

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission**  
**Request for Proposals**  
**PUC RFP 2024-2 Geophysical Services**  
**Question and Answers**  
**May 7, 2024**

1. What is the anticipated monthly time commitment of the 5-year contract?

Answer: General estimate based on historical use is approximately \$5,000 of work a month. It will depend on issues that arise, so work levels could change substantially.

2. Is there an anticipated geographic region in which field services would be requested?

Answer: Unknown, as it could be anywhere in Pennsylvania where pipeline issues arise.

3. **Consultant Selection Process:** Will the selection process result in the choice of only one consultant, multiple consultants, or will this be determined after receiving submissions?

Answer: One contractor will be chosen. Bidders can utilize subcontractors, as indicated in the RFP.

4. **Project Location in Pennsylvania:** Where specifically in Pennsylvania will these projects be located? Will they primarily focus around Harrisburg, or will they span across the state? Will they just be concentrated in areas on known or suspected karst topography or will they be utilized for estimating rippable rock zones and/or attempting to identify previous mining operations.

Answer: Unknown, as it could be anywhere in Pennsylvania where pipeline issues arise.

5. **Scope of Projects in RFQ:** Could you provide details about the types of projects included in this RFQ? Are these new projects requiring Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and the provision of geophysical profiles for subsurface materials? Additionally, the RFP mentions using investigations to support "BIE's pipeline enforcement duties." Apart from profiles, what other information do you require from consultants for this purpose?

Answer: Existing pipeline ROW analysis, earth feature and geologic impacts/integrity impacts to existing facilities, new construction trenchless technology advisory analysis. Investigative support for investigations that may have been caused or impacted by geologic/geotechnical features and earth movement.

6. **Training Expectations:** Are there any expectations regarding training to be included in the RFQ? If so, what specific training would be requested?

Answer: No. General discussion, expectations and expert analysis and potentially expert witness, but to training.

7. **Project Work Plan Example:** Could you provide an example of a project and outline the expected involvement of the selected consultant(s)? For instance, if an investigation for a new HDD project in a karst-prone area indicates a potential solution zone, would the scope involve additional geotechnical testing techniques (such as SPT borings, CPT soundings, airtrack drilling) to further delineate areas? Would the consultant be responsible for providing remediation recommendation plans, overseeing remediation, producing drawings, estimating construction quantities for remediation, assisting in selecting specialty remediation contractors, and coordinating permits or other state-specific requirements for proposed remediations?

Answer: The expectation is to advise I&E Safety of the need for specific testing on a case-by-case basis. The RFP requires the review of performed testing, performed by others, such as geotechnical and geophysical testing.

The consultant would be responsible for remediation recommendations and sufficiency of operators proposals, oversight of site work, and may require the production of drawings to support I&E Safety. The consultant would NOT be expected to estimate construction costs, assisting in selecting specialty remediation contractors, or coordinating permits.

8. **Involvement in Adversarial Proceedings:** For a work plan related to "providing written and oral testimony in adversarial proceedings," could you explain the expected involvement of the selected consultant(s) or provide an example? If additional ground truthing information is needed (such as SPT borings, CPT boring, airtrack drilling), will this be handled by the selected consultant(s) or others? If provided by others, what will the consultants' role be in selecting exploration locations, laboratory samples, testing, reviewing and creating exploration logs, interpreting and recommending results, and correlating them to geophysical results? If additional geotechnical evaluation is required (e.g., slope stability analysis), who would undertake this work?

Answer: Support I&E Safety as an expert witness and provide expert consultation to I&E Safety.

9. **Other Geophysical Techniques:** Will other geophysical techniques such as 2D and 3D seismic refraction, Ground Penetrating Radar, 2D Refraction Microtremor, or other geophysical techniques be considered to be utilized that were not mentioned specifically in the RFP?

Answer: On a case-by-case basis.