

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
Geophysical Engineering Services

ISSUING OFFICE

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement**

RFP NUMBER

PUC RFP 2024-2

DATE OF ISSUANCE

April 19, 2024

Small Diverse Businesses (SDB) and Veteran Business Enterprises (VBE) are encouraged to respond to this solicitation. If you haven't verified as an SDB or VBE within Pennsylvania, you may miss out on contracting opportunities designed to increase the Commonwealth's spending with SDBs and VBEs. These opportunities will be available for goods, services, information technology services and products, as well as design, engineering and construction contracts.

To review SDB and VBE program eligibility and for more information on seeking certification, please visit www.dgs.pa.gov and follow the links to "Small Diverse Business Program" or "Small Business Contracting Program" located under the "Businesses" heading. Direct customer assistance is also available from staff within the Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion, and Small Business Opportunities by calling 717-783-3119 or via email at gs-bdisbo@pa.gov.

PUC RFP 2024-2
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Commission will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Activity	Responsibility	Date
<p>Pre-proposal Conference (SDB/VBE presentation)</p> <p>Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 227 139 283 141 Passcode: gpvruc</p> <hr/> <p>Dial-in by phone +1 267-332-8737,,298668524# United States, Philadelphia Find a local number Phone conference ID: 298 668 524# For organizers: Meeting options Reset dial-in PIN</p> <p>Recording or transcribing this meeting, in any manner including through a third-party application, may not occur without the consent of all participants, as required by law, and must adhere to Commonwealth policies. For more info click the legal link. Privacy and security</p>	<p>Issuing Office</p> <p>Potential Offerors</p> <p>BDISBO</p>	<p>Tuesday May 7, 2024 3 p.m. Telephonic MS Teams</p>
<p>Deadline to submit Questions via email to Issuing Officer Robert Horensky rhorensky@pa.gov.</p>	<p>Potential Proposers</p>	<p>April 30, 2024</p>
<p>Answers to Potential Proposer questions posted to http://www.puc.pa.gov/contact_us/request_for_proposals.aspx no later than this date.</p>	<p>Issuing Office</p>	<p>May 7, 2024</p>
<p>Monitor website http://www.puc.pa.gov/contact_us/request_for_proposals.aspx for all communications regarding the RFP.</p>	<p>Potential Proposers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Date the proposal shall be <u>received</u> by the Issuing Office.</p>	<p>Proposers</p>	<p>Monday, May 20, 2024 3 p.m.</p>

PART I

GENERAL INFORMATION

- I-1. Purpose.** This request for proposals (RFP) provides to those interested in submitting proposals for the subject procurement (Proposers) sufficient information to enable them to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission), on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Commonwealth), to satisfy a need for Geophysical Engineering Services (Services or Project) in the Commonwealth. This RFP contains instructions governing the requested proposals, including the requirements for the information and material to be included; a description of the service to be provided; requirements which Proposers shall meet to be eligible for consideration; general evaluation criteria; and other RFP requirements.
- I-2. Issuing Office.** The Commission has issued this RFP on behalf of the Commonwealth. The sole point of contact in the Commonwealth for this RFP shall be **Robert Horensky**, Manager, Safety Division, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (BIE), at rhorensky@pa.gov (Issuing Officer). Refer all inquiries to the Issuing Officer.

First Class Mail for Issuing Office:

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
Robert Horensky, Manager, Safety Division
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Overnight Street Address:

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
Robert Horensky, Manager, Safety Division
400 North St
2rd Fl. West
Harrisburg PA 17120

Phone: 717 787 1063

- I-3. Overview of Project.** The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Investigation and Enforcement Bureau (I&E) seeks a full-service earth resource engineering and consulting firm, **specializing** in geotechnical engineering, hydrogeology, and geophysics to provide engineering technical support on horizontal directional drilling projects and other pipeline/utility projects.

- I-4. Objectives.** BIE investigates matters related to pipelines, and requires geophysical engineering consulting on these matters. BIE seeks to retain such advisors and utilize them as necessary to effectuate BIE’s pipeline safety enforcement duties. This will include providing written and oral testimony in adversarial proceedings to support the contractor’s professional findings and conclusions.
- I-5. Type of Contract.** It is proposed that if the Issuing Office enters into a contract as a result of this RFP, it will be a **five-year, fixed term, fee-for-service contract ending June 30, 2029**, containing the Contract Terms and Conditions as shown in Part VI and Part VII. The RFP, the winning proposer’s proposal, and the Questions and Answers published by the Commission on its website, shall be incorporated into the Contract.
- I-6. Rejection of Proposals.** The Issuing Office reserves the right, in its sole and complete discretion, to reject any proposal received as a result of this RFP.
- I-7. Incurring Costs.** The Issuing Office is not liable for any costs the Offeror incurs in preparation and submission of its proposal, in participating in the RFP process or in anticipation of award of the contract.
- I-8. Questions & Answers.** If a prospective Proposer has any questions regarding this RFP, it shall submit the questions by email (**with the subject line “PUC RFP 2024-2 Geophysical Engineering Services Question”**) to the Issuing Officer named in Part I, Section I-2 of the RFP. Questions may be submitted as they arise via email but no later than the date indicated on the Calendar of Events. The Issuing Officer shall post the official questions and answers to the questions at http://www.puc.pa.gov/contact_us/request_for_proposals.aspx on an ongoing basis until the deadline stated on the Calendar of Events.

When a Proposer submits a question after the deadline date for receipt of questions indicated on the Calendar of Events, the Issuing Officer *may* respond to questions of an administrative nature by directing the questioning Proposer to specific provisions in the RFP. To the extent that the Issuing Office decides to respond to a non-administrative question *after* the deadline date, the question and answer will be provided to all Proposers by posting the final question and answer on the website.

All questions and responses as posted to the website are considered as an addendum to, and part of, this RFP in accordance with RFP **Part I, Section I-9**. Each Proposer shall be responsible to monitor the website for new or revised RFP information. The Issuing Office will not be bound by any verbal information, nor will it be bound by any written information that is not either contained within the RFP or formally issued as an addendum by the Issuing Office.

The Issuing Office will not consider questions to be a protest of the specifications or of the solicitation. The required protest process for Commonwealth procurements is described in **Part I, Section I-26**.

I-9. Addenda to the RFP. If the Issuing Office deems it necessary to revise any part of this RFP before the proposal response date, the Issuing Office will post an addendum to eMarketplace at http://www.puc.pa.gov/contact_us/request_for_proposals.aspx. It is the Offeror's responsibility to periodically check eMarketplace for any new information or addenda to the RFP. Answers to the questions asked during the Questions & Answers period also will be posted to eMarketplace as addenda to the RFP.

I-10. Response Date. To be considered for selection, electronic proposal submissions as described in **Part I, Section I-11** must arrive at the Issuing Office on or before the time and date specified in the RFP Calendar of Events. The Issuing Office will **not** accept proposals via email or facsimile transmission. Offerors who send proposals by mail or other delivery service should allow sufficient delivery time to ensure timely receipt of their proposals. If, due to inclement weather, natural disaster, or any other cause, the Commonwealth office location to which proposals are to be returned is closed on the proposal response date, the deadline for submission will be automatically extended until the next Commonwealth business day on which the office is open, unless the Issuing Office otherwise notifies Offerors. The hour for submission of proposals shall remain the same. The Issuing Office will reject (unopened) any late proposals.

I-11. Proposal Requirements.

A. Proposal Submission: To be considered, Offerors should submit a complete response to this RFP to the Issuing Office, using the format provided in **Section I-11B**, providing a single electronic proposal with separate files **for the Technical Submittal; the Cost Submittal; the Small Diverse Business (SDB) Participation Submittal (SDB-2) (which must include either the SDB Utilization Schedule (SDB-3), Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request (SDB-4 and SDB-5), or both) and the Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) Participation Submittal (VBE-2) (which must include either the VBE Utilization Schedule (VBE-3), Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request (VBE-4 and VBE-5), or both)**. The electronic submission must be on CD, DVD or Flash drive in Microsoft Office or Microsoft Office compatible format and any spreadsheets must be in Microsoft Excel. The Offerors may not lock or protect any cells or tabs. The CD, DVD or Flash drive should clearly identify the Offeror and include the name and version number of the virus scanning software that was used to scan the CD, DVD or Flash drive before it was submitted. The Offeror shall make no other distribution of its proposal to any other Offeror or Commonwealth official or Commonwealth consultant. Each proposal page should be numbered for ease of reference. An official authorized to bind the Offeror to its provisions must sign the proposal. If the official signs the **Proposal Cover Sheet (Appendix A** to this RFP) and the Proposal Cover Sheet is scanned and provided in a PDF version in the Offeror's electronically submitted proposal, the requirement will be met. For this RFP, the proposal must remain valid for days or until a contract is fully executed. If the Issuing Office selects the Offeror's proposal for award, the contents of the selected Offeror's proposal will become, except to the extent the contents are changed through Best and Final Offers or negotiations, contractual obligations.

Each Offeror submitting a proposal specifically waives any right to withdraw or modify it, except that the Offeror may withdraw its proposal by written notice received at the Issuing Office's address for proposal delivery prior to the exact hour and date specified for proposal receipt. An Offeror or its authorized representative may withdraw its proposal in person prior to the exact hour and date set for proposal receipt, provided the withdrawing person provides appropriate identification. An Offeror may modify its submitted proposal prior to the exact hour and date set for proposal receipt only by submitting a clearly identified revised electronic submission on CD, DVD or Flash drive marked as "Revised Proposal" which complies with the RFP requirements.

B. Proposal Format: Offerors must submit their proposals in the format, including heading descriptions, outlined below. To be considered, the proposal must respond to all proposal requirements. Offerors should provide any other information thought to be relevant, but not applicable to the enumerated categories, as an appendix to the Proposal. All cost data relating to this proposal and all Small Diverse Business and Veteran Business Enterprise cost data should be kept separate from and not included in the Technical Submittal. Offerors should not reiterate technical information in the cost submittal. Each electronic proposal shall consist of the following **four** separate electronic files:

1. Technical Submittal, in response to **Part III**:
 - a. Complete, sign and include **Appendix B – Domestic Workforce Utilization Certification**; and
 - b. Complete, sign and include **Appendix C, Iran Free Procurement Certification Form**.
2. Cost Submittal, in response to RFP **Part IV**;
3. SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2) (which must include the SDB Utilization Schedule (SDB-3), Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request (SDB-4 and SDB-5), or both), in response to RFP **Part V**; and
4. VBE Participation Submittal (VBE-2) (which must include the VBE Utilization Schedule (VBE-3), Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request (VBE-4 and VBE-5), or both), in response to RFP **Part V**.

The Issuing Office reserves the right to request additional information which, in the Issuing Office's opinion, is necessary to assure that the Offeror's competence, number of qualified employees, business organization, and financial resources are adequate to perform according to the RFP.

The Issuing Office may make investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Offeror to perform the Project, and the Offeror shall furnish to the Issuing Office all requested information and data. The Issuing Office reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Offeror fails to satisfy the Issuing Office that such Offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the RFP and to complete the Project as specified.

- I-12. Economy of Preparation.** Offerors should prepare proposals simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Offeror's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP.
- I-13. Alternate Proposals.** The Issuing Office has identified the basic approach to meeting its requirements, allowing Offerors to be creative and propose their best solution to meeting these requirements. The Issuing Office will not accept alternate proposals.
- I-14. Discussions for Clarification.** Offerors may be required to make an oral or written clarification of their proposals to the Issuing Office to ensure thorough mutual understanding and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. The Issuing Office will initiate requests for clarification. Clarifications may occur at any stage of the evaluation and selection process prior to contract execution.
- I-15. Prime Contractor Responsibilities.** The selected Offeror must perform at least 50% of the total contract value. Nevertheless, the contract will require the selected Offeror to assume responsibility for all services offered in its proposal whether it produces them itself or by subcontract. Further, the Issuing Office will consider the selected Offeror to be the sole point of contact with regard to all contractual matters.
- I-16. Proposal Contents.**
 - A. Confidential Information.** The Commonwealth is not requesting, and does not require, confidential proprietary information or trade secrets to be included as part of Offerors' submissions in order to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP. Accordingly, except as provided herein, Offerors should not label proposal submissions as confidential or proprietary or trade secret protected. Any Offeror who determines that it must divulge such information as part of its proposal must submit the signed written statement described in subsection c. below and must additionally provide a redacted version of its proposal, which removes only the confidential proprietary information and trade secrets, for required public disclosure purposes.
 - B. Commonwealth Use.** All material submitted with the proposal shall be considered the property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth has the right to use any or all ideas not protected by intellectual property rights that are presented in any proposal regardless of whether the proposal becomes part of a contract. Notwithstanding any Offeror copyright designations contained in proposals, the Commonwealth shall have the right to make copies and distribute proposals internally and to comply with public record or other disclosure requirements under

the provisions of any Commonwealth or United States statute or regulation, or rule or order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

- C. **Public Disclosure.** After the award of a contract pursuant to this RFP, all proposal submissions are subject to disclosure in response to a request for public records made under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know-Law, 65 P.S. § 67.101, et seq. If a proposal submission contains confidential proprietary information or trade secrets, a signed written statement to this effect must be provided with the submission in accordance with 65 P.S. § 67.707(b) for the information to be considered exempt under 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(11) from public records requests. Refer to **Appendix D** of the RFP for a **Trade Secret Confidential Proprietary Information Notice Form** that may be utilized as the signed written statement, if applicable. If financial capability information is submitted in response to Part III of this RFP, such financial capability information is exempt from public records disclosure under 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(26).

I-17. Best and Final Offers (BAFO).

- A. While not required, the Issuing Office reserves the right to conduct discussions with Offerors for the purpose of obtaining “best and final offers.” To obtain best and final offers from Offerors, the Issuing Office may do one or more of the following, in any combination and order:
1. Schedule oral presentations;
 2. Request revised proposals;
 3. Conduct an online auction; and
 4. Enter into pre-selection negotiations.
- B. The following Offerors will **not** be invited by the Issuing Office to submit a Best and Final Offer:
1. Those Offerors which the Issuing Office has determined to be not responsible or whose proposals the Issuing Office has determined to be not responsive.
 2. Those Offerors which the Issuing Office has determined in accordance with **Part II, Section II-5** from the submitted and gathered financial and other information, do not possess the financial capability, experience or qualifications to assure good faith performance of the contract.
 3. Those Offerors whose score for their technical submittal of the proposal is less than 75% of the total amount of technical points allotted to the technical criterion.

The Issuing Office may further limit participation in the best and final offers process to those remaining responsible offerors which the Issuing Office has, within its discretion, determined to be within the top competitive range of responsive proposals.

- C. The Evaluation Criteria found in **Part II, Section II-4**, shall also be used to evaluate the Best and Final offers.
 - D. Price reductions offered through any online auction shall have no effect upon the Offeror's Technical Submittal.
- I-18. News Releases.** Offerors shall not issue news releases, Internet postings, advertisements or any other public communications pertaining to this Project without prior written approval of the Issuing Office, and then only in coordination with the Issuing Office.
- I-19. Restriction of Contact.** From the issue date of this RFP until the Issuing Office selects a proposal for award, the Issuing Officer is the sole point of contact concerning this RFP. Any violation of this condition may be cause for the Issuing Office to reject the offending Offeror's proposal. If the Issuing Office later discovers that the Offeror has engaged in any violations of this condition, the Issuing Office may reject the offending Offeror's proposal or rescind its contract award. Offerors must agree not to distribute any part of their proposals beyond the Issuing Office. An Offeror who shares information contained in its proposal with other Commonwealth personnel and/or competing Offeror personnel may be disqualified.
- I-20. Issuing Office Participation.** Offerors shall provide all services, supplies, facilities, and other support necessary to complete the identified work.
- I-21. Term of Contract.** The term of the contract will commence on the Effective Date and **will end on June 30, 2029**. The Issuing Office will fix the Effective Date after the contract has been fully executed by the selected Offeror and by the Commonwealth and all approvals required by Commonwealth contracting procedures have been obtained. The selected Offeror shall not start the performance of any work prior to the Effective Date of the contract and the Commonwealth shall not be liable to pay the selected Offeror for any service or work performed or expenses incurred before the Effective Date of the contract.
- I-22. Offeror's Representations and Authorizations.** By submitting its proposal, each Offeror understands, represents, and acknowledges that:
- A. All of the Offeror's information and representations in the proposal are material and important, and the Issuing Office may rely upon the contents of the proposal in awarding the contract(s). The Commonwealth shall treat any misstatement, omission or misrepresentation as fraudulent concealment of the true facts relating to the Proposal submission, punishable pursuant to 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904.
 - B. The Offeror has arrived at the price(s) and amounts in its proposal independently and without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Offeror or potential offeror.
 - C. The Offeror has not disclosed the price(s), the amount of the proposal, nor the approximate price(s) or amount(s) of its proposal to any other firm or person who is an Offeror or potential offeror for this RFP, and the Offeror shall not disclose any of these

items on or before the proposal submission deadline specified in the Calendar of Events of this RFP.

- D.** The Offeror has not attempted, nor will it attempt, to induce any firm or person to refrain from submitting a proposal on this contract, or to submit a proposal higher than this proposal, or to submit any intentionally high or noncompetitive proposal or other form of complementary proposal.
- E.** The Offeror makes its proposal in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any firm or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive proposal.
- F.** To the best knowledge of the person signing the proposal for the Offeror, the Offeror, its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, and employees are not currently under investigation by any governmental agency and have not in the last **four** years been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by State or Federal law in any jurisdiction, involving conspiracy or collusion with respect to bidding or proposing on any public contract, except as the Offeror has disclosed in its proposal.
- G.** To the best of the knowledge of the person signing the proposal for the Offeror and except as the Offeror has otherwise disclosed in its proposal, the Offeror has no outstanding, delinquent obligations to the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, any state tax liability not being contested on appeal or other obligation of the Offeror that is owed to the Commonwealth.
- H.** The Offeror is not currently under suspension or debarment by the Commonwealth, any other state or the federal government, and if the Offeror cannot so certify, then it shall submit along with its proposal a written explanation of why it cannot make such certification.
- I.** The Offeror has not made, under separate contract with the Issuing Office, any recommendations to the Issuing Office concerning the need for the services described in its proposal or the specifications for the services described in the proposal.
- J.** Each Offeror, by submitting its proposal, authorizes Commonwealth agencies to release to the Commonwealth information concerning the Offeror's Pennsylvania taxes, unemployment compensation and workers' compensation liabilities.
- K.** Until the selected Offeror receives a fully executed and approved written contract from the Issuing Office, there is no legal and valid contract, in law or in equity, and the Offeror shall not begin to perform.
- L.** The Offeror is not currently engaged, and will not during the duration of the contract engage, in a boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction which the Commonwealth is not prohibited by Congressional statute from engaging in trade or commerce.

I-23. Notification of Selection.

- A. Contract Negotiations.** The Issuing Office will notify all Offerors in writing of the Offeror selected for contract negotiations after the Issuing Office has determined,

taking into consideration all of the evaluation factors, the proposal that is the most advantageous to the Issuing Office.

B. Award. Offerors whose proposals are not selected will be notified when contract negotiations have been successfully completed and the Issuing Office has received the final negotiated contract signed by the selected Offeror.

I-24. Debriefing Conferences. Upon notification of award, Offerors whose proposals were not selected will be given the opportunity to be debriefed. The Issuing Office will schedule the debriefing at a mutually agreeable time. The debriefing will not compare the Offeror with other Offerors, other than the position of the Offeror's proposal in relation to all other Offeror proposals. An Offeror's exercise of the opportunity to be debriefed does not constitute nor toll the time for filing a protest (See **Section I-25** of this RFP).

I-25. RFP Protest Procedure. The RFP Protest Procedure is on the DGS website at <http://www.dgs.pa.gov/Documents/Procurement%20Forms/Handbook/Pt1/Pt%20I%20Ch%2058%20Bid%20Protests.pdf>., A protest by a party that has not or has not yet submitted a proposal must be filed no later than the proposal submission deadline specified in the Calendar of Events of the RFP. Offerors may file a protest within **seven** days after the protesting Offeror knew or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest, but in no event may an Offeror file a protest later than **seven** days after the date the notice of award of the contract is posted on the DGS website. The date of filing is the date of receipt of the protest. A protest must be filed in writing with the Issuing Office. To be timely, the protest must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the seventh day.

I-26. Use of Electronic Versions of this RFP. This RFP is being made available by electronic means. If an Offeror electronically accepts the RFP, the Offeror acknowledges and accepts full responsibility to insure that no changes are made to the RFP. In the event of a conflict between a version of the RFP in the Offeror's possession and the Issuing Office's version of the RFP, the Issuing Office's version shall govern.

PART II

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- II-1. Mandatory Responsiveness Requirements.** To be eligible for selection, a proposal must:
- A. Be timely received from an Offeror (see **Part I, Section I-10**); and
 - B. Be properly signed by the Offeror (see **Part I, Section I-11A**); and
 - C. Contain a completed SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2) (which must include the SDB Utilization Schedule (SDB-3), Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request (SDB 4 and SDB-5), or both); **and** either (a) agree to meet the SDB participation goal in full or (b) receive an approved waiver from any unmet portion of the SDB participation goal; and
 - D. Contain a completed VBE participation submittal (VBE-2) (which must include the VBE Utilization Schedule (VBE-3), Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request (VBE 4 and VBE-5), or both); **and** either (a) agree to meet the VBE participation goal in full or (b) receive an approved waiver from any unmet portion of the VBE participation goal.
- II-2. Technical Nonconforming Proposals.** The four (4) Mandatory Responsiveness Requirements set forth in **Section II-1** above (A-D) are the only RFP requirements that the Commonwealth will consider to be *non-waivable*. The Issuing Office reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to (1) waive any other technical or immaterial nonconformities in an Offeror's proposal, (2) allow the Offeror to cure the nonconformity, or (3) consider the nonconformity in the scoring of the Offeror's proposal.
- II-3. Evaluation.** The Issuing Office has selected a committee of qualified personnel to review and evaluate timely submitted proposals. The Issuing Office will notify in writing of its selection for negotiation the responsible Offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the Commonwealth as determined by the Issuing Office after taking into consideration all of the evaluation factors.

The Commonwealth will not score the SDB and VBE Participation Submittals. Rather, Offerors must commit to meeting the SDB and VBE participation goals or make good faith efforts to meet the SDB and VBE participation goal as more fully explained in **Part V**. Although the SDB and VBE Participation Submittals will not be scored, the Issuing Office, in conjunction with BDISBO when necessary, will evaluate the SDB Participation Submittal, the VBE Participation Submittal, and additional required documentation to determine whether they have been completed in accordance with Part V and in a manner that demonstrates the Offeror is responsive and responsible.

II-4. Evaluation Criteria. The following criteria will be used in evaluating each proposal:

A. Technical: The Issuing Office has established the weight for the Technical criterion for this RFP as **100%** of the total points. Evaluation will be based upon the following:

1. Personnel Qualifications. Evaluation of educational and technical capability of personnel assigned to the project. Specifically: (1) Pennsylvania-licensed professional engineers with specialized experience in geotechnical engineering in karst terranes and with horizontal directional drilling (HDD); (2) Pennsylvania-licensed professional geologists with specialized experience in the geology and hydrogeology of karst terranes and with HDD; and (3) Pennsylvania-licensed professional geologists with specialized experience in the application of geophysical techniques (specifically seismic MASW, 2D and 3D electrical resistivity, and gravity), including data acquisition, processing, and interpretation.

2. Prior Experience. Evaluation of prior projects, both for the company and for specific personnel assigned to the project. Specifically: (1) experience in geotechnical engineering in karst terranes and with horizontal directional drilling (HDD); (2) experience in the geology and hydrogeology of karst terranes and with HDD; and (3) experience in the application of geophysical techniques (specifically seismic MASW, 2D and 3D electrical resistivity, and gravity), including data acquisition, processing, and interpretation.

3. Technical Capability with Software. Evaluation of personnel's demonstrated ability with using the following technologies/software packages:

- a. Geometrics Seismodule Controller.
- b. MASW forward modeling and inversion / SurfSeis, ParkSEIS.
- c. 2D and 3D ER forward modeling / Res2Dmod, Res3Dmod.
- d. 2D and 3D ER inversion / Res2Dinv, Res3Dinv.
- e. Integration of geographical, geological, and geophysical information using Global Mapper & Surfer.

4. Company size and office locations. Evaluation of office locations in Pennsylvania, and specifically with regard to an office within 25 miles of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

This is a professional services RFP issued pursuant to 62 Pa.C.S. § 518, Competitive Selection Procedures for Certain Services. This Procurement section is applicable because the Commission is seeking attorney services. Pursuant to 62 Pa.C.S. § 518(e), the award is based on best qualified bidder based on the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP. The bidders shall be ranked from most qualified to least qualified, and the Commission shall approve at Public Meeting the ranked list to direct Commission staff proceed to final contract negotiations to seek fair and reasonable compensation with highest ranked bidder on the list. If Commission staff cannot negotiate fair and reasonable compensation with the highest ranked bidder, Commission staff will proceed

down the list until they obtain a bidder which will agree to fair and reasonable compensation. *See* Section II-4(C) below for more information.

B. The final Technical scores are determined by giving the maximum number of technical points available to the proposal(s) with the highest raw technical score. The remaining proposals are rated by applying the Technical Scoring Formula set forth at the following webpage:

[RFP Scoring Formula | Procurement Resources | Department of General Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

C. Cost: This is a professional services RFP issued pursuant to 62 Pa.C.S. § 518, Competitive Selection Procedures for Certain Services. This Procurement section is applicable because the Commission is seeking attorney services. Pursuant to 62 Pa.C.S. § 518, cost is not an initial factor in determining the most qualified bidder. Specifically, Section 62 Pa.C.S. § 518(e) provides:

(e) Award. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror determined in writing by the contracting officer to be best qualified based on the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposals. Fair and reasonable compensation shall be determined through negotiation. If compensation cannot be agreed upon with the best qualified responsible offeror, then negotiations will be formally terminated with the offeror. If proposals were submitted by one or more other responsible offerors, negotiations may be conducted with the other responsible offeror or responsible offerors in the order of their respective qualification ranking. The contract may be awarded to the responsible offeror then ranked as best qualified if the amount of compensation is determined to be fair and reasonable.

62 Pa.C.S § 518(e).

D. Domestic Workforce Utilization: Any points received for the Domestic Workforce Utilization criterion are bonus points in addition to the total points for this RFP. The maximum amount of bonus points available for this criterion is 3% of the total points for this RFP.

To the extent permitted by the laws and treaties of the United States, each proposal will be scored for its commitment to use domestic workforce in the fulfillment of the contract. Maximum consideration will be given to those Offerors who will perform the contracted direct labor exclusively within the geographical boundaries of the United States or within the geographical boundaries of a country that is a party to the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement. Those who propose to perform a portion of the direct labor outside of the United States and not within the geographical boundaries of a party to the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement will receive a correspondingly smaller score for this

criterion. See the following webpage for the Domestic Workforce Utilization Formula:

[RFP Scoring Formula | Procurement Resources | Department of General Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

- E. Iran Free Procurement Certification and Disclosure.** Prior to entering a contract worth at least \$1,000,000 or more with a Commonwealth entity, an offeror must: a) certify it is not on the current list of persons engaged in investment activities in Iran created by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services (“DGS”) pursuant to Section 3503 of the Procurement Code and is eligible to contract with the Commonwealth under Sections 3501-3506 of the Procurement Code; or b) demonstrate it has received an exception from the certification requirement for that solicitation or contract pursuant to Section 3503(e). All offerors must complete and return the Iran Free Procurement Certification form, (**Appendix C, Iran Free Procurement Certification Form**), which is attached hereto and made part of this RFP. The completed and signed Iran Free Procurement Certification form must be submitted as part of the Technical Submittal.

See the following web page for current Iran Free Procurement list:

[Iran-Free Procurement List | Procurement Resources | Department of General Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

- II-5. Offeror Responsibility.** To be responsible, an Offeror must submit a responsive proposal and possess the capability to fully perform the contract requirements in all respects and the integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance of the contract.

In order for an Offeror to be considered responsible for this RFP and therefore eligible for selection for best and final offers or selection for contract negotiations:

- A.** The total score for the technical submittal of the Offeror’s proposal must be greater than or equal to 75% of the **available technical points**; and

Further, the Issuing Office will award a contract only to an Offeror determined to be responsible in accordance with the most current version of Commonwealth Management Directive 215.9, Contractor Responsibility Program.

II-6. Final Ranking and Award.

- A.** After any best and final offer process conducted, the Issuing Office will combine the evaluation committee’s final technical scores, the final cost scores, and (when applicable) the domestic workforce utilization scores, in accordance with the relative weights assigned to these areas as set forth in this Part.
- B.** The Issuing Office will rank responsible offerors according to the total overall score assigned to each, in descending order.

- C. The Issuing Office must select for contract negotiations the offeror with the highest overall score.
- D. The Issuing Office has the discretion to reject all proposals or cancel the request for proposals at any time prior to the time a contract is fully executed when it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth. The reasons for the rejection or cancellation shall be made part of the contract file.

PART III

TECHNICAL SUBMITTAL

III-1. Statement of the Project. State in succinct terms your understanding of the project presented or the service required by this RFP.

Offeror Response

III-2. Qualifications.

A. Company Overview.

Offeror Response

B. Prior Experience. Include experience in:

- (1) experience in geotechnical engineering in karst terranes and with horizontal directional drilling (HDD);
- (2) experience in the geology and hydrogeology of karst terranes and with HDD; and
- (3) experience in the application of geophysical techniques (specifically seismic MASW, 2D and 3D electrical resistivity, and gravity), including data acquisition, processing, and interpretation.

Include experience demonstrating technical capability with required technologies/software packages:

- a. Geometrics Seismodule Controller.
- b. MASW forward modeling and inversion / SurfSeis, ParkSEIS.
- c. 2D and 3D ER forward modeling / Res2Dmod, Res3Dmod.
- d. 2D and 3D ER inversion / Res2Dinv, Res3Dinv.
- e. Integration of geographical, geological, and geophysical information using Global Mapper & Surfer.

Experience shown should be work done by individuals who will be assigned to this project as well as that of your company.

Studies or projects referred to must be identified and the name of the customer shown, including the name, address, and telephone number of the responsible official of the customer, company, or agency who may be contacted.

Offeror Response

- C. **Personnel.** Include the number of executive and professional personnel, analysts, auditors, researchers, programmers, consultants, etc., who will be engaged in the work. Show where these personnel will be physically located during the time they are engaged in the Project.

For professional personnel assigned to this project, include the employee's name and, through a resume or similar document, the Project personnel's education, experience, and service time with your company as:

(1) Pennsylvania-licensed professional engineers with specialized experience in geotechnical engineering in karst terranes and with horizontal directional drilling (HDD);

(2) Pennsylvania-licensed professional geologists with specialized experience in the geology and hydrogeology of karst terranes and with HDD; and

(3) Pennsylvania-licensed professional geologists with specialized experience in the application of geophysical techniques (specifically seismic MASW, 2D and 3D electrical resistivity, and gravity), including data acquisition, processing, and interpretation.

Indicate the responsibilities each individual will have in this Project. Please note that I&E puts emphasis on "mid-level" supervisory professional staff as valuable for delivery of professional services.

Offeror Response

- D. **Subcontractors:** Provide a subcontracting plan for all subcontractors, including small diverse business and small business subcontractors, who will be assigned to the Project. The selected Offeror is prohibited from subcontracting or outsourcing any part of this Project without the express written approval from the Commonwealth. Upon award of the contract resulting from this RFP, subcontractors included in the proposal submission are deemed approved. For each position included in your subcontracting plan provide:

1. Name of subcontractor;
2. Address of subcontractor;
3. Number of years worked with the subcontractor;
4. Number of employees by job category to work on this project;
5. Description of services to be performed;
6. What percentage of time the staff will be dedicated to this project;
7. Geographical location of staff; and
8. Resumes for professional employees.

The Offeror's subcontractor information shall include (through a resume or a similar document) the employees' names, education and experience in the services outlined in this RFP. Information provided shall also indicate the responsibilities each individual will have in this Project and how long each has been with subcontractor's company.

Please note that subcontractor employees should be also be listed as part of the Prior Experience and Personnel sections above.

Offeror Response

III-3. Training. If appropriate, indicate recommended training of agency personnel. Include the agency personnel to be trained, the number to be trained, duration of the program, place of training, curricula, training materials to be used, number and frequency of sessions, and number and level of instructors.

Offeror Response

III-4. Work Plan. Describe in narrative form your technical plan for accomplishing the work using the task descriptions as your reference point.

Offeror Response

III-5. Requirements.

A. **Expert Testimony.** Contractor will provide professional geophysical services as required by I&E for investigation as well as compliance matters. Contractor must be able to support, orally and in writing, the professional findings and conclusions of the Contractor, for internal discussions as well as for adversarial, on-the-record proceedings. Indicate experience providing expert testimony in this manner.

Please note that Section I.E of the contract in Part VI states:

Providing Testimony in Adversarial Proceedings. The Commission will pay 125% of the usual hourly rates (rather than the usual 100% rate) for staff directly engaged in providing testimonial support (whether written or oral) in an adversarial proceeding.

Therefore, do not include any cost "inflater" in your cost proposal to cover providing such testimony in adversarial proceedings.

Offeror Response

B. **Disaster Recovery/Long-term Storage of Records.** Indicate generally your backup systems and long-term document/electronic backup systems. Work on

this project must be kept for at least seven years after its creation in a secure manner, available within a reasonable timeframe if required by I&E.

Offeror Response

III-6. Reports and Project Control.

A. Status Report. Indicate the Contractor's (and subcontractor's) methods of providing periodic progress reports covering activities, problems and recommendations.

Offeror Response

B. Indicate the Contractor's (and subcontractor's) office locations in Pennsylvania, and specifically with regard to an office within 25 miles of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Offeror Response

III-7. Objections and Additions to Standard Contract Terms and Conditions. The Offeror will identify which, if any, of the terms and conditions (contained in **Part VI and Part VII**) it would like to negotiate and what additional terms and conditions the Offeror would like to add to the standard contract terms and conditions. The Offeror's failure to make a submission under this paragraph will result in its waiving its right to do so later, but the Issuing Office may consider late objections and requests for additions if to do so, in the Issuing Office's sole discretion, would be in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

The Issuing Office may, in its sole discretion, accept or reject any requested changes to the standard contract terms and conditions. The Offeror shall not request changes to the other provisions of the RFP, nor shall the Offeror request to completely substitute its own terms and conditions for **Part VI and Part VII**. All terms and conditions must appear in one integrated contract. The Issuing Office will not accept references to the Offeror's, or any other, online guides or online terms and conditions contained in any proposal.

Regardless of any objections set out in its proposal, the Offeror must submit its proposal, including the cost proposal, on the basis of the terms and conditions set out in **Part VI and Part VII**. The Issuing Office may reject any proposal that is conditioned on the negotiation of the terms and conditions set out in **Part VI or Part VII or to other provisions of the RFP as specifically identified above.**

Offeror Response

**NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION (BILLABLE RATES)
IN THE TECHNICAL SUMMITAL**

PART IV
COST SUBMITTAL

IV-1. Cost Submittal. The information requested in this **Part IV** shall constitute the Cost Submittal.

There is no cost submittal. Please see 62 Pa.C.S. § 518(e). After approval by the Commission at Public Meeting of the ranked list of bidders, Commission staff will negotiate with the winning bidder for fair and reasonable compensation.

Negotiations with winning bidder

BIE is seeking professional geophysical engineering services for a five-year fixed contract term, on a fee-for-service basis. BIE cannot indicate specific future projects or work at this time and therefore will evaluate cost based on fee schedules.

Submit your fee schedule for all professional staff who will work on this project, broken down into no more than annual (year 1 through year 5) schedules. Job categories are sufficient.

Submit your fee schedule for all support staff who will work on this project, broken down into no more than annual (year 1 through year 5) schedules. Job categories are sufficient.

Submit your fee schedule for all other anticipated costs, if there are other such costs anticipated to be billed separately, broken down into no more than annual (year 1 through year 5) schedules. General categories are sufficient. Generalized listings of travel, hospitality, and lodging costs are sufficient.

The Issuing Office will reimburse the selected Offeror for work satisfactorily performed after execution of a written contract and the start of the contract term, in accordance with contract requirements, and only after the Issuing Office has issued a notice to proceed.

PART V

SMALL DIVERSE BUSINESS AND VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

- V-1. SDB and VBE Participation Goals.** The Issuing Office and BDISBO have set an SDB Participation Goal and a VBE Participation Goal for this RFP which are listed on the SDB and VBE Participation Summary Sheet. The SDB and VBE Participation Goals were calculated based upon the market availability of SDBs and VBEs for work scopes identified for this solicitation and an assessment of past performance under the prior contract.

This is a significant programmatic change from the SDB and SB Participation program contained in prior RFPs issued by the Commonwealth. Offerors now must agree to meet the SDB and VBE Participation Goals in full or demonstrate they have made Good Faith Efforts to meet the Goals and obtain an approved waiver.

- V-2. Small Diverse Business (SDB) Participation Submittal, Appendix E.** The SDB Participation Submittal and associated required documentation shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions for Completing SDB Participation Submittal and SDB Utilization Schedule and shall be submitted electronically in accordance with Part 1, Section I-11A.
- V-3. Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) Participation Submittal, Appendix F.** The VBE Participation Submittal and associated required documentation shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions for Completing VBE Participation Submittal and VBE Utilization Schedule and shall be submitted electronically in accordance with Part 1, Section I-11A.

NOTE: Equal employment opportunity and contract compliance statements referring to company equal employment opportunity policies or past contract compliance practices do not constitute proof of SDB or VBE Status or entitle an Offeror to receive credit towards the SDB or VBE participation goals.

- V-3. Contract Requirements—SDB and VBE Participation.**

A. SDB and VBE Participation Documents. All documents completed and submitted by the selected Offeror in connection with its SDB Participation Submittal (including the SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2), SDB Utilization Schedule (SDB-3), and any Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request of SDB Participation Goal (SDB-4 and SDB-5)) and its VBE Participation Submittal (including the VBE Participation Submittal (VBE-2), VBE Utilization Schedule (VBE-3), and any Good Faith Efforts Documentation to Support Waiver Request of VBE Participation Goal (VBE-4 and VBE-5)) shall be considered a part of the Contract and are hereby expressly incorporated into the Contract by reference thereto.

B. Required contract terms. All contracts containing SDB and/or VBE participation must contain the following contract provisions to be maintained through the initial contract term and any subsequent options or renewals:

1. Each SDB participation commitment and each VBE participation commitment which was credited by BDISBO and the total percentage of the SDB participation commitments and VBE participation commitments made at the time of proposal submittal or contract negotiations, as applicable, become contractual obligations of the selected Offeror upon execution of its contract with the Commonwealth.
2. For purposes of monitoring compliance with the selected Offeror's SDB participation commitments and VBE participation commitments, the contract cost is the total amount paid to the selected Offeror throughout the initial contract term and all renewal option terms.
3. The selected offeror cannot alter its overall SDB or VBE commitments or commitments made to individual SDB or VBE subcontractors without written approval from the Issuing Officer and BDISBO.
4. Both the overall percentage of SDB and VBE commitments, and individual SDB and VBE commitments must be maintained in the event the contract is assigned to another prime contractor.

C. Subcontract requirements.

1. The selected offeror and each SDB listed on the SDB Utilization Schedule or VBE listed on the VBE Utilization Schedule must enter into a final, definitive subcontract agreement signed by the selected offeror and the SDB or VBE within 30 calendar days of the final execution date of the Commonwealth contract. A Model Form of Small Diverse Business/Veteran Business Enterprise Subcontractor Agreement which may be used to satisfy this requirement – is available as Appendix [].
2. In addition to any requirements in the offeror's contract documents, the subcontract must contain:
 - a. The specific work, supplies or services the SDB or VBE will perform; location for work performed; how the work, supplies or services relate to the contract; and the specific timeframe during the initial term and any extensions, options and renewals of the prime contract when the work, supplies or services will be provided or performed;
 - b. The fixed percentage commitment and/or associated estimated dollar value that each SDB or VBE will receive based on the final negotiated cost for the initial term of the prime contract and any renewal option terms;

- c. Payment terms indicating that the SDB or VBE will be paid for work satisfactorily completed within 14 calendar days of the selected offeror's receipt of payment from the Commonwealth for such work. Subcontractors are encouraged to utilize electronic payment methods;
 - d. Commercially reasonable terms for the applicable business/industry that are no less favorable than the terms of the selected offeror's contract with the Commonwealth and that do not place disproportionate risk on the SDB or VBE relative to the nature and level of the SDB's or VBE's participation in the contract; and
 - e. The requirement that the SDB or VBE submit to BDISBO utilization reports.
- 3. If a subcontract agreement is required by the solicitation document and the subcontract terms omit any of the information required in subparagraph 2 but that information is otherwise reflected within the selected offeror's SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2), VBE Participation Submittal (VBE-2), or associated documents (SDB Utilization Schedule (SDB-3), VBE Utilization Schedule (VBE-3), and Letters of Commitment (SDB-3.1 and VBE-3.1)), the information listed in the SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2), VBE Participation Submittal (VBE-2), or associated documents is incorporated into the subcontract agreement. To the extent that any subcontract terms conflict with the requirements of paragraph (2) or information contained within the selected offeror's SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2) or VBE Participation Submittal (VBE-2) and associated documents, the order of precedence is as follows: 1) the requirements of paragraph 2, 2) the selected offeror's SDB Participation Submittal (SDB-2), VBE Participation Submittal (VBE-2), and associated documents; and 3) the terms of the subcontract agreement.
 - 4. If the selected offeror and a SDB listed on the SDB Utilization Schedule (SDB-3) or VBE listed on the VBE Utilization Schedule (VBE-3) cannot agree upon a definitive subcontract within 30 calendar days of the final execution date of the Commonwealth contract or as specified in the solicitation, the selected offeror must provide written notification to the issuing Agency and BDISBO.
 - 5. The prime contractor must provide a copy of any required subcontract with an SDB or VBE to BDISBO or the Agency within ten (10) business days of receiving such a request.

D. Utilization Reports.

- 1. The prime contractor must submit a Monthly Utilization Report to BDISBO and the contracting officer of the Issuing Office in the format required by BDISBO and within ten (10) business days at the end of each month of the contract term and any subsequent options or renewals. The Monthly Utilization Report must list payments made to each SDB or VBE subcontractor and any unpaid invoices over 30 calendar days old received from an SDB or VBE subcontractor, and the reason

payment has not been made. This information will be used to track and confirm the actual dollar amount paid to SDB or VBE subcontractors and suppliers and will serve as a record of fulfillment of the contractual commitment(s). If there was no activity, the form must be completed by stating “No activity”. A late fee of \$100.00 per day may be assessed against the prime contractor if the Utilization Report is not submitted in accordance with the schedule above.

2. The prime contractor must include in its agreements with its SDB and VBE subcontractors a requirement that the SDB and VBE subcontractors submit to BDISBO, within the time frame set forth within the solicitation document, a report identifying the prime contract, and listing:
 - a. Payments received from the prime contractor within the time frame covered by the report, and
 - b. Invoices for which the subcontractor has not been paid.

E. Noncompliance with SDB and/or VBE commitments.

1. Upon BDISBO notifying the contracting Agency that a prime contractor did not comply with the SDB commitments or VBE commitments, the contracting Agency shall notify the prime contractor in writing of its findings and shall specify what corrective actions are required. The prime contractor is required to initiate the corrective actions within 10 business days and complete them within the time specified by the contracting Agency.
2. If a contracting Agency determines that material noncompliance with SDB or VBE contract provisions exists and that the prime contractor refuses or fails to take the corrective action required by the contracting Agency, the contracting Agency, in consultation with BDISBO, may impose any and all sanctions and remedies available under the contract as it deems appropriate. Such sanctions or remedies include, but are not limited to, withholding of payments; termination of the contract along with consequential damages; revocation of the prime contractor’s SB, SDB, and/or VBE status; a determination that the Offeror’s SDB or VBE participation submittal be deemed non-responsible in future procurements; and/or any actions under the Commonwealth’s Contractor Responsibility Program, up to and including suspension or debarment from future contracting opportunities with the Commonwealth.

PART VI
DRAFT CONTRACT
2024 Geophysical Engineering Services Contract

THIS CONTRACT for the provision of Geophysical Engineering Services ("Contract") is entered into by and between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, ("Agency") and _____ ("Contractor").

The Agency issued a Request for Proposals for the provision of Geophysical Engineering Services, RFP No. PUC RFP 2024-2, ("RFP") and the Contractor submitted a proposal in response to the RFP.

The parties have negotiated this Contract as their final and entire agreement in regard to providing Geophysical Engineering Services to the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Contractor shall, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Contract, provide Geophysical Engineering Services as more fully defined in the RFP, to the Commonwealth.
2. The Contractor shall provide the Geophysical Engineering Services listed in its Cost Submittal, and made a part hereof, at the prices listed for those items in the Cost Submittal.
3. The Contractor shall meet and maintain the commitments to Small Diverse Businesses made in its Small Diverse Business Participation Submittal and made a part hereof. The Contractor shall submit any proposed change to a Small Diverse Business commitment to the Department of General Services' Bureau of Diversity Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities ("BDISBO"), which will make a recommendation as to a course of action to the Agency's Contracting Officer. The Contractor shall complete Monthly Utilization Reports within the Department's PRiSM Compliance Management System within ten workdays at the end of each calendar month that the Contract is in effect.
4. The Contractor shall meet and maintain the commitments to Veteran Business Enterprises made in its Veteran Business Enterprise Participation Submittal and made a part hereof. The Contractor shall submit any proposed change to a Veteran Business Enterprise commitment to the Department of General Services' Bureau of Diversity Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities ("BDISBO"), which will make a recommendation as to a course of action to the Agency's Contracting Officer. The Contractor shall complete Monthly Utilization Reports within the Department's PRiSM Compliance Management System within ten workdays at the end of each calendar month that the Contract is in effect.

5. This Contract is comprised of the following documents, which are hereby incorporated into this Contract by reference, which are listed in order of precedence in the event of a conflict between these documents:
 - a. the Contract document contained herein;
 - b. the Contract Standard Terms and Conditions;
 - c. the Contractor's Cost Submittal;
 - d. the Contractor's Small Diverse Business Participation Submittal;
 - e. the Contractor's Veteran Business Enterprise Participation Submittal;
 - f. the RFP, including all of the referenced Appendices and as revised by all Addenda issued thereto;
 - g. the Contractor's Technical Submittal; and
 - h. the written questions and answers posted by the Commission to its website.

Covenants of the Parties.

The parties to this Contract agree and promise that:

A. Subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of this Contract and to the duties and limitations contained in the statutory and common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Contractor shall provide professional geophysical engineering services for the Commission. These duties shall be completed as outlined in and in accordance with the promises, warranties and representations contained in the Contractor's Proposal ("Proposal") and the Request For Proposals ("RFP").

B. The Commission by its agent, the Project Officer and other designated staff, as described below, shall have the right and opportunity to participate actively in the activities of the Contractor, and to this end shall have immediate access to all data, models, and other materials or information of the Contractor related to this project.

C. All data, models, reports, information, databases, developed software, database search queries, software instructions or templates, and any other documentation or software created, utilized, or received by the Contractor and its employees or subcontractors and their employees for this Project shall become the property of the Commission. The Contractor is working-for-hire by the Commission, and the Contractor and its employees and subcontractors and their employees, expressly agree that any copyrights or other intellectual property created by the Contractor and its employees or subcontractors and their employees for the work on this Project shall be property of the Commission. Contractor agrees to obtain such copyrights and other intellectual property rights from its employees and any subcontractors and their employees to effectuate Commission's ownership of such rights. Contractor shall have a non-exclusive, unrestricted license from the Commission to use any such copyrights or other intellectual property created by the Contractor and its employees or subcontractors and their employees for the work on this Project. Contractor's non-exclusive, unrestricted license to use any such copyrights or other intellectual property shall be irrevocable and shall continue in perpetuity after the termination of the Contract.

D. Replacement of personnel. Contractor will advise Commission of the replacement of professional personnel, or subcontractors and their professional personnel, assigned to this project. Commission reserves the right to approve changes in key personnel. Contractor should advise Commission as soon as reasonably possible, preferably with enough lead time to allow for consultation regarding replacement.

E. Providing Testimony in Adversarial Proceedings. The Commission will pay 125% of the usual hourly rates (rather than the usual 100% rate) for staff directly engaged in providing testimonial support (whether written or oral) in an adversarial proceeding.

II. Party Representatives and Payment.

A. Project Officer and Contractor Representative

1. The Commission has designated Robert Horensky, Manager, Safety Division, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, as its staff contact (“Project Officer”) and has authorized him to act on behalf of the Commission under this Contract. The Project Officer may appoint members of the Commission staff or its designees to represent him/her as appropriate.

2. The Contractor has designated _____ as its staff contact (“Contractor Representative”) and has authorized him/her to act as the lead contact on behalf of the Contractor under this Contract.

3. The parties agree to communicate fully with each other through the designated representatives and to keep each other informed of all pertinent matters and developments relating to this Project.

B. Expenses and Payment

1. Contractor will bill monthly.

2. The Project Officer shall have the right and opportunity to approve, in whole or in part, each invoice. The basis for the Project Officer’s approval shall be a finding that the expenses are reasonable, necessary and correct and billed in accordance with the provisions of this Contract. Such approval or payment may be withheld if the following items are not included in the invoice:

- a) A list of the individuals, by name and title, who have worked during the period;
- b) The hourly rates of these individuals as stated in the Proposal;
- c) The number of hours spent by each individual;
- d) A listing by category of materials and supplies purchased during the period;
- e) A list of transportation lodging, and meal expenses by each individual incurring such costs during the period and the basis for calculating such costs; and
- f) The specific dates when services were rendered.

3. The approval of the Project Officer may also be withheld as to any costs that are not just, reasonable, or in conformity with costs in the Proposal.
4. No expenditures will be reimbursed if incurred before the effective date of this contract.
5. All charges for services and other costs charged by the Contractor are subject to review at any time by the Commission.

III. Other Rights of Parties.

A. Commission's Right to Disapprove Expenditures

The Commission shall have the right to approve or disapprove invoice expenditures and may adjust payment to the Contractor for the amount of any disapproved expenditure. The Contractor will not be paid for any cost incurred for services not in compliance with the terms of this contract.

B. Commission's Right to Make Amendments and Changes to Contract

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Contract and to the statutory and common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commission shall have the right to make changes in the Statement of Work in the Proposal, provided that any such changes are within the general scope of the Statement of Work, that payment for work performed under such changes shall be made pursuant to the Proposal.

C. Confidentiality

1. The parties recognize that it will be necessary for the Contractor to have proprietary information regarding work on this project. Accordingly, the Contractor and the Commission have or will execute a Nondisclosure Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The executed Nondisclosure Agreement is hereby incorporated into this Contract by reference.
2. The Contractor may not release of any information concerning the Project other than the existence and nature of the Contractor without the prior written approval of the Commission's Project Officer or his/her designee.

IV. Other Agreements by the Parties.

A. Status of Contractor

The parties hereto agree that the Contractor and any agents and employees of the Contractor shall act, in the performance of this Contract, in an independent capacity and not as officers, employees or agents of the Commission.

B. Interest of Contractor

The Contractor warrants that it presently has no interest and promises that it shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. The Contractor agrees that in the performance of this Contract, it shall not knowingly employ any person having such interest. The Contractor further certifies that no member of the board of the Contractor or any of its officers or directors have such an adverse interest.

Contractor personnel who perform the services are employees of the Contractor (or its subcontractors) and the Contractor will be solely responsible for payment of compensation to such persons. The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Commission for any claim asserted against the Commission alleging that the Commission is an employer, co-employer or joint employer of any Contractor or subcontractor personnel.

The Contractor will assume full responsibility for payment of all federal, state, provincial and local taxes, withholding or contributions imposed or required under unemployment insurance, social security and income tax laws with respect to such persons. Should the Commission be required to pay any amount to a governmental agency for failure to withhold any amount as may be required by law, the Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Commission for any amount so paid, including interest, penalties and fines.

The Contractor is not an agent of the Commission and has no authority to represent the Commission as to any matters, except as expressly authorized in this Contract.

C. Disputes

As the first step to resolving disputes, all questions arising respecting any matter pertaining to this Contract or any part thereof or any breach of contract arising thereunder shall be referred to the Project Officer. Any dispute which cannot be settled by negotiations after submission to the Project Officer shall then be submitted to the Commission for resolution. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit the remedies of the Commission or the Contractor for breach of this Contract, nor shall it limit the Commission or the Contractor's rights to appeal to the Commonwealth Court after resolution by the Commission. This provision shall not be construed as an arbitration provision that provides the Commission with arbitration powers.

D. Amendments must be signed to be enforceable

No amendment or modification changing the scope or terms of this Contract shall have any force or effect unless it is in writing and signed by all parties.

E. Assignment and Delegation

This Contract, or any of its rights or duties, may not be assigned or delegated without prior written approval by the Commission. Any subcontract between the Contractor and any subcontractor working on this project shall contain all of the provisions of this Contract.

F. Severability

If any provision of this Contract is invalid, the remainder of the Contract shall not be affected thereby if the essential terms and conditions of the Contract remain valid, legal and enforceable.

G. Non-Waiver

No provision of this Contract can be waived by any party unless made in writing and signed by the party against whom waiver is sought; nor shall the failure by any party to, at any time or on multiple occasions, require performance of any provision hereof be construed as a waiver of future enforcement thereof; nor shall waiver by any party of any breach hereof be construed as a waiver of any future breach.

H. Insurance

During the performance of the work covered by this Contract, the Contractor shall maintain the following minimum insurance coverage at no additional cost to the Commission:

1. Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by law.
2. Employer's Liability Insurance (bodily injury) of \$1,000,000 per accident, and Employer's Liability Insurance (occupational diseases) of \$1,000,000 per person and \$2,000,000 in the general aggregate.
3. Comprehensive General Liability Insurance of \$1,000,000 each person; \$1,000,000 each occurrence for bodily injuries; and \$1,000,000 for property damage.
4. Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned and hired vehicles of \$1,000,000 each person, \$1,000,000 each accident for bodily injuries, and \$1,000,000 each accident for property damage.
5. Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions) Insurance coverage of \$1,000,000.

The insurance called for above is subject to the normal limitations and exclusions applying to each type of insurance; provided, however, that first dollar coverage shall be provided for each type. The Commission will be named as an additional insured on the policies referred to in 2, 3, 4, and 5 above and such insurance shall be endorsed to require the

insurer to furnish the Commission with ten days written notice prior to the effective date of any cancellation of insurance.

Upon request, the Contractor shall furnish the Commission with certificates or other documentary evidence showing that the insurance to be carried by the Contractor in accordance with this paragraph has been arranged.

I. Waiver by Contractor of “Statutory Employer” defenses

The Contractor expressly waives use of the “statutory employer” defenses provided in the Pennsylvania Worker’s Compensation Act at 77 P.S. § 481(a) and (b) and 77 P.S. § 52 with regard to work performed for this Contract.

J. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

IN NO EVENT, WHETHER BASED ON CONTRACT, INDEMNITY, WARRANTY, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE AND GROSS NEGLIGENCE), STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE, SHALL EITHER PARTY OR THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENTS EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS, BE LIABLE TO OTHER PARTIES OR THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENTS EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS, FOR SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES WHATSOEVER INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, LOSS OF PROFITS OR REVENUE OR COST OF CAPITAL.

K. Immunity

Nothing contained in this Contract shall be construed as a waiver of the immunity of the Commonwealth or the Commission against suit.

L. Jurisdiction

It is understood and agreed that actions undertaken by the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

M. Employees, Background Checks, Substance Abuse

1. Contractor shall employ for the work only persons known to it to be experienced, qualified, reliable, and trustworthy. During the performance of the work, the Commission staff may object to any Contractor’s employee, who, in their opinion, does not meet these criteria. In such case, Contractor shall at its expense and risk, immediately replace and remove such employee and promptly advise the Commission’s Project Officer. At the request of the Commission Project Officer, the credentials of any of Contractor’s employees assigned to this project shall be subject to review by the Commission.

2. Background checks. Contractor shall make best efforts to ensure that Contractor’s employees assigned to work on this Project do not have criminal records and are not involved

in criminal activity which could create a risk of fraud/embezzlement and/or a risk to the Commission's property and employees.

Contractor will obtain criminal background checks for all employees, including but not limited to employees of all subcontractors, for this Project who will visit or otherwise have physical contact with the public, or with the public's premises or property, prior to such employee performing work on the Project. Criminal background checks will be checked at least every year for such employees. Contractor will maintain up-to-date records evidencing such criminal background checks.

Upon actual knowledge of a criminal record or involvement in a potentially criminal activity, including but not limited to threats, harassment, or other abuse, Contractor shall immediately remove any such employee or employees from the work and immediately contact the Project Officer to inform them of the circumstances. The Project Officer may, at any time, request that the Contractor verify that an employee of the Contractor or its subcontractors does not possess a criminal record.

a. Contractor shall provide certification for each of the Contractor's employees who are authorized as part of the work to have electronic or unescorted physical access to critical cyber assets (as the same are identified from time to time), that such employee (i) has submitted to a Background Check within the past seven years whereby no evidence of a criminal record or criminal activity was discovered; (ii) is subject to a seven-year cycle re-check of the Background Check; and (iii) has received the Contractor-sponsored security awareness training or will receive such training prior to accessing critical cyber assets. These requirements are subject to audit by Commission staff.

3. Substance Abuse. Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding a drug-free workplace. Contractor shall make a good faith effort to ensure that all Contractor's employees undertaking work will not be under the influence, purchase, transfer, use or possess illegal drugs or abuse alcohol or prescription drugs in any way. Upon actual knowledge of such activity or any such potential activity, Contractor shall immediately remove any such employee or employees from the work and immediately contact the Project Officer to inform them of the circumstances.

[Signature block on next page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this 2024 Geophysical Engineering Services Contract below. The date of execution is described in the Contract Standard Terms and Conditions.

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pa. Public Utility Commission**

CONTRACTOR:

Robert C. Gramola
Director of Administration
Pa. Public Utility Commission

_____ Title

Printed Name Date

David E. Screven
Chief Counsel
Pa. Public Utility Commission

Federal I.D. Number

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Office of Attorney General Date

APPROVED:

Comptroller Date

2024 Geophysical Engineering Services Contract
Exhibit 1
Nondisclosure Agreement

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) and _____ (Contractor), intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

1. As part of the 2024 Geophysical Engineering Services Contract (Contract), the Contractor will have data, books, documents, and records related to work pursuant to this Contract. These materials are confidential (proprietary information).

2. With respect to proprietary information, the Contractor and its authorized representatives shall:

- (a) Hold the proprietary information in confidence;
- (b) Restrict disclosure of the proprietary information only to persons authorized under this Agreement who have a need to know;
- (c) Use the proprietary information solely in connection with the Contractor's work pursuant to the Contract;
- (d) Not disclose the proprietary information publicly or privately to any third party in any manner; and
- (e) Advise the Contractor's representatives of their obligation with respect to the proprietary information.

3. The Contractor may make proprietary information available to the Commission's Staff under this Agreement provided, however, that in the event of such disclosure, the Commission's Staff shall also be bound by the terms of this Nondisclosure Agreement.

4. Proprietary information that is provided to the Contractor and/or Commission Staff will be protected from disclosure as proprietary information until such time as the Commission (or court of competent jurisdiction, if an appeal of a Commission determination is taken) rules that the documents are non-proprietary and, therefore, subject to public disclosure.

5. The Contractor recognizes that the provisions of this Nondisclosure Agreement are vitally important to the welfare of the Commission and other entities providing information pursuant to the Contract and that money damages may not be an adequate remedy for any breach or violation thereof by the Contractor. Accordingly, in the event of any breach or violation by the Contractor of the provisions thereof, the Commission or other entity may institute and maintain a proceeding to compel specific performance by the Contractor thereof or to issue an injunction restraining such breach or violation hereunder by the Contractor.

6. Nothing in this Nondisclosure Agreement shall otherwise affect, abridge, increase, or decrease the statutory authority of the Commission to investigate or inspect the facilities and

data, books, records, and documents of a regulated or contracted entity, or to examine records of the cost to a regulated or contracted entity's affiliates for providing services or furnishing property to a regulated entity (where applicable) as permitted by the statutory and common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7. Nothing contained in this Nondisclosure Agreement shall affect, abridge, increase, or decrease the ability of the Commission to appeal to the Commonwealth Court to protect its rights, nor shall it constitute a waiver of the Commonwealth's Sovereign Immunity.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, intending to be legally bound, the Contractor and the Commission execute this Nondisclosure Agreement as Exhibit 1 of the 2024 Geophysical Engineering Services Contract.

Contractor
Title

Date

Robert C. Gramola
Director of Administration
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Date

David E. Screven
Chief Counsel
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Date

PART VII

STANDARD CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is hereby incorporated into this contract by reference, and is attached hereto:

Pennsylvania Department of General Services, Bureau of Procurement

Standard Contract

Terms and Conditions – Paper Contract

BOP-1204

Revised 4-5-2023

25 pages

Part VIII

Small Diverse Business (SDB) and Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE)

Participation Summary Sheet

Solicitation/Project #: PUC RFP 2024-2

Issuing Agency: Pa. Public Utility Commission

Name of Procurement/Project: Geophysical Engineering Services

SDB Participation Goal (for MBE, WBE, LGBTBE, and DOBE): **9 %**

VBE Participation Goal (for VBE and SDVBE): **3 %**