the implementing rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor and with 41 CFR Chapter 60. The Consultant shall comply with related laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Consultant shall comply with regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor of the United States in 20 CFR Part 741, pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 11758 and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Consultant shall comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and any amendments thereto, and the rules and regulations thereunder, and Section 504 of Title V of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

- W. Rights and Remedies - The rights and remedies of the Commission provided herein shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Contract.
- X. Contract Severability - If any provision of the Contract (including items incorporated by reference) is declared or found to be illegal, unenforceable, or void, then the Commission, the Consultant, and the Utility shall be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision. If the remainder of the Contract is capable of performance, it shall not be affected by such declaration or finding and shall be fully performed.
- Y. Waiver - No covenant, condition, duty, obligation, or undertaking contained in or made a part of the Contract will be waived except by written agreement of the parties, and forbearance or indulgence in any other form or manner by any party in any regard whatsoever shall not constitute a waiver of the covenant, condition, duty, obligation, or undertaking to be kept, performed or discharged by the party to which the same may apply; and until complete performance or satisfaction of all such covenants, conditions, duties, obligations, and undertakings, any other party shall have the right to invoke any remedy available under law or equity, notwithstanding any such forbearance or indulgence.

Any consent by any party to or waiver of a failure by the other, whether express or implied, shall not constitute consent of, waiver of, or excuse for any other different or subsequent failure.

- Z. Insurance - The Consultant will provide public liability, property damage and worker's compensation insurance, insuring as they may appear, the interests of all parties to this Contract against any and all claims which may

arise out of the Consultant's actions under the terms of this Contract. In the event any carrier of such insurance exercises cancellation, notice will be made immediately to the Commission of such cancellation.

- AA. Accounting Requirements - The Consultant shall establish and maintain an accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The accounting system shall maintain records pertaining to the tasks defined herein and any other costs and expenditures made under the contract.
- BB. Audit Requirements - The Consultant shall maintain books, documents, and other evidence pertaining to the administrative costs and expenses of the Contract to the extent necessary and in such detail as shall properly reflect all costs, direct and apportioned, and other costs and expenses of whatever nature for which reimbursement is claimed under the provisions of this Contract. Accounting records related to the provision of service under this Contract shall be open to the Commission at any time from the commencement date through 12 months subsequent to the audit's conclusion.
- CC. Contract Records Retention - The Consultant shall preserve and make available to the Commission and the Utility all books, documents, papers, and records related to the Contract for a period of one year from the date of expiration or termination of the Contract.

Records involving matters in litigation shall be kept for one year following the termination of litigation and associated appeals.

Authorized representatives of the Commission may examine and copy the items listed above during the contract period and during the periods described above. The Utility may also examine and copy the items listed above during the contract period and during the periods described above after the audit has been completed.

- DD. Legal Fees - In the event that the Commission or the Utility prevail in a legal action to enforce any provision of the Contract, the Consultant agrees to pay all expenses of such action, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs at all stages of litigation as set by the court or hearing officer.
- EE. Independent Price Determination - By submission of a proposal the Consultant certifies the following:
 - a. Prices in the proposal have been arrived at independently without consultation, communication, or agreement for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Consultant or with any competitor.

- b. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices that have been quoted in the proposal have not been knowingly and will not knowingly be disclosed by the Consultant prior to award directly or indirectly to any other Consultant or to any competitor.
- c. No attempt has been or will be made by the Consultant to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.