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**HANDBOOK FOR USING
THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS
TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

**For Natural Gas Facilities and
Hydropower Projects**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20426**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW	1-1
PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	1-1
PREFILING CONSULTATION	1-2
PREPARATION OF A DRAFT RFP.....	1-2
SELECTION OF THE THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR	1-3
PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT	1-4
FERC CONTACTS	1-5
Chapter 2. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS	2-1
Chapter 3. SAMPLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS	3-1
<i>Sample RFP – Using the Commission’s Pre-Filing Process</i>	3-2
DISCLAIMER.....	3-3
HOLD HARMLESS.....	3-3
1.0 BACKGROUND, OVERVIEW, AND SCOPE.....	3-4
2.0 SERVICES REQUIRED.....	3-9
3.0 PROJECT TIMELINE.....	3-13
4.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS	3-15
5.0 SELECTION CRITERIA	3-20
<i>Sample RFP – Traditional Certificate Application</i>	3-25
DISCLAIMER.....	3-26
HOLD HARMLESS.....	3-26
1.0 BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW	3-27
2.0 SERVICES REQUIRED.....	3-32
3.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.....	3-37
4.0 SELECTION CRITERIA	3-41
Chapter 4. FERC's ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND OFF- THE-RECORD COMMUNICATIONS (<u>EX PARTE</u>) REQUIREMENTS	4-1
Off-the-Record Communications	4-2
Offeror's OCI Disclosure and Representations	4-3

APPENDICES:

- A – OCI Representation/Disclosure Statement
- B – OCI Questionnaire

- ¶C – Contractor’s CEI Non-Disclosure Agreement**
- D – OCI Certification**
- E – Project Overview Map**
- F – List of Available Background Documents**
- G – Sample Contract**

Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Office of Energy Project's voluntary third-party contracting program enables applicants seeking certificates for natural gas facilities and licenses for hydropower projects to fund a third-party contractor (3PC) to assist the Commission in reviewing the environmental aspects of applications and preparing the environmental documents required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).¹ These environmental documents could be environmental assessments or environmental impact statements, depending upon the potential project impacts.

This handbook provides guidance on how the program works for natural gas and hydropower projects analyzed by the Commission's Office of Energy Projects (OEP).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In the context of the Commission's program, "third-party contracting" involves the use of an independent contractor to assist the staff in its environmental analyses and review of a proposal. Under this voluntary program, the independent contractor is:

- selected by and works under the direct supervision and control of the OEP staff;
- responsible for conducting environmental analyses and preparing environmental documentation; and
- paid by the project applicant(s).

Third-party contracting provides both OEP and project applicants with additional flexibility in satisfying the Commission's NEPA responsibilities. It also complements other procedures presently in place for the environmental review of natural gas and hydropower projects, including the Commission's Pre-Filing Processes. For hydropower projects, such contracts have been used for applicants using the Commission's Alternative Licensing Process; however, there is the potential to use it for both the Integrated Licensing Process as well as the Traditional Licensing Process. To fully explore this potential, an applicant for a hydropower license or relicense should contact the staff identified at the end of this chapter.

1 See News Release issued February 9, 1994. Subsequent announcements were published in the Commerce Business Daily (March 25, 1994) and the Federal Register (April 20, 1994). See also the Environmental Policy Act of 1992, P.L. No. 102-186.

PREFILING CONSULTATION

For traditional certificate application filings and those using the Traditional Licensing Process (i.e., those NOT involving the Commission's Pre-Filing Process), the applicant should plan to have the 3PC under contract concurrent with the filing of the application. As a result, the applicant should plan on meeting with FERC staff before completing the Request for Proposal (see the following section). Doing otherwise will delay the review of the application and preparation of the environmental document. Thus, we strongly recommend that applicants meet with us to discuss their proposals, whether or not third-party contracting would fit their particular needs, and to answer any questions they might have relative to the program itself.²

For certificate and license application filings where an applicant intends to use one of the Commission's Pre-Filing Processes that engage Commission staff in the application preparation phase, it is extremely important that the applicant meet with us well in advance of its planned date for asking us to approve the use of that program. This will not only allow us to properly prepare for the request, it will help to ensure that the request will contain everything we need to make a decision.

PREPARATION OF A DRAFT RFP

Following a decision to use a 3PC and before an application is filed or a request for use of the Commission's Pre-Filing Process is submitted, the applicant will prepare a draft Request for Proposals (RFP). The draft RFP will contain a list of screening criteria and an explanation of how the criteria will be used by the applicant to select the best three candidates from the contractors who respond to the RFP. If the RFP will be offered to specific contractors only, the draft RFP submitted to the OEP staff will be accompanied by a list of the targeted contractors.

The draft RFP will be submitted for review and approval by the OEP staff before the RFP is issued by the applicant. The draft RFP should include a sample contract and be submitted directly to the OEP staff, rather than formally filed with the Commission. Any list of targeted contractors accompanying the draft RFP will be provided for

2 In addition to, or in lieu of third-party contracting, applicants proposing natural gas or hydropower projects of small to moderate size as well as license amendments may want to consider using an applicant-prepared EA. Separate guidance covering applicant-prepared draft EAs for natural gas facilities is available at www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/applcgrf.pdf . For hydropower proposals for which an EA would be appropriate, see www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/enviro/eaguide.pdf.

information purposes only; OEP will neither approve nor disapprove of any contractor targeted to receive the RFP.

To assist applicants in developing an RFP for selection of 3PCs, we have included specific guidelines for the content of RFPs in Chapter 2. **The elements presented in these guidelines must be incorporated into all draft RFPs.** In addition, Chapter 3 contains two sample RFPs (based on RFPs previously used) that show how the specific guidelines in Chapter 2 might translate into an actual RFP.

SELECTION OF THE THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR

Following OEP staff's review and approval of the draft RFP, the applicant will:

1. issue the approved RFP to each company on the list of targeted contractors;
2. screen all proposals received for technical adequacy and Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI);³
3. select the three best-qualified candidates, and submit two copies of: a written rationale for their selection, their OCI statements together with their technical and cost proposals and their Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) non-disclosure agreements to the OEP staff. For each proposal submitted, the applicant must provide an OCI certification stating that it has reviewed the proposal for OCI and found it to be acceptable. For projects proceeding under one of the Commission's traditional processes, i.e., NOT one of the Commission's Pre-Filing Processes, this material should be submitted directly to the OEP staff *no later* than when the certificate or license application is filed.
4. for projects which ARE expected to proceed under one of the Commission's Pre-Filing Processes, the material listed under item 3 above must be provided to the OEP staff no later than the request for approval to use that process.

Lack of an OCI Statement, or the existence of an identifiable OCI that cannot be mitigated to the FERC staff's satisfaction, will be sufficient grounds to reject the proposal. It is the applicant's responsibility to review carefully all OCI materials (submitted as part of each proposal) to determine whether the candidate contractor, including any subcontractor(s), is capable of impartially performing the environmental services required under the third-party contract. Guidance concerning the Commission's OCI requirements, including the format of an applicant's OCI certification, is presented in Chapter 4.

3 OEP staff will not participate in any portion of the initial screening of the proposals.

Questions concerning OCI and CEII matters should be directed to the Office of General Counsel (OGC). (See the listing at the end of this chapter for the appropriate OGC contacts.)

Final contractor selection will be made by the OEP Division Director, based on an evaluation of the technical, managerial, and personnel aspects of the qualified candidates' proposals. While bid fees will not necessarily be the controlling factor in the selection of the 3PC, relative cost levels may be considered.

In the rare instance where the applicant determines that fewer than three contractors are qualified, fewer than three proposals *may* be accepted. However, specific justification must accompany the proposals and include a description of the efforts the applicant undertook in attempting to obtain qualified contractors.

Following OEP's decision on a 3PC, an approval letter will be issued to the applicant. This letter will clarify any details and/or resolve any issues which remain outstanding following review of the selected contractor's technical proposal.

As soon as practical, the applicant will award a contract to the OEP-selected 3PC. Preferably no later than 10 days from the receipt of the Commission's approval letter, the applicant should notify the Commission that the contract has been awarded. The applicant and the 3PC will determine the appropriate form of agreement for payment of the 3PC by the applicant. Because the applicant will actually award the contract to the 3PC, it will be the applicant's responsibility to answer any questions from those contractors who were not selected, if necessary.

PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

Once the selected 3PC has been retained by the applicant, the 3PC will begin work for the Commission, supervised by the OEP staff. Although the applicant will pay for the 3PC's work, it will have no control over the work done under the contract, and will not be able to review the work product before its release to the public. In addition, the contract must indicate that the applicant retains no right to the products of the contract. The OEP staff will:

- have complete control over the scope, content, and quality of the contractor's work;
- independently evaluate the results of the contractor's work,
- have sole ownership of all documents (other than those related to financial aspects) produced under the contract, and

- have complete control over the schedule for completion of the 3PC's work.

The Commission, through its staff, will bear ultimate responsibility for full compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

If essential information, critical to the integrity of OEP's environmental document, is found missing from the applicant's environmental report and related documents, the 3PC will be directed by OEP staff to acquire the missing information in one of two ways. The OEP staff will instruct the 3PC to either:

- prepare a data request, which the staff will review and forward to the applicant to obtain the information; or
- perform supplemental studies or data gathering needed to acquire the missing information.

Following public release of the environmental document, the 3PC will organize, analyze, and prepare draft responses to public comments (including those comments filed by the applicant). However, OEP staff will review and retain final responsibility for all the responses in the final document.

FERC CONTACTS

This handbook should provide a basic understanding of the Commission's voluntary program for the use of 3PCs to prepare environmental documents for natural gas-related projects and may be of general use for environmental documents related to hydropower facilities. However, the Commission encourages applicants with specific questions about the third-party contracting program or its applicability to a specific project to contact OEP directly to arrange a pre-filing conference. Additional information may also be obtained from the following Commission staff:

General Inquiries:

Lauren O'Donnell, Director
OEP, Division of Gas - Environment and Engineering (PJ-11)
lauren.odonnell@ferc.gov
Telephone: (202) 502-8325

Gas Certificates program:

J. Rich McGuire, Chief, Gas Branch 1 (202) 502-6177

rich.mcguire@ferc.gov

Alisa Lykens, Chief, Gas Branch 2 (202) 502-8766

alisa.lykens@ferc.gov

James Martin, Chief, Gas Branch 3 (202) 502-8045

james.martin@ferc.gov

Hydropower Licensing program:

Vince Yearick, Acting Director

OEP, Division of Hydropower Licensing (PJ-12)

vince.yearick@ferc.gov

Telephone: (202) 502-6174

All inquiries regarding OCI and off-the-record communications (ex parte):

Wilbur Miller, Senior Staff Attorney

General and Administrative Law (GC-13)

wilbur.miller@ferc.gov

Telephone: (202) 502-8953

All inquiries regarding CEII:

Jeffrey Kaplan, Staff Counsel

General and Administrative Law (GC-13)

jeffrey.kaplan@ferc.gov

Telephone: (202) 502-8788

The mailing address for all Commission staff contacts listed in this handbook is:

(contact name and organization)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street NE

Washington, DC 20426

Chapter 2. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

At a **minimum**, an applicant's RFP should include:

1. A cover page identifying that the RFP is not a Federal procurement, and that the parties agree to hold harmless and indemnify the FERC and its staff. (See Disclaimer page in Chapter 3.)
2. A statement describing the third-party arrangement and establishing the roles and responsibilities of the applicant, 3PC, and FERC staff as follows:
 - a. The applicant issues the RFP to a group of potential contractors and screens all bid proposals to compile a list of the three best-qualified contractors. The names of these contractors, and supporting material for their technical and cost proposals, will be submitted to the OEP staff.
 - b. The OEP staff will review the technical proposals submitted and select a 3PC. The selected contractor must be found free of OCIs (or be able to mitigate any OCI to the satisfaction of the FERC staff).
 - c. The applicant will finalize and award the contract to the 3PC selected by the OEP staff.
 - d. The OEP staff will be solely responsible for the scope of the environmental document, the schedule for completion of the document, and for ensuring the technical quality of the 3PC's work.
 - e. The 3PC will prepare the environmental document (and/or perform related tasks as may be specified in the RFP) under the technical direction of the OEP staff, although the financial contract is between the applicant and the contractor for payment.
 - f. The 3PC will provide special consultants and conduct special studies required by the OEP staff for analysis of the project even if not specifically identified in the RFP. The cost for any such requirements will be borne by the applicant.
 - g. The documents produced under the contract will be the sole property of the Federal government.
3. An overview of the proposed project that contains:
 - a. For a natural gas project the following information:
 - (i) the general purpose of the project;
 - (ii) a description of the project location by state, county, and pertinent landmarks;

- (iii) the length, diameter, and capacity of all pipelines, including potential pipeline routes different from the proposed one;
 - (iv) the number and horsepower of all new and modified compressor stations;
 - (v) for LNG facilities, the number and size of LNG storage tanks, the number of berths for tankers, and the terminal size;
 - (vi) for storage facilities, the number of wells and type of storage;
 - (vii) the location and land requirements of all aboveground facilities, temporary work spaces, pipe storage yards, access roads, storage field boundaries, etc; and
 - (viii) a complete list of available data pertinent to the project's environmental review.
- b. For a hydropower license proposal the following information:
- (i) maps showing lands and waters within the existing or proposed project boundary that identify the state, county, river, river mile, and closest town and also showing the specific location of any federal and tribal lands and the location of existing and proposed project facilities, including water-retaining structures (including the physical composition, dimensions, and general configuration of any dams, spillways, penstocks, canals, tailraces, and other structures proposed to be included as part of the project or connected directly to it) power generating facilities, transmission lines, and any other appurtenant facilities;
 - (ii) the number, type, and minimum and maximum hydraulic capacity and installed (rated) capacity of any proposed turbines or generators to be included as part of the project and the normal maximum water surface area and normal maximum water surface elevation (mean sea level), and gross storage capacity of any existing or proposed impoundments;
 - (iii) the number, length, voltage, and interconnections of any primary transmission lines proposed to be included as part of the project, including a single-line diagram showing the transfer of electricity from the project to the transmission grid or point of use;
 - (iv) a description of the current (if applicable) and proposed operation of the project, including any daily or seasonal ramping rates, flushing flows, reservoir operations, and flood control operations;

- (v) a description of the existing environment and of any known or potential adverse impacts and issues associated with the construction, operation or maintenance of the proposed project; and
 - (vi) a complete list of available data pertinent to the project's environmental review.
 - c. Projects involving facilities *other* than natural gas pipelines or hydropower projects (e.g., natural gas storage facilities or liquefied natural gas import terminals) should provide a detailed description of the specific facilities known or under consideration for the proposal. To the extent that some information may NOT be available, it should be specifically highlighted as unavailable in the project overview section of the RFP.
4. A detailed description of the services required of the 3PC, including:
- a. Preparing all project-related documents, reports, and notices. In addition to paper copies, all materials must be provided to the OEP staff on either 3.5-inch high-density floppy diskettes or compact disks in Microsoft (MS) Word 2002 format, or as otherwise agreed to by the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Any required databases (such as mailing lists) must be MS Access compatible.
 - b. Arranging for and participating in public and/or interagency meetings, and preparing reports that summarize the results of the meetings.
 - c. Developing and maintaining a computerized (sortable database) mailing list of interested parties.
 - d. Facilitating issue identification and resolution, and during the Commission's Pre-Filing Process reviewing draft Environmental Reports or Environmental Resource Reports (RRs) for the FERC application.
 - e. Preparing an environmental document to meet the requirements of NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Federal and relevant state Endangered Species Act(s), and any additional requirements of the OEP staff. The document shall include:
 - (i) characterizations of and impact assessments for all resource areas having the potential to be significantly affected by the proposed facilities' construction, operation, maintenance and abandonment;
 - (ii) analysis of appropriate alternatives;
 - (iii) discussion of proposed mitigation as well as 3PC and staff recommended mitigation measures designed to reduce impact to acceptable levels;

- (iv) consideration of all issues raised during scoping; and
 - (v) detailed maps showing the location of all project facilities and alternative routes or locations under consideration, related areas of disturbance, and pertinent resource data. Project maps will be in an appendix, or if appropriate, provided as a separate map volume in a three-ring binder format. The scale of the supporting maps should be appropriate to the project scope and the complexity/sensitivity of the resources potentially affected, but never less detailed than 1:250,000.
- f. Providing the camera-ready document in hard copy as well as electronically on CDs as pdf files. There will be separate CDs for the public text and the “Non-internet Public” material as further specified by the OEP staff, and the CDs will include the public Adobe Acrobat Reader.
 - g. Maintaining an ongoing review of potential issues and an assessment of adequacy of the overall scope of the environmental analysis, for the purpose of immediately advising the OEP staff of any potential data gaps or analysis shortcomings.
 - h. Arranging for site inspections and, as appropriate, right-of-way inspections (including overflights) for 3PC personnel and OEP staff. The applicant may be consulted for logistical information.
 - i. Analyzing and preparing draft responses to comments on the draft and final environmental documents.
 - j. Preparing a Biological Assessment and/or Essential Fish Habitat Assessment, if appropriate.
5. The applicant's proposed schedule with dates for the following key milestones:
 - a. RFP issued to contractors;
 - b. Top technical proposals submitted to OEP;
 - c. 3PC selected by OEP;
 - d. Federal Register Notice of Intent and mailing list submitted to OEP;
 - e. Preliminary administrative draft environmental document submitted to OEP;
 - f. Administrative draft environmental document distributed to OEP and cooperating agencies;
 - g. Federal Register Notice of Availability submitted to OEP;
 - h. Camera-ready draft environmental document submitted to OEP;

- i. Preliminary final environmental document submitted to OEP;
 - j. Federal Register Notice of Availability submitted to OEP; and
 - k. Camera-ready final environmental document submitted to OEP.
6. A requirement that each bid address OCI by including:
- a. Either an OCI Representation Statement or an OCI Disclosure Statement, indicating that the contractor has no financial or other conflicting interest in the outcome of the project;
 - b. An OCI Questionnaire; and
 - c. An abstract, listing all FERC-regulated industries that the 3PC and any subcontractors have had either an ongoing or previous business relationship with and whether that relationship results in either no conflict, or a real or perceived conflict.

Detailed information concerning the FERC's OCI disclosure requirements is presented in Chapter 4.

7. A requirement that each bid include a CEII non-disclosure agreement signed by the contractor submitting the bid and any subcontractors proposed for use. (A format for this agreement is included as appendix C.)
8. A list of the information the 3PC proposals must contain, including:
- a. A description of the 3PC's technical approach for preparing the environmental document and a management plan for the project. Any proposed subcontractors should be identified.
 - b. A description of the qualifications and experience (curriculum vitae) of both the 3PC and the key personnel (including subcontractors).
 - c. A proposed schedule for completing major work tasks (which highlights any differences from the applicant's proposed schedule as presented in the RFP). Any changes to the schedule presented in the RFP must be fully justified.
 - d. A statement disclosing any potential OCI, and any proposed mitigation.
 - e. An itemized estimate of cost.
9. A list of the criteria and an explanation of how the applicant will use the criteria to evaluate and select the best three contractors for final consideration by OEP. These criteria must include:

- a. Prior experience in preparing environmental documents for large natural gas facility construction projects, or other similar projects, that have satisfied NEPA requirements.
 - b. A demonstrated understanding of the project, potential issues, available data, and needed supplemental analyses.
 - c. Sufficient resources to meet the schedule requirements.
 - d. Ability to assign and commit key personnel to the project.
 - e. Past record in meeting performance and delivery requirements of similar contracts.
 - f. Ability to satisfy the logistical requirements to effectively manage the project such as materials, transportation, document production, computer services, etc.
 - g. Ability of the 3PC, key personnel, and any subcontractors to meet FERC's OCI requirements.
 - h. Total cost.
10. A statement that the applicant, rather than the FERC staff, will answer any questions from non-selected contractors following the contract award.

Chapter 3. SAMPLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The following section presents two sample RFPs. The RFPs are generic documents which illustrate how the guidelines presented in chapter 2 can be quickly and easily adapted for application to a wide variety of proposals and situations.

The first sample RFP shows how the chapter 2 guidelines might translate for the Commission's Pre-Filing Process for a new natural gas facility. The second sample RFP shows how the guidelines could be used for a traditional certificate application. **Note that handbook appendices A through G should be included as appendices to all RFPs.**

The sample RFPs include the seven appendices at the end of this manual.

- A. OCI Representation and Disclosure Statements*
- B. OCI Questionnaire*
- C. Contractor CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement*
- D. OCI Certification*
- E. Project Overview Map*
- F. List of Available Background Documents*
- G. Sample Contract*

Italicized items in parentheses represent information to be inserted by the user, supply guidance, or have been included for illustrative purposes.

(Sample RFP – Using the Commission’s Pre-Filing Process)

**Request for Proposal for Preparation of Third-Party
Environmental Impact Statement**

(applicant name)

*(date)***DISCLAIMER**

THIS IS NOT A FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.

THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) WILL RESULT IN A PRIVATE CONTRACT BETWEEN *(applicant name)* AND A CONTRACTOR, AND WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF *(state name)*. NEITHER THE PROCUREMENT NOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESULTING CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL PROCUREMENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR PROTEST PROCEDURES. ANY DISPUTES NOT SETTLED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES MUST BE RESOLVED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, OR THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PARTIES AND DESCRIBED IN THE CONTRACT.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROCUREMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO *(applicant name)*. *(Applicant name)* MUST PROVIDE INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OFFEROR TO ALL OFFERORS SUBMITTING A LETTER OF INTENT TO RESPOND TO THE RFP.

THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AND WILL NOT RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS.

HOLD HARMLESS

The parties agree that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and its employees are not liable for any costs or judgments arising from the conduct of this procurement, and administration or supervision of the contract for the environmental services described herein.

(Applicant Letterhead)

TO: *(name of potential contractor)*

FROM: *(name and title of applicant contact)*
 (applicant name)

DATE: *(issuance date)*

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals (RFP) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the *(project name)* Project

(Proposal Due Date: (due date & time))

1.0 BACKGROUND, OVERVIEW, AND SCOPE

1.1 Background

(Applicant name) proposes to construct *(an LNG import terminal and related natural gas facilities)* at *(location and state)* to be known as the *(project name)* Project. *(A (length)-mile-long natural gas pipeline would also be required to connect the terminal with (company name)'s system at (location of interconnection))*. *(Applicant name)* is soliciting proposals for the consultation and coordination of the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and alternatives, early identification and resolution of issues, and preparation of related documents to address the proposed *(project name)* Project as more specifically described in Section 1.2. The EIS will be prepared under a third-party contractor arrangement with *(applicant name)* as the Applicant and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead Federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. *(Applicant name)* intends to request FERC to begin the NEPA review prior to filing its application, in accordance with the Commission's Pre-Filing Process detailed in section 157.21 of the Commission's regulations.⁴ The FERC's Office of Energy Projects (OEP) will be responsible for providing technical direction to the third-party contractor throughout the NEPA review process. A contract will be executed pursuant to the

⁴ For Natural Gas Act-related projects.

third-party contracting procedures set forth in 40 CFR 1506.5(c) and as referenced in the FERC third-party contracting program announced on February 4 and 9, 1994.

As the Applicant, (*applicant name*) is soliciting proposals through this RFP for a third-party contractor to provide the services described in sections 1.3 and 1.4. The technical and cost proposals will be initially reviewed and evaluated by (*applicant name*) who will then submit the top three proposals to the OEP staff. The OEP staff will make the final selection of the third-party contractor, based on its independent review of the technical, managerial, personnel, and Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) aspects of each proposal. Upon selection of the third-party contractor, (*applicant name*) will finalize a contract with and fund the successful contractor for the scoped activities. (*Applicant name*) will be responsible for answering any questions from non-selected bidders. Bidders who are not selected are not permitted to solicit an explanation from the FERC staff.

Once a third-party contractor is selected, the OEP staff will direct the activities of the contractor in the consultation, reviews, and preparation and processing of documents within the scope identified herein. (*Applicant name*) will have no control over nor direct the activities of the contractor. (*Federal agencies participating in the NEPA process may include (identify potential Federal cooperators)*). Appropriate regulatory agencies in (*state where facilities would be located*) will be invited and encouraged to participate in the NEPA process.

(*Applicant name*) has selected a site for the (*specify the general facilities*) and has secured the services of (*consultant name*), (*applicant name*)'s environmental consultant to assist in the development and preparation of the Environmental Resource Reports (RRs) required for the application to be filed with the FERC.

1.2 Overview of the Project

(Summarize the general purpose of the project. Provide a detailed description of all proposed facilities, and potential routes, sites including alternatives. Tailor details to project specifics. Any locational or other project information that is not available should be specifically highlighted.

For LNG facilities identify the size and number of LNG storage tanks, the tanker size and expected number of tanker arrivals per week, the method of LNG vaporization, and the source and intended market for the LNG. Describe the terminal design: to accept LNG cargoes, temporarily store LNG, vaporize LNG, and inject natural gas into the interconnecting pipelines. Describe the facilities

including the pier and unloading facilities for LNG tankers, vaporization equipment, LNG storage tanks, and associated facilities and equipment required to interconnect the LNG terminal with pipeline(s) in the vicinity of the terminal.

For storage fields: describe the geologic structure and proposed use of the storage field, the wells, storage field pipelines, compressor station, and interconnecting pipelines.

For pipelines related to any type of project: provide details such as the length, outside diameter, initial design capacity, pipeline system the gas will be delivered to, number and location of new or upgraded compressor stations, and total horsepower. Identify any potential alternative routes. Describe other aboveground facilities such as mainline valves, meter stations, interconnects, and pig launchers/receivers as well as significant other construction areas such as pipe and contractor yards. Identify any potential alternative sites. Identify the land requirements and location of all aboveground facilities. Include the size [horsepower] and location of any new compressor stations, and details of any other project-related activities that would occur at existing stations. Indicate the width of the construction right-of-way, the number of perennial waterbodies and major highways crossed, and the extent to which the pipeline would parallel other existing rights-of-way.)

Maps of the proposed (*project name*) are included as appendix E. (*Applicant name*) will identify any nonjurisdictional facilities associated with its proposal for possible inclusion in the scope of the review as soon as possible.

1.3 Scope

1.3.1 Pre-Filing Activities

In an effort to resolve issues early and to obtain stakeholder concurrence that the best facility site (*e.g., LNG terminal and interconnecting pipeline route*) has been selected, (*applicant name*) has requested FERC staff to begin its NEPA review process prior to receipt of (*applicant name*)'s application. Accordingly, (*applicant name*) has provided as much information as is currently available about project scope at this time in the process. In addition, the normal project review schedule that would be included in an RFP has been changed in accordance with the Pre-Filing process. In particular, some of the significant modifications include:

- a preliminary administrative draft EIS (PADEIS) is to be prepared and submitted to the OEP staff right before or soon after (*applicant's name*) files an application with the FERC, and
- In this process, most reasonable questions should be developed and answered during the field surveys prior to filing the application, resulting in fewer or no environmental data requests from the OEP staff after filing.

It is (*applicant name*)'s intention to hire a third-party contractor, under the direction of the OEP staff, to:

1. verify, update, and maintain mailing lists;
2. coordinate and attend scoping meetings and other meetings and site visits, as required by the OEP staff;
3. identify and summarize concerns raised by regulatory agencies and other stakeholders;
4. attend (*applicant name*)'s open house/public meetings;
5. work with OEP staff to identify additional concerns of affected/adjacent landowners, landowner organizations, environmental groups, and federal, state and local agencies;
6. communicate with and assess information from those concerned parties and advise (*applicant name*)'s environmental consultant and (*applicant name*)'s staff in the collection of data and the suggestions of alternative sites (*/routes*) and mitigations to respond to these concerns;
7. prepare a draft Notice of Intent for public scoping, and coordinate and participate in public scoping meetings;
8. review and comment on field surveys conducted by (*applicant name*)'s environmental consultant, e.g.,
 - review information that will be the basis of both the RRs and the EIS;
 - anticipate the OEP staff's questions, or communicate directly with the OEP staff to determine possible environmental questions so that the appropriate answers may be developed while conducting environmental surveys; and
 - identify potential alternatives for further review.

The third-party contractor will also review and comment on the background data developed by (*applicant name*)'s environmental consultant to support the RRs.

The contractor awarded this contract should request additional data through the OEP staff, where needed for the development of the EIS and anticipate the OEP staff's questions with the goal of minimizing environmental data requests after the filing of the application. This review may include the following items:

- maps and alignment sheets;
- work required to comply with the Endangered Species Act, including field surveys;
- work required to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act;
- work required to delineate waters of the U.S. and wetlands that will be subject to the Federal permitting requirements; and
- work required to comply with the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(Applicant name)'s environmental consultant will prepare the RRs for filing with *(applicant name)*'s application, in compliance with FERC's regulations. The content of each of the thirteen RRs is listed in the FERC's regulations at 18 CFR 380.12.⁵

The third-party contractor will also be expected to prepare a PADEIS that can be submitted to the OEP staff for review before or soon after *(applicant name)* files the application with FERC. See Section 2 of this RFP.

1.3.2 Post-Filing Activities

Once *(applicant name)* has filed its application with the FERC, in addition to performing the functions listed in section 1.3.1 above, the selected third-party contractor will:

- prepare and submit a PADEIS to the OEP staff;
- incorporate comments from OEP staff into an administrative DEIS (ADEIS);
- submit the ADEIS to OEP staff and the cooperating agencies;
- incorporate/resolve comments on the ADEIS from OEP staff and the cooperating agencies;
- prepare and submit a DEIS to OEP staff;
- assist the OEP staff in preparing responses to public comments on the DEIS;

5 For Natural Gas Act-related projects.

- prepare and submit an administrative final EIS (AFEIS) to OEP staff and the cooperating agencies, as necessary;
- prepare and submit a FEIS to the OEP staff; and
- assist OEP staff, as necessary, with project-related tasks between the issuance of the NEPA document and the Commission Order. Examples of such tasks include: support in responding to comments on the EA/EIS and assistance with revisions to supporting technical documents such as a biological assessment (BA) or essential fish habitat assessment (EFHA).

2.0 SERVICES REQUIRED

The selected third-party contractor will be responsible for working along with (*applicant name*)’s environmental consultant, the OEP staff, and the various stakeholders while (*applicant name*)’s RRs are being developed. The selected third-party contractor will keep the OEP staff apprised of issues as they arise, and, when the OEP staff determines it is appropriate, participate in stakeholder meetings and site visits to identify and possibly help resolve issues.

The selected third-party contractor will also be responsible for assisting the OEP staff in conducting the NEPA review, preparing an EIS, and completing related work within the agreed-upon schedule and approved budget. It will be the contractor’s responsibility to notify (*applicant name*) if the work effort ultimately required by the OEP staff exceeds the work effort on which the bid was based, or the approved budget.

The third-party contractor will be responsible for satisfactory completion of the following tasks:

- 2.1** Preparation of all project-related documents, reports, and notices required by OEP staff. In addition to paper copies, all materials must be provided to the OEP staff on either 3.5-inch high-density floppy diskettes or compact disks, in Microsoft Word 2002 format, or as otherwise agreed to by the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Any required databases (such as mailing lists) must be Access 2002 compatible. The camera-ready EA or DEIS and FEIS will be provided as pdf files as specified by the OEP staff in addition to hard copy.
- 2.2** Preparation of notices and presentation materials for public scoping meetings and public comment meetings on the DEIS. This task will require close coordination with the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Required work will include arranging for meeting places, preparing notices/announcements in the appropriate news media (local newspapers, radio stations, etc.), developing materials for

meetings, participating in meetings, and preparing reports summarizing the results of the scoping meetings/process and public meetings on the DEIS. The contractor will prepare a summary of agency scoping comments/issues for subsequent agency review and concurrence. Assume at least (*number*) scoping meetings and public comment meetings will be conducted. Potential locations for these meetings will be (*list the locations*).

- 2.3** Preparation and maintenance of a computerized (sortable database) mailing list of agencies, officials, community/environmental groups, concerned citizens, affected property owners and other interested parties. (*Applicant name*) will provide initial agency and affected property owner lists.
- 2.4** Characterization of existing environmental conditions, incorporation of issues identified during scoping, assessment of the significance of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, identification of potential site, route, and facility location alternatives (both locally and regionally), and determination of mitigation necessary to avoid or reduce impacts to acceptable levels for the environmental topics listed in section 2.5 (below). Studies shall take into account both direct and indirect effects of project facility construction, operation and maintenance, upset conditions, and abandonment for all proposed and alternative project facilities. Special expertise may be needed for areas of non-routine environmental sensitivity (such as marine environments). The RRs contained in other major applications, if any, and other already available technical data shall be used to the maximum extent practicable. Use of any data not in the public record for the project must be approved by the OEP Project Manager.
- 2.5** Preparation of the EIS to meet the requirements of NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, other applicable laws and regulations, any additional requirements of the OEP staff, and to address any scoping and public meeting issues.

The EIS shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following sections: ⁶

1. Cover Sheet
2. Executive Summary (including Impact Summary Table)
3. Introduction
4. Description of Proposed Project and Alternatives
5. Affected Environment
6. Environmental Consequences (including Cumulative Impacts)

6 See 18 CFR 380.7 and 40 CFR 1502.10 for additional guidance.

7. Comparison of Alternatives
8. Conclusions (including summary of unavoidable significant adverse effect) and Recommendations (mitigation measures, including mitigation monitoring plan)
9. Agencies and Sources Consulted
10. List of Preparers and Contributors
11. References
12. EIS Distribution List
13. Index
14. Comments and Responses (FEIS only)
15. Appendices and Technical Reports (including EFHA, if appropriate)

In conjunction with the OEP staff, the third-party contractor will be responsible for identifying and assessing potential alternatives to the proposed project that are capable of meeting the project's goals and are sufficient to meet the requirements of NEPA, including reducing potentially significant effects associated with the proposed project and fostering informed decision-making. Potential alternatives to the (*project name*) Project identified by (*applicant's name*) will be identified in Resource Report #10 of the RRs. Any project alternatives identified by the OEP staff will also be addressed.

The Description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives should include, at a minimum, the following subsections:

1. Purpose and Need for the Project
2. Approvals to be Sought through Use of the EIS
3. LNG Terminal, Storage Field and Compression Facilities, and Pipeline Route Description, as appropriate
4. Ancillary Facilities
5. General Design Parameters
6. Construction Methods, (*for Terminal, LNG Storage, Compressor Stations, Storage Field Facilities and Pipeline, as applicable*) including Applicant-Proposed Mitigation Measures
7. Construction Schedule and Work Force
8. Operation and Maintenance Procedures
9. Abandonment Procedures
10. Interrelationships with Other Planned Projects and Nonjurisdictional Facilities
11. Alternatives (including No Action)

The majority of this information will be available in the RRs. The third-party contractor shall review the RRs for accuracy and adequacy to meet the needs of NEPA for the preparation of an EIS, and prepare a data request(s) to (*applicant name*) (routed through the OEP staff) requesting any other data that may be needed. The EIS should fully address the following resource topics (as applicable):

1. Geology and Mineral Resources
2. Soils (including erosion control and restoration/revegetation)
3. Water Resources (surface water and groundwater hydrology and quality)
4. Biological Resources (including wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, aquatic biology, essential fish habitat, and threatened and endangered species)
5. Land Ownership, Land Use, and Recreation
6. Socioeconomics
7. Visual Resources/Aesthetics
8. Air Quality
9. Noise
10. Cultural and Paleontological Resources
11. Public Safety

- 2.6** Prepare supporting maps showing the location of all project facilities and related areas of disturbance, and pertinent resource data. (*Applicant name*) will be responsible for developing most maps requested by the third-party contractor. The scale of the supporting maps will normally range from 1:24,000 to (*identify larger scale*), depending on the complexity/sensitivity of the resources potentially affected and project specifics.
- 2.7** Maintain ongoing review of potential environmental issues and assessment of adequacy of overall scope of the environmental analysis. The OEP staff shall be advised immediately of any potential data gaps or analysis shortcomings.
- 2.8** Arrange with (*applicant name*) to participate in inspections of the proposed facility locations (including overflight, as appropriate) with the OEP staff. This may occur in conjunction with the scoping meetings. (The FERC will reimburse [*applicant name*] for all costs associated with OEP staff participation in overflights.)
- 2.9** Analyze comments and prepare draft responses to comments on the PADEIS, ADEIS, DEIS, and FEIS, and related documents.

- 2.10 Prepare camera-ready copies of the DEIS and FEIS and any required notices for submission to the FERC staff for printing and mailing. For purposes of proposal preparation, assume that the contractor will print and distribute at least (25) copies of the preliminary documents (ADEIS, etc.) to cooperating agencies. (The actual number of preliminary documents needed will be determined based on consideration of cooperating agencies' needs.)
- 2.11 Develop and maintain a formal project management system to allow for weekly or biweekly, as mutually agreed, tracking of schedule and budget status for the prime contractor and any subcontractors.
- 2.12 Prepare a BA, if appropriate.
- 2.13 Prepare an EFHA, if appropriate.

3.0 PROJECT TIMELINE

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP should identify any perceived need for specific supplemental studies to fully comply with NEPA and the FERC's implementing regulations.

Adherence to the proposed schedule is essential. Assuming (*applicant name*) responds expeditiously to data requests, the major milestones of the project schedule are summarized below, however, it should be understood that the normal timeline from filing of the FERC application to the availability of the FEIS is 8 months:

3.1 Third-Party Contractor Selection

1. (*Applicant name*) sends out RFP to contractors:
2. Hold contractors' (*tele*)conference:
3. Submit proposals to (*applicant name*) by 5:00 p.m. on:
4. Hold short-listed contractors' oral presentations (if required):
5. Submit top three proposals to OEP staff:
6. OEP selects third-party contractor:
7. Complete contract negotiations with (*applicant name*):
8. Third-party contractor begins work:

3.2 (Applicant name)'s Certificate Application Development Work

1. Conduct open houses/public meetings:
2. Begin environmental surveys:
3. Completion of civil and design survey:
4. Completion of environmental surveys:
5. Submission of draft RRs to OEP Staff:
6. Submission of FERC application and RRs:
7. Receive FERC authorization:

3.3 (Applicant name) Project Schedule Milestones ⁷

The following EIS review tasks will be conducted by the third-party contractor and/or OEP staff:

3.3.1 Pre-Filing

1. Study (*facility location, LNG terminal engineering, and pipeline route*) plans, attend open house/public meeting(s)
2. Coordinate agency scoping meetings
3. Issue Notice of Intent, hold EIS scoping meeting(s)
4. Conduct site visit(s) (*, route investigations,*) and alternative site(/route) analysis
5. Review draft RRs
6. Begin preparation of PADEIS

3.3.2 Post-Filing

(File FERC application on day 0)

1. Contractor delivers PADEIS to OEP staff: __day
2. Comments on PADEIS returned to contractor: __day
3. Contractor delivers ADEIS to OEP staff and Cooperating Agencies: __day
4. Comments on ADEIS returned to contractor: __day

⁷ Note that for Natural Gas Act-related projects section 157.21 of the Commission's regulations specifies some general timelines that must be met.

5. Contractor delivers camera-ready DEIS to OEP staff: __day
6. OEP mails DEIS: __day
7. Hold public meetings to receive comments: __day
8. Contractor delivers preliminary FEIS to OEP staff and Cooperating Agencies: __day
9. Comments on preliminary FEIS returned to contractor: __day
10. Contractor delivers camera-ready FEIS to OEP staff: __day
11. OEP mails FEIS: __day

4.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

(Applicant may elect to use a Letter-of-Intent and Contractors' (Tele)Conference approach, e.g., ...

4.1 Letter of Intent

Third-party contractors shall submit a Letter of Intent before the Contractors' (Tele)Conference to offer a proposal to (applicant name) at the e-mail address or the regular address listed in section 4.3.12. Those submitting a Letter of Intent will receive amendments to this RFP, if any, and copies of any written material from the (tele)conference as described in section 4.2. This letter will facilitate the distribution of written information but does not obligate the contractor to submit a proposal.

4.2 Contractors' (Tele)Conference

A Contractors' (Tele)Conference will be held by (applicant name) on (conference date) beginning at (time). At the conference, questions will be answered by (applicant name). Contractors who submit a Letter of Intent and who do not attend the (tele)conference will be notified of any modifications and receive a copy of the minutes of the meeting within two (2) days of the meeting if an e-mail address or telephone facsimile number is provided. Otherwise, minutes of the meeting will be sent via regular mail.

The purpose of this (tele)conference will be to:

- *answer contractors' questions about the RFP;*
- *discuss any other information to be used in the submission of a proposal;*

- *discuss software that will be used by (applicant name)'s environmental consultant and engineering consultant in the development of documents for the FERC certificate application; and*
- *entertain requests for other background documents, which may be available for use during the preparation of the proposal but were not sent to contractors.*

All third-party contractors are strongly encouraged to participate in this Contractors' (Tele)Conference since this is the only opportunity to receive responses to questions. Individual telephone calls are not permitted; no questions related to this RFP will be answered in any forum other than at the Contractors' (Tele)Conference. All questions must be answered while the conference is in open session so that all participants have equal access to the responses.

4.3 Proposal Requirements

If a contractor provides a Letter of Intent to bid on the RFP, and subsequently does not intend to submit a proposal, the contractor shall notify *(applicant name)* as soon as possible, but in any event no later than *(number)* of days prior to the proposal due date. Contractors shall also return all material to *(applicant name)*. Contractors must provide *(number)* copies of the technical proposal and cost estimate; *(applicant name)* will coordinate distribution, and ultimately provide the OEP staff with two copies of the top-rated proposals. Cost estimates must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes labeled "COST ESTIMATE." The proposal is limited to *(50)* pages (single-sided, space and a half). All materials should be easily readable. The proposal should be concise, well organized and contain the following information in the order presented below:

4.3.1 Introduction

Explain the contractor's understanding of the project and a summary of the contractor's qualifications for this project in one or two pages. Because the project is located in *(identify state(s))*, qualifications for assessing impacts to the environment of this region of the country should be highlighted.

4.3.2 Technical Approach

Present both an overall technical approach for the preparation of the EIS and the approach proposed for individual technical areas and tasks. Include any recommendations to improve the scope (including rationale) and reflect those recommendations in the cost estimate.

4.3.3 Project Organization and Management Approach

Describe the proposed project organization, with an organization chart including positions, responsibilities and reporting relationships. The senior specialist and/or subcontractor(s) with responsibility for each resource area must be identified and their location specified. These key personnel shall not be reassigned within the project or to other projects without prior written approval from the OEP staff.

Describe the proposed management scheme for the project, with a discussion of where the work will be done and where each key person and subcontractor presently resides. Provide the proposed mechanisms for communication, reporting, technical direction and control, cost control, schedule control, quality control, quality assurance and control of subcontractors.

4.3.4 Qualifications and Experience

Describe qualifications and prior experience in completing similar NEPA compliance projects, particularly pipeline construction projects or other linear facility projects, and, as applicable, marine terminal projects. Emphasize prior work experience with the FERC for natural gas-related projects, (*identify affected state(s)*) state agencies, major relevant construction projects, and the geographical areas of study. Discuss the contractor's understanding of the FERC environmental requirements for projects under the Natural Gas Act as reflected in FERC's regulations and current policies.

Statements of qualifications and prior experience should be provided not only for the contractor but also for the key personnel and subcontractors that will be assigned to the project, along with their **specific experience with the type of project under consideration.**

The past, current, and proposed use of small and small disadvantaged owned business enterprises by the contractor should be described.

4.3.5 Project Schedule

Submit a proposed schedule delineating dates for completion of the major work tasks specified in section 3 of this RFP. The selected contractor must adhere to the completion dates as specified in section 3 of this RFP. Any suggested modifications to the schedule must be presented with reasons for the changes.

Note, however, that the ultimate schedule will be determined by the OEP staff, not the applicant.

It is important that contractors demonstrate to (*applicant name*) and the OEP staff that ample resources exist to meet the project schedule. If a contractor has multiple EIS obligations underway concurrently, it must clearly show separate resources or provide convincing evidence that it can meet the schedule.

4.3.6 References

List and describe three successfully completed or in-progress projects of a similar nature with the name and phone number of the client's project manager. Additionally, list three client references specifically for the proposed project manager.

4.3.7 Conflicts of Interest and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information

Identify possible conflicts of interest that may require investigation by the FERC staff. Include a discussion of all work completed by the contractor for similar work on natural gas-related projects within the last 3 years. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), contractor selection is based on ability and absence of conflicts of interest. The contractor must also submit a Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) Non-Disclosure Agreement for itself and each subcontractor used.

All proposals must include the following items:

- Either the FERC's (a) Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) representation statement, or (b) OCI Disclosure Statement, prepared by a responsible official attesting the contractor and its subcontractor(s) have no financial or other conflicting interest in the outcome of the project, or proposing a mitigation plan if an actual or potential OCI exists. (See appendix A.)
 - The FERC's OCI Questionnaire. (See appendix B.)
 - A Contractor CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement. (See appendix C.)
- (*Applicant name*) will complete an OCI Certification. (See appendix D.)

4.3.8 Resumes

Resumes may be submitted as an attachment to the proposal or as a separate volume. All resumes should be limited to two pages and must include the institution and date of graduation for all academic degrees as well as a summary of relevant work experience and the specific dates of performance.

4.3.9 Cost Estimate

(The applicant should identify the type of contract, such as time and materials, cost plus, etc., and provide additional guidance on how the cost of the contract is to be estimated.)

(Applicant name) anticipates awarding and signing a *(identify type)* contract. Since the specific dates and number of field teams required are strictly estimates, each contractor shall submit a daily crew billing rate and expense rate sheet. *(Applicant name)* will compensate the contractor based upon the actual crews and hours worked. All preparation and processing of documents, RR review, NEPA review, EIS submission, and any other costs not associated with the daily crew rate shall be submitted as a fixed-price proposal with an attached cost breakdown. *(Applicant name)* understands that there may be out-of-scope requirements for the completion of this project and any resultant costs will be handled between the contractor and the applicant under the provisions of the contract.

Any limiting assumptions used to prepare the cost estimate should be clearly specified in the proposal. Also include a rate schedule that will apply to the project and for any work beyond the scope stated in this RFP.

Assume that *(applicant name)*, through the OEP staff, will provide the successful contractor with copies of all environmental information filed with FERC, including base maps, air photos, and computerized mailing lists of agencies, officials, community/environmental groups, concerned citizens, affected property owners and known interested parties at the time that contract negotiations are completed. *(Applicant name)* will provide aerial overflights for key contractor and OEP staff (weather conditions permitting), either prior to or in conjunction with the open house/public meetings, or at the OEP staff's request. (However, the FERC will reimburse *(applicant name)* for all costs associated with OEP staff participation in aerial overflights.)

4.3.10 Available Materials

Appendix F presents a list of documents available from (*applicant name*) that should assist contractors in preparation of their proposals. Please contact (*name and telephone number of applicant's contact*) to arrange for review of these documents. Note that (*applicant name*) will only entertain questions about this RFP at the Contractor's (Tele)Conference discussed in section 4.2.

4.3.11 Sample Contract (*provided by the applicant*)

Appendix G to this RFP presents a sample (*applicant name*) contract. Contractors are asked to review this contract and point out any difficulties with contract language in their proposal. The OEP staff may not be contacted on any contractual issue. The proposal must indicate the contractor's review and acceptance of the contract or identify issues that require resolution during negotiations. Issues raised after submittal of the proposal will not be subject to negotiation. The person(s) authorized to negotiate on behalf of the contractor should be identified. (*Applicant name*), in consultation with the OEP staff, reserves the right to reject any or all submittals.

4.3.12 Addresses

Submit Letters of Intent via e-mail or facsimile to:

(contact name, e-mail/facsimile address, etc.)

Submit Technical Proposals and Cost Estimates to:

(contact name, mailing address, phone number, etc.)

Technical Proposals and Cost Estimates should be submitted to (*applicant name*) by (*time and date*).

5.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

Only those proposals submitted by contractors prior to the deadline stated herein will be evaluated. The proposals will be initially reviewed by (*applicant name*), and the three best-qualified proposals will then be submitted to the OEP staff. The OEP staff will make the final selection of the contractor. Lack of an OCI Statement, or the existence of an identifiable OCI (relative to the contractor, its key personnel, or any proposed subcontractor) that cannot be mitigated to the satisfaction of the FERC staff, will be sufficient grounds for proposal rejection.

(Applicant name) will be responsible for answering any questions from contractors who are not selected.

Criteria for screening to determine the best-qualified proposals will be based on a qualifications appraisal of all proposals submitted.

5.1 Qualifications Appraisal

Technical Approach *(40 percent)*

The proposal must show:

- familiarity with environmental regulations and procedures for satisfying NEPA and related requirements;
- ability to prepare NEPA documentation for projects involving construction of facilities of the type being proposed, including pipeline or other linear facilities, as appropriate;
- familiarity with how to proceed in the environmental evaluation of the proposed project, understanding of the available data, identification of possible issues and a description of any needed supplemental analyses;
- ability to prepare a complete Work Plan that thoroughly addresses the various parts of the RFP, recognizes any pitfalls or shortcomings, and presents innovative approaches for the tasks presented; and
- ability of the contractor's proposed technical and procedural approach to the preparation of the identified tasks to result in compliance with NEPA and other environmental documentation requirements.

Organization Qualifications and Experience *(20 percent)*

The proposal must show:

- experience in managing major NEPA reviews for large projects, preferably the same or similar types of construction projects. Highlight experience with projects which used the Commission's Pre-Filing Process;
- past record of the contractor's organization in meeting performance and delivery requirements for similar contracts;
- resources and facilities available to the organization to fulfill contract requirements, including those of any subcontractor(s) proposed for use;

- familiarity with the specialized issues and requirements of proposed facility construction; and
- experience in working with multiple Federal and state agencies on large construction projects, particularly in (*identify state(s) where the project would be located*).

Project Management and Personnel (*20 percent*)

The proposal must show:

- adequacy of contractor's approach for OEP staff interface, and for planning and scheduling task activities as presented in the RFP;
- ability to assign and commit key personnel to the project, and use of appropriate personnel to accomplish specific tasks;
- ability to satisfy logistical requirements such as materials, transportation, office location(s), document production, computer services and so forth to ensure an effectively managed program;
- experience, education, and location of the Project Manager;
- experience, education, and location of the Deputy Project Manager;
- experience of the Project Manager and Deputy Project Manager in working with multiple Federal and state agencies on large construction projects, particularly in (*identify state(s) where the project would be located*).
- experience, education, and location of various key environmental specialists, and any subcontractors proposed for use; and
- qualifications and experience of the administrative support personnel.

Schedule and Work Plan (*20 percent*)

The proposal must show:

- demonstrated ability to meet schedule requirements using staff and resources separate from (or not conflicting with) other EIS efforts underway or scheduled for the same time frame;
- presentation of a detailed Schedule and Work Plan to perform the tasks as presented in the RFP; and
- adequate support for any schedule changes.

5.2 Oral Presentation

Following review of the proposals, (*applicant name*) may request oral presentations from the short-listed bidders. At a minimum, the Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager, and other key technical staff identified in the proposal's organization chart will be required to present their team's capabilities to (*applicant name*). If oral presentations are required, they will be held in (*location and date*) and the short-listed bidders will be contacted with further details regarding the presentation.

5.3 Selection of the Third-Party Contractor

Upon completion of the oral presentation (if required), each short-listed bidder will be ranked using the qualification appraisal, the oral presentation, and the cost proposal. (*Applicant name*) will provide the OEP staff with the ranking, its rationale for the ranking, and two copies of the top three contractors' proposals, along with the contractors' OCI statements, CEII non-disclosure agreements, and (*applicant name*)'s OCI certification of each contractor. The FERC staff will then conduct an independent review of the proposals and make a selection. Once the OEP staff has notified (*applicant name*) of its selection, (*applicant name*) will negotiate and fund a contract with the contractor. (*Applicant name*) will keep the OEP staff apprised of the negotiations with the contractor. Once the contract has been executed, the contractor will proceed to work solely under the direction and guidance of the OEP staff. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), the responsible official (i.e., the OEP staff) "shall furnish guidance and participate in the preparation and shall independently evaluate the [environmental document] prior to its approval and take responsibility for its scope and contents."

(This sample RFP is set up to include the seven appendices at the end of this manual.)

- A. OCI Representation and Disclosure Statements*
- B. OCI Questionnaire*
- C. Contractor CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement*
- D. OCI Certification*
- E. Project Overview Map*
- F. List of Available Background Documents*
- G. Sample Contract*

(Sample RFP – Traditional Certificate Application)

**Request for Proposal for Preparation of Third-Party
Environmental Impact Statement**

(applicant name)

(date)

DISCLAIMER

THIS IS NOT A FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.

THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) WILL RESULT IN A PRIVATE CONTRACT BETWEEN (*applicant name*) AND A CONTRACTOR, AND WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF (*state name*). NEITHER THE PROCUREMENT NOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESULTING CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL PROCUREMENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR PROTEST PROCEDURES. ANY DISPUTES NOT SETTLED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES MUST BE RESOLVED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, OR THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PARTIES AND DESCRIBED IN THE CONTRACT.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROCUREMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO (*applicant name*). (*Applicant name*) MUST PROVIDE INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OFFEROR TO ALL OFFERORS SUBMITTING A LETTER OF INTENT TO RESPOND TO THE RFP.

THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AND WILL NOT RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS.

HOLD HARMLESS

The parties agree that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and its employees are not liable for any costs or judgments arising from the conduct of this procurement, and administration or supervision of the contract for the environmental services described herein.

(Applicant Letterhead)

TO: *(name of potential contractor)*

FROM: *(name and title of applicant contact)*
(applicant name)

DATE: *(issuance date)*

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals (RFP) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the *(project name)* Project

Proposal Due Date: *(due date & time)*

1.0 BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

1.1 Background

(Applicant name) is soliciting proposals for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and related documents and services to address its proposed *(project name)* Project as more specifically described in Section 1.2. The EIS will be prepared under a third-party contractor arrangement with *(applicant name)* as the Applicant and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead Federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The FERC's Office of Energy Projects (OEP) will be responsible for providing technical direction to the third-party contractor during the preparation of the EIS and related documents. A contract will be executed pursuant to the third-party contracting procedures set forth in 40 CFR 1506.5(c) and as referenced in the FERC third-party contracting program announced on February 4 and 9, 1994.

As the Applicant, *(applicant name)* is soliciting proposals through this RFP for a third-party contractor to provide the services described in section 2.0. The technical and cost proposals will be initially reviewed and evaluated by *(applicant name)* who will then submit the top three proposals to the OEP staff. The OEP staff will make the final selection of the third-party contractor, based on its independent review of the technical, managerial, personnel, and Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) aspects of each proposal. Upon selection of the third-party contractor, *(applicant name)* will finalize a contract with and fund the

successful contractor for the preparation of this third-party EIS and attendant activities. (*Applicant name*) will be responsible for answering any questions from non-selected bidders. Bidders who are not selected are not permitted to solicit an explanation from the FERC staff.

Once a third-party contractor is selected, the OEP staff will direct the activities of the contractor in the preparation and processing of the EIS within the scope identified herein. (*Applicant name*) will have no control over nor direct the activities of the contractor. The (*name of Federal cooperating agencies*), and possibly others may be cooperating agencies for the NEPA review process. Appropriate regulatory agencies in (*identify affected states*) will also be invited and encouraged to participate in the NEPA process.

1.2 Overview of the Project

(Summarize the general purpose of the project. Provide a detailed description of all proposed facilities. Tailor details to project specifics. Any locational or other project information that is not available should be specifically highlighted.

For storage fields: describe the geological structure and proposed use of the storage field, the wells, storage field pipelines, compressor station, and interconnecting pipelines.

For pipelines related to any type of project: provide details such as the length, outside diameter, initial design capacity, pipeline system the gas will be delivered to, number and location of new or upgraded compressor stations, and total horsepower. Describe other aboveground facilities such as mainline valves, meter stations, interconnects, and pig launchers/receivers as well as significant other construction areas such as pipe and contractor yards. Identify the land requirements and location of all aboveground facilities. Include the size [horsepower] and location of any new compressor stations, and details of any other project-related activities that would occur at existing stations. Indicate the width of the construction right-of-way, the number of perennial waterbodies and major highways crossed, and the extent to which the pipeline would parallel other existing rights-of-way.)

Maps of the proposed (*project name*) are included as appendix E. (*Applicant name*) will identify any nonjurisdictional facilities associated with the proposal for possible inclusion in the scope of review as soon as possible.

1.3 Available Data

The proposed (*project name*) Project is presented in detail in (*applicant name*)'s (*draft*) application to the FERC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Exhibit (*exhibit designation/name*). (*Applicant name*) has organized its Exhibit (*exhibit designation/name*) into Environmental Resource Reports (RR), as identified and containing the information listed in the FERC's regulations at 18 CFR 380.12.

The RRs, which (*applicant name*) (*is preparing*) except for portions of the Cultural Resources Report (which will be submitted as privileged), will be made available to contractors at the pre-bid conference. These reports must be reviewed in detail to gain an understanding of the proposed project and the level of available environmental data. This information should be assessed for any required supplemental analysis prior to proposal preparation and submittal.

(Discuss any additional sources of pertinent environmental data, such as filings with another Federal agency, or with states having a NEPA-like statute. Include the status of the following items:

- *work required to comply with the Endangered Species Act, including agency scoping, field surveys and preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA) and Mitigation Plans;*
- *work required to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, including field surveys, and all associated reports and mitigation plans;*
- *work required to delineate waters of the U.S. and wetlands that will be subject to the Federal and state permitting requirements; and*
- *work required to comply with the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.)*

It is expected that the available data (*along with the site-specific information, as discussed above,*) will facilitate the preparation of the EIS. Appendix F provides a list of the available background documents. Proposals submitted in response to this RFP should clearly demonstrate an understanding of the extent of the (*available/provided*) information. Perceived data gaps and the need for specific supplemental studies to fully comply with the EIS requirements should be identified.

1.4 Schedule

(The time line below is for illustration purposes only. In the "Contractor Selection" section, applicants should design their own schedule for contractor screening and completion of contract negotiations. OEP expects to be able to select a third-party contractor within 14 days of the filing date. Once the contractor is hired, OEP recommends that a Notice of Intent and mailing list be provided within 7 days. Intervals in the remaining portion of the "EIS Preparation" section represent an EIS schedule where cooperating agencies play a major role. The schedule also assumes timely applicant response to requests for information from the OEP staff and, through the staff, the third party contractor. In the absence of significant cooperating agency involvement, the time allotted for OEP staff and cooperating agency review of the administrative draft document could be substantially reduced. Applicants are encouraged to suggest areas where time savings may be achieved. However, the schedule for the completion of the environmental document is under the control of the OEP staff. Applicant-proposed dates will be considered in light of Commission staff workload and regulatory requirements as the draft RFP is being reviewed.)

Adherence to the proposed schedule is essential. Assuming (*applicant name*) responds expeditiously and completely to data requests, the schedule (in calendar days) is as follows. Note that contract deliverables are designated with the symbol "▶".

Third-Party Contractor Selection

- Send out RFP to contractors: (day 1)
- Hold contractors' conference: (day 6)
- Submit proposals to (*applicant name*): by 5:00 p.m. on: (day 17)
- Oral presentations by contractors: (day 28)
- File application with FERC; submit top three technical proposals directly to OEP: (day 36)
- OEP selects contractor: (day 50)
- Complete contract negotiations with (*name of applicant*): (day 54)

EIS Preparation

- Complete contract negotiations with (*name of applicant*): (day 0)
- ▶ Submit Notice of Intent and mailing list to OEP: (day 7)
- ▶ Hold EIS Scoping Meeting(s): (day 30-42)
- ▶ Submit Preliminary Administrative Draft EIS (PADEIS) and draft BA, if needed, to OEP: (day 174)
- OEP returns PADEIS and draft BA to contractor: (day 205)
- ▶ Distribute Administrative Draft EIS (ADEIS) to OEP and Cooperating Agencies; return revised BA to OEP: (day 214)
- ▶ Submit Federal Register Notice to OEP: (day 254)
- OEP returns ADEIS to contractor: (day 268)
- ▶ Submit camera-ready Draft EIS to OEP: (day 275)
- OEP sends Draft EIS to printing: (day 289)
- OEP mails Draft EIS and files with EPA: (day 303)
- 45-day public comment period begins: (day 311)
- ▶ Hold public meetings to receive comments: (day 343-357)
- End of public comment period: (day 356)
- ▶ Submit Preliminary Final EIS (PFEIS) to OEP: (day 388)
- ▶ Submit Federal Register Notice to OEP: (day 396)
- OEP returns PFEIS to contractor: (day 406)
- ▶ Submit camera-ready Final EIS to OEP: (day 413)
- OEP sends Final EIS to printing: (day 427)
- OEP mails Final EIS: (day 441)

1.5 Letter of Intent

Third-party contractors shall submit a Letter of Intent before the Contractors' Conference to offer a proposal to (*applicant name*) at the e-mail address or regular mail address listed in Section 3.12. Those submitting a Letter of Intent will

receive amendments to this RFP, if any, and copies of any written material from the Conference as described in Section 1.6. This letter will facilitate the distribution of written information but does not obligate the contractor to submit a proposal.

1.6 Contractors' Conference

A Contractors' Conference will be held by (*applicant name*) on (*conference date*), beginning at (*conference time*). At the conference, questions will be answered by (*applicant name*). Contractors who submit a Letter of Intent and who do not attend the conference will be notified of any modifications and receive a copy of the minutes of the meeting within two (2) days of the meeting if an e-mail address or telephone facsimile number is provided. Otherwise, minutes of the meeting will be sent via regular mail.

The purpose of this conference will be to:

- answer contractors' questions about the RFP;
- provide copies of any other information to be used in the submission of a proposal; and
- entertain requests for other background documents, which may be available for use during the preparation of the proposal but were not sent to contractors.

All third-party contractors are strongly encouraged to attend this conference since this is the only opportunity to receive responses to questions. Telephone calls are not permitted; no questions related to this RFP will be answered in any forum other than at the contractors' conference. All questions must be answered at the conference so that all participants have equal access to the responses.

2.0 SERVICES REQUIRED

The selected third-party contractor will be responsible for assisting the OEP staff in conducting the NEPA review, preparing an EIS, and completing related work within the agreed-upon schedule and approved budget. It will be the contractor's responsibility to notify (*applicant name*) if the work effort ultimately required by the OEP staff exceeds the work effort on which the bid was based or the approved budget.

The third-party contractor will be responsible for satisfactory completion of the following tasks:

- 2.1** Preparation of all project-related documents, reports, and notices required by OEP staff. In addition to paper copies, all materials must be provided to the OEP staff on either 3.5-inch high-density floppy diskettes or compact disks in Microsoft Word 2002 format, or as otherwise agreed to by the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Any required databases (such as mailing lists) must be Microsoft Access 2002 compatible. The camera-ready EA or DEIS and FEIS will be provided as pdf files as specified by the OEP staff in addition to hard copy.
- 2.2** Preparation of notices and presentation materials for public scoping meetings and public comment meetings on the EIS. This task will require close coordination with the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Required work will include arranging for meeting places, placing notices/announcements in the appropriate news media (local newspapers, radio stations, etc.), developing materials for meetings, participating in meetings, and preparing reports summarizing the results of the scoping meetings/process and public meetings on the EIS. The contractor will prepare a summary of agency scoping comments/issues for subsequent agency review and concurrence. Assume at least (*number*) scoping meetings and public comment meetings will be conducted. Potential locations for these meetings are: (*list the locations*).
- 2.3** Preparation and maintenance of a computerized (sortable database) mailing list of agencies, officials, community/environmental groups, concerned citizens, affected property owners and known interested parties. (*Applicant name*) will provide the initial agency and affected property owners list.
- 2.4** Characterization of existing environmental conditions, incorporation of issues identified during scoping, assessment of the significance of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, identification of potential site, route and facility location alternatives, (both locally and regionally) and determination of mitigation necessary to avoid or reduce impacts to acceptable levels for the environmental topics listed in section 2.5 (below). Studies shall take into account both direct and indirect affects of project facility construction, operation and maintenance, upset conditions, and abandonment for all proposed and alternative project facilities. Special expertise may be needed for areas of non-routine environmental sensitivity (such as marine environments). The RRs contained in the FERC application (*and other major applications, if any*) and other already available technical data shall be used to the maximum extent practicable. Use of

any data sources not in the public record for the project must be approved by the OEP Project Manager.

2.5 Preparation of an EIS to meet the requirements of NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, other applicable laws and regulations, any additional requirements of the OEP staff, and to address any scoping and public meeting issues.

The EIS shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following sections: ¹

1. Cover Sheet
2. Executive Summary (including Impact Summary Table)
3. Introduction
4. Description of Proposed Project and Alternatives
5. Affected Environment
6. Environmental Consequences (including Cumulative Impacts)
7. Comparison of Alternatives
8. Conclusions (including summary of unavoidable significant adverse effects) and Recommendations (mitigation measures, including mitigation monitoring plan)
9. Agencies and Sources Consulted
10. List of Preparers and Contributors
11. References
12. EIS Distribution List
13. Index
14. Comments and Responses (Final EIS only)
15. Appendices and Technical Reports (including Essential Fish Habitat Assessment [EFHA], if appropriate)

The project as proposed by (*applicant name*) includes several pipeline route and aboveground facility site location alternatives. In conjunction with the OEP staff, the third-party contractor will be responsible for identifying and assessing potential alternatives to the proposed project that are capable of meeting the project's goals and are sufficient to meet the requirements of NEPA, including reducing potentially significant effects associated with the proposed project and fostering informed decision-making. System alternatives to the (*project name*) Project that should be addressed include (*identify any known system alternatives*). Additional project alternatives may be identified by the OEP staff.

¹ See 18 CFR 380.7 and 40 CFR 1502.10 for additional guidance.

The Description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives should include, at a minimum, the following subsections:

1. Purpose and Need for the Project
2. Approvals to be sought through Use of the EIS
3. Storage Field, Compression Facilities, and Pipeline Route Description, as appropriate
4. Ancillary Facilities
5. General Design Parameters
6. Construction Methods (*for Compressor Stations, Storage Field Facilities and Pipeline, as applicable*) (including Applicant-Proposed Mitigation Measures)
7. Construction Schedule and Work Force
8. Operation and Maintenance Procedures
9. Abandonment Procedures
10. Interrelationships with Other Planned Projects and Nonjurisdictional Facilities
11. Alternatives (including No Action)

The majority of this information (*is/will be*) available in the RRs included in the application made to the FERC. The third-party contractor shall review the RRs for accuracy and adequacy to meet the needs of NEPA for the preparation of an EIS, and prepare a data request(s) to (*applicant name*) (routed through the OEP staff) requesting any other data that may be needed. The EIS should fully address the following resource topics (as applicable):

1. Geology and Mineral Resources
2. Soils (including erosion control and restoration/revegetation)
3. Water Resources (surface water and groundwater hydrology and quality)
4. Biological Resources (including wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, aquatic biology, essential fish habitat, and threatened and endangered species)
5. Land Ownership, Land Use, and Recreation
6. Socioeconomics
7. Visual Resources/Aesthetics
8. Air Quality
9. Noise
10. Cultural and Paleontological Resources
11. Public Safety

- 2.6** Prepare supporting maps showing the location of all project facilities and related areas of disturbance, and pertinent resource data. (*Applicant name*) will be responsible for developing all maps requested by the third-party contractor. The scale of the supporting maps will normally range from 1:24,000 to (*identify larger scale*), depending on the complexity/sensitivity of the resources potentially affected and project specifics.
- 2.7** Maintain ongoing review of potential environmental issues and assessment of adequacy of overall scope of the environmental analysis. The OEP staff shall be advised immediately of any potential data gaps or analysis shortcomings.
- 2.8** Arrange with (*applicant name*) to participate in inspections of the proposed facility locations (including overflight, as appropriate), with the OEP staff. This may occur in conjunction with the scoping meetings. (The FERC will reimburse [*applicant name*] for all costs associated with OEP staff participation in overflights.)
- 2.9** Analyze comments and prepare draft responses to comments on the PADEIS, ADEIS, DEIS, and FEIS and related documents.
- 2.10** Prepare camera-ready copies of the DEIS and FEIS and any required notices for submission to the FERC staff for printing and mailing. For purposes of proposal preparation, assume that the contractor will print and distribute at least (25) copies of the preliminary documents (ADEIS, etc.) to cooperating agencies. (The actual number of preliminary documents needed will be determined based on consideration of cooperating agencies' needs.)
- 2.11** Develop and maintain a formal project management system to allow for weekly or biweekly, as mutually agreed, tracking of schedule and budget status for the prime contractor and any subcontractors.
- 2.12** Prepare a BA, if appropriate.
- 2.13** Prepare an EFHA, if appropriate.

3.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

If a contractor provides a Letter of Intent to bid on the RFP, and subsequently does not intend to submit a proposal, the contractor shall notify (*applicant name*) as soon as possible, but in any event no later than (*number*) days prior to the proposal due date. Contractors shall also return all materials to (*applicant name*).

Contractors must provide (*number*) copies of the technical proposal and cost estimate; (*applicant name*) will coordinate distribution, and ultimately provide the OEP staff with two copies of the top-rated proposals. Cost estimates must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes labeled “COST ESTIMATE.” The proposal is limited to (*50*) pages (single-sided, space and a half). All materials should be easily readable. The proposal should be concise, well organized and contain the following information in the order presented below:

3.1 Introduction

Explain the contractor's understanding of the project and a summary of the contractor's qualifications for this project in one or two pages. Because the project is located in (*identify state(s)*), qualifications for assessing impacts to the environment of this region of the country should be highlighted.

3.2 Technical Approach

Present both an overall technical approach for the preparation of the EIS and the approach proposed for individual technical areas and tasks. Include any recommendations to improve the scope (including rationale) and reflect those recommendations in the cost estimate.

3.3 Project Organization and Management Approach

Describe the proposed project organization, with an organization chart including positions, responsibilities and reporting relationships. The senior specialist and/or subcontractor(s) with responsibility for each resource area must be identified and their location specified. These key personnel shall not be reassigned within the project or to other projects without prior written approval from the OEP staff.

Describe the proposed management scheme for the project, with a discussion of where the work will be done and where each key person and subcontractor presently resides. Provide the proposed mechanisms for communication, reporting, technical direction and control, cost control, schedule control, quality control, quality assurance and control of subcontractors.

3.4 Qualifications and Experience

Describe qualifications and prior experience in completing similar NEPA compliance projects, particularly pipeline construction projects or other linear facility projects. Emphasize prior work experience with the FERC for natural gas-related projects, (*identify affected state[s]*) state agencies, major relevant construction projects, and the geographical areas of study. Discuss the contractor's understanding of the FERC environmental requirements for projects under the Natural Gas Act as reflected in FERC's regulations and current policies.

Statements of qualifications and prior experience should be provided not only for the contractor, but also for the key personnel and subcontractors that will be assigned to the project, along with their **specific experience with the type of project under consideration**.

The past, current, and proposed use of small and small disadvantaged owned business enterprises by the contractor should be described.

3.5 Project Schedule

Submit a proposed schedule delineating dates for completion of the major work tasks specified in Section 2.5 of this RFP. The selected contractor's proposal must address the completion dates as specified in Section 1.4 of this RFP. Any suggested modifications to this schedule must be presented with reasons for the changes. Note, however, that the ultimate schedule will be determined by the OEP staff not the applicant.

It is important that contractors demonstrate to (*applicant name*) and the OEP staff that ample resources exist to meet the project schedule. If a contractor has multiple EIS obligations underway concurrently, it must clearly show separate resources or provide convincing evidence that it can meet the schedule.

3.6 References

List and describe three successfully completed or in-progress projects of a similar nature with the name and phone number of the client's project manager. Additionally, list three client references specifically for the proposed project manager.

3.7 Conflicts of Interest and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information

Identify possible conflicts of interest that may require investigation by the FERC staff. Include a discussion of all work completed by the contractor for similar work on natural gas-related projects within the last 3 years. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), contractor selection is based on ability and absence of conflicts of interest. The contractor must also submit a Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) Non-Disclosure Agreement for itself and each subcontractor used.

All proposals must include the following three items:

- Either the FERC's (a) Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) Representation Statement, or (b) OCI Disclosure Statement, prepared by a responsible official attesting the contractor and its subcontractor(s) have no financial or other conflicting interest in the outcome of the project, or proposing a mitigation plan if an actual or potential OCI exists. (See appendix A.)
- The FERC's OCI Questionnaire. (See appendix B.)
- A Contractor CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement. (See appendix C.)

(Applicant name) will complete an OCI Certification. (See appendix D.)

3.8 Resumes

Resumes may be submitted as an attachment to the proposal or as a separate volume. All resumes should be limited to two pages and must include the institution and date of graduation for all academic degrees, as well as a summary of relevant work experience and the specific dates of performance.

3.9 Cost Estimate

(The Applicant should identify the type of contract, such as time and materials, cost plus, etc., and provide additional guidance on how the cost of the contract is to be estimated.)

(Applicant name) anticipates awarding and signing a *(identify type)* contract. Since the specific dates and number of field teams required are strictly estimates, each contractor shall submit a daily crew billing rate and expense rate sheet. *(Applicant name)* will compensate the contractor based upon the actual crews and

hours worked. All preparation and processing of documents, NEPA review, EIS submission, and any other costs not associated with the daily crew rate shall be submitted as a fixed-price proposal with an attached cost breakdown. (*Applicant name*) understands that there may be out-of-scope requirements for the completion of this project and any resultant costs will be handled between the contractor and the applicant under the provisions of the contract.

Any limiting assumptions used to prepare the cost estimate should be clearly specified in the proposal. Also include a rate schedule that will apply to the project for any work beyond the scope stated in this RFP.

Assume that (*applicant name*), through the OEP staff, will provide the successful contractor with copies of all environmental information filed with FERC, including base maps, air photos, and computerized mailing lists of agencies, officials, community/environmental groups, concerned citizens, affected property owners and known interested parties at the time that contract negotiations are completed. (*Applicant name*) will provide aerial overflights for key contractor and OEP staff (weather conditions permitting) either prior to or in conjunction with the scoping meetings, or at OEP staff's request. (However, the FERC will reimburse (*applicant name*) for all costs associated with OEP staff participation in aerial overflights.)

3.10 Available Materials

Appendix F presents a list of documents available from (*applicant name*) that should assist contractors in preparation of their proposals. Please contact (*name and telephone number of applicant's contact*) to arrange for review of these documents. Note that (*applicant name*) will only entertain questions about this RFP at the Contractor's Conference discussed in Section 1.6.

3.11 Sample Contract (*provided by the applicant*)

Appendix G to this RFP presents a sample (*applicant name*) contract. Contractors are asked to review this contract and point out any difficulties with contract language in their proposal. The OEP staff may not be contacted on any contractual issue. The proposal must indicate the contractor's review and acceptance of the contract or identify issues which require resolution during negotiations. Issues raised after submittal of the proposal will not be subject to negotiation. The person(s) authorized to negotiate on behalf of the contractor should be identified. (*Applicant name*), in consultation with the OEP staff, reserves the right to reject any or all submittals.

3.12 Addresses

Submit Letters of Intent via e-mail or facsimile to:

(contact name, e-mail/facsimile address, etc.)

Submit Technical Proposals and Cost Estimates to:

(contact name, mailing address, phone number, etc.)

Technical Proposals and Cost Estimates should be submitted to *(applicant name)* by *(time and date)*.

4.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

Only those proposals submitted by contractors prior to the deadline stated herein will be evaluated. The proposals will be initially reviewed by *(applicant name)*, and the three best-qualified proposals will then be submitted to the OEP staff. The OEP staff will make the final selection of the contractor. Lack of an OCI Statement, or the existence of an identifiable OCI (relative to the contractor, its key personnel, or any proposed subcontractor) that cannot be mitigated to the satisfaction of the FERC staff, will be sufficient grounds for proposal rejection. *(Applicant name)* will be responsible for answering any questions from bidders who are not selected.

Criteria for screening to determine the best-qualified proposals will be based on a qualifications appraisal of all proposals submitted.

4.1 Qualifications Appraisal

Technical Approach *(40 percent)*

The proposal must show:

- familiarity with environmental regulations and procedures for satisfying NEPA and related requirements;
- ability to prepare NEPA documentation for projects involving construction of facilities of the type being proposed, including pipeline or other linear facilities, as appropriate;

- familiarity with how to proceed in the environmental evaluation of the proposed project, understanding of the available data, identification of possible issues and a description of any needed supplemental analyses;
- ability to prepare a complete Work Plan that thoroughly addresses the various parts of the RFP, recognizes any pitfalls or shortcomings, and presents innovative approaches for the tasks presented; and
- ability of the contractor's proposed technical and procedural approach to the preparation of the identified tasks to result in compliance with NEPA and other environmental documentation requirements.

Organization Qualifications and Experience (20 percent)

The proposal must show:

- experience in managing major NEPA reviews for large projects, preferably the same or similar types of construction projects;
- past record of the contractor's organization in meeting performance and delivery requirements for similar contracts;
- resources and facilities available to the organization to fulfill contract requirements, including those of any subcontractor(s) proposed for use;
- familiarity with the specialized issues and requirements of proposed facility construction; and
- experience in working with multiple Federal agencies and state agencies on large construction projects, particularly in (*identify state(s) in which the project would be located*).

Project Management and Personnel (20 percent)

The proposal must show:

- adequacy of contractor's approach for OEP staff interface and for planning and scheduling task activities as presented in the RFP;
- ability to assign and commit key personnel to the project, and use of appropriate personnel to accomplish specified tasks;
- ability to satisfy logistical requirements such as materials, transportation, office location(s), document production, computer services and so forth to ensure an effectively managed program;

- experience, education, and location of the Project Manager;
- experience, education, and location of the Deputy Project Manager;
 - for the Project Manager and the Deputy Project Manager experience in working with multiple Federal agencies and state agencies on large construction projects, particularly in (*identify state(s) in which the project would be located*).
- experience, education, and location of various key environmental specialists, and any subcontractors proposed for use; and
- qualifications and experience of the administrative support personnel.

Schedule and Work Plan (*20 percent*)

The proposal must show:

- demonstrated ability to meet schedule requirements using staff and resources separate from (or not conflicting with) other EIS efforts underway or scheduled for the same time frame;
- presentation of a detailed Schedule and Work Plan to perform the tasks as presented in the RFP; and
- adequate support for any schedule changes.

4.2 Oral Presentation

Following review of the proposals, (*applicant name*) may request oral presentations from the short-listed bidders. At a minimum, the Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager, and other key technical staff identified in the proposal's organization chart will be required to present their team's capabilities to (*applicant name*). If oral presentations are required, they will be held in (*location and date*) and the short-listed bidders will be contacted with further details regarding the presentation.

4.3 Selection of the Third-Party Contractor

Upon completion of the oral presentation (if required), each short-listed bidder will be ranked using the qualification appraisal, the oral presentation, and the cost proposal. (*Applicant name*) will provide the OEP staff with the ranking, its rationale for the ranking, and two copies of the top three contractors' proposals, along with the contractors' OCI statements, CEII non-disclosure agreements, and

(applicant name)'s OCI certification of each contractor. The FERC staff will then conduct an independent review of the proposals and make a selection. Once the OEP staff has notified *(applicant name)* of its selection, *(applicant name)* will negotiate and fund a contract with the contractor. *(Applicant name)* will keep the OEP staff apprised of the negotiations with the contractor. Once the contract has been executed, the contractor will proceed to work solely under the direction and guidance of the OEP staff. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), the responsible official (i.e., the OEP staff) "shall furnish guidance and participate in the preparation and shall independently evaluate the [environmental document] prior to its approval and take responsibility for its scope and contents."

(This sample RFP is set up to include the seven appendices at the end of this manual.)

- A. OCI Representation and Disclosure Statements*
- B. OCI Questionnaire*
- C. Contractor CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement*
- D. OCI Certification*
- E. Project Overview Map*
- F. List of Available Background Documents*
- G. Sample Contract*

Chapter 4. FERC's ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND OFF-THE-RECORD COMMUNICATIONS (EX PARTE) REQUIREMENTS

An OCI exists when the nature of the work to be performed may, without some restriction on future activities:

- result in an unfair competitive advantage to a contractor; or
- impair the contractor's objectivity in performing the contract work.

OCIs typically exist where the contractor and/or its employees have a past, present, or ongoing financial interest in a project to be covered by the third-party contract. For example, an OCI exists if the contractor:

- has been involved with the applicant on the project before it is proposed to the Commission, or while it is pending before the Commission;
- has an ongoing relationship with the applicant;
- would be called on to review its own prior work; or
- has a financial or other interest in the outcome of the Commission's decision.

The contractor may work on the project for the applicant after the Commission has decided whether to approve the project as long as there was no prior agreement or expectation that approval of the project would result in such involvement.

All contractors (offerors) must submit as part of their proposals a statement of **Offeror's Organizational Conflicts of Interest Disclosure or Representations** (OCI Statement). Specifically, offerors must reveal all relationships, including ownership interests, with all FERC regulated pipelines and their affiliates, gathering companies, brokers and marketers of natural gas, major producers and their affiliates, and end users of natural gas such as industrial users, including cogeneration facilities. Offerors must state whether or not there is an OCI, and if so, to what extent. Offerors must provide an abstract listing all the above entities with which it or its subcontractors have had a business relationship and indicate whether or not that relationship results in a real or perceived conflict. In the event an apparent or real conflict is listed, a detailed mitigation plan to resolve and isolate any OCI should be included in the abstract. Detailed guidance regarding the OCI Statement, including requirements and definitions, begins on page 4-3.

The above obligation carries through the actual performance period of the work covered by this RFP. In other words, if during the performance of that work the offeror has, or is contemplating a relationship, including ownership interest,

with any of the entities identified in the preceding paragraph, then the OEP staff must be notified and a conflict mitigation plan, if necessary, must be proposed.

The offeror's conflict mitigation plan should describe the mechanism used to ensure availability of and access to resources, and the mechanism used by project manager(s) to gather resources to ensure continuation and timely completion of assigned tasks when a real or apparent OCI occurs.

The applicant will review each OCI Statement and abstract to determine whether the offeror is capable of impartially performing the environmental services required under the contract. The applicant shall certify that neither the offeror nor its subcontractors have an OCI. A format for this certification is included as appendix D. All OCI materials submitted to OEP (including the offeror's OCI Statement, mitigation plans, and the applicant's certification) will be reviewed by OGC.

The selected contractor will have a continuing obligation to identify conflicts that may arise because of changes in corporate identity, affiliation, structure, or ownership, or changes to the contract. In the event an OCI is discovered after award, the contractor shall stop work on the assigned task immediately, notify the OEP Project Manager (who will notify OGC) of the OCI, create a plan to mitigate the conflict through assignment to a subcontractor and get OGC approval, in writing, to implement that plan. The decision of OGC shall be final. As more thoroughly discussed below, post-award communications between the applicant and the contractor will be limited by the Commission's off-the-record communications rule. Therefore, **any post-award OCI issue or problem shall be reported directly to the OEP Project Manager in writing.**

Subcontractors also must submit an OCI Statement and, where necessary, a mitigation plan to resolve real or perceived OCIs.

Off-the-Record Communications

In order to avoid all possibilities of prejudice, real or apparent communications between the applicant and contractor are subject to the Commission's off-the-record communications (sometimes referred to as ex parte) rule found at 18 CFR 385.2201. Note that the restrictions on off-the-record communications do not apply during the Commission's Pre-Filing Process. However, the OEP staff will treat most communications between itself or the third-party contractor and the applicant during this period as subject to public disclosure to ensure openness of the NEPA process. An off-the-record communication is a written or oral communication that is:

- off the record; and

- deals with the merits of a pending proceeding.

The Commission will treat the prohibitions on off-the-record communications as being applicable to communications between an applicant and a third-party contractor under Commission supervision and control. The contractor shall report all such communications to OGC. Oral communications are generally not considered off-the-record if reasonable prior notice and an opportunity to participate have been given to the parties to the case. Other exceptions are listed at 18 CFR 385.2201(b) and (e).

All inquiries regarding OCI and off-the-record communications should be directed to the OGC contact persons listed at the end of this chapter.

Offeror's OCI Disclosure and Representations

Requirements

All offerors must provide the information and assurances called for by this section.

The offeror must submit (as a separate volume) the following documents from each of the entities listed herein:¹

1. Either (a) the OCI Representation Statement (representing that the offeror has no OCIs), or (b) the OCI Disclosure Statement (in the event that the offeror has information relevant to a potential OCI). (See appendix A.) If the OCI Disclosure Statement is signed, provide an attachment showing the information required.

1 The types of entities or individuals required to complete the forms listed above are as follows:

- The prime contractor.
- The subcontractor(s) (unless the subcontractor(s) is only providing supplies) and consultants at every tier.
- All affiliates of the foregoing if the prime or subcontractors do not file on their behalf.
- Any entities owned or represented by the chief executives or directors of: the prime contractor; any of the subcontractors, except for those only providing supplies; and any of the consultants.
- Chief executives and directors - if they will be involved in performing the proposed work of: the prime contractor; the subcontractors at every tier (except for subcontractors which are only providing supplies); consultants at every tier; and all affiliates of the foregoing.

2. The OCI Questionnaire (see appendix B). If you answer any questions "YES," provide an attachment showing the requested information in detail. Please do not reference any information in other sections of your proposal.

Notice

Apart from other remedies allowed by law or contract, any deliberate non-disclosure or misrepresentation of facts relevant to the OCI disclosure required by the Commission may result in disqualification of the offeror/contractor from future third-party contracts.

Discussion

It is the policy of the Commission to identify and avoid or mitigate an OCI before selecting a third-party contractor.

Generally, to determine whether an OCI exists, the Commission considers these two questions:

- Are there conflicting roles (including potential financial involvement) which might bias a contractor's judgment in relation to its work for the Commission?²
- Is the contractor being given an unfair competitive advantage based on the performance of the contract?

Using common sense and good business judgment, OGC will determine whether an OCI exists after examining:

- all relevant facts submitted by the offeror;
- the statement of work; and
- information gained from other sources.

If an OCI does exist, OGC shall require the offeror/contractor to submit an acceptable mitigation plan. If the conflict cannot be resolved through an adequate mitigation plan, the offeror/contractor will be ineligible for selection or for proceeding with the third-party contract.

To avoid the potential for actual or perceived OCI after a contract is signed under this RFP, the offeror must not enter into any agreements with the applicant to perform any function on this project outside of that contemplated in this RFP, until after the

2 These may include work for the applicant on this project, or for applicant or another energy firm in the same general project area, especially if the work is for a similar project.

Commission has issued a final order on the project. The offeror must similarly avoid agreeing to perform any function for another company on a similar project in the same geographic area, and over the same time period if the facilities would be located in the same area or if there could be a perception that there would be a conflict.

Definitions

1. The term "organizational conflicts of interest" means that a relationship or situation exists whereby an offeror or a contractor (including chief executives and directors, to the extent that they will or do become involved in the performance of the contract, and proposed consultants or subcontractors where they may be performing services similar to the services provided by the prime) has past, present, or currently planned interests that either directly or indirectly (through a client, contractual, financial, organizational or other relationship) may relate to the work to be performed under the third-party contract and that (a) may diminish its capacity to give impartial, technically sound, objective assistance and advice, or (b) may result in the offeror/contractor gaining an unfair competitive advantage. OCI does not include the normal flow of benefits from the performance of the contract.
2. The term "affiliates" means business concerns which are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly one concern or individual controls or has the power to control another, or when a third party controls or has the power to control both.
3. The term "energy concern" includes:
 - a. Any person significantly engaged in the business of developing, extracting, producing, refining, transporting by pipeline, converting into synthetic fuel, distributing, or selling minerals for use as an energy source, or in the generation or transmission of energy from such minerals or from wastes or renewable resources;
 - b. Any person holding an interest in property from which coal, natural gas, crude oil, nuclear material or a renewable resource is commercially produced or obtained;
 - c. Any person significantly engaged in the business of producing, generating, transmitting, distributing, or selling electric power;

- d. Any person significantly engaged in development, production, processing, sale or distribution of nuclear materials, facilities or technology; and
- e. Any person --
 - (1) significantly engaged in the business of conducting research, development, or demonstration related to an activity described in paragraphs (a) through (d); or
 - (2) significantly engaged in conducting such research, development, or demonstration with financial assistance under any Act the functions of which are vested in or delegated or transferred to the Chair of the Commission.

Contacts

Direct all inquiries regarding OCI to:

General and Administrative Law
Telephone (202) 502-6457, specifically:

Wilbur Miller, Senior Staff Attorney
General and Administrative Law (GC-13)
Wilbur.miller@ferc.gov
Telephone (202) 502-8953

Direct all inquiries regarding off-the-record communications to:

Jeffrey Kaplan, Staff Counsel
General and Administrative Law (GC-13)
jeffrey.kaplan@ferc.gov
Telephone (202) 502-8788

**COMPLETE EITHER THE REPRESENTATION OR THE DISCLOSURE –
NOT BOTH**

OCI Representation Statement

I hereby certify (or as a representative of my organization, I hereby certify) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, no facts exist relevant to any past, present or currently planned interest or activity (financial, contractual, personal, organizational or otherwise) that relate to the proposed work; and bear on whether I have (or the organization and any of its affiliates has) a possible conflict of interest with respect to (1) being able to render impartial, technically sound, and objective assistance or advice; or (2) being given an unfair competitive advantage.¹

Signature : _____ Date : _____

Name : _____ Title : _____

Organization : _____

OCI Disclosure Statement

I hereby certify (or as a representative of my organization, I hereby certify) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all relevant facts -- concerning past, present or currently planned interests or activities (financial, contractual, organizational or otherwise) that relate to the proposed work and bear on whether I have (or the organization has) a possible conflict of interest with respect to (1) being able to render impartial, technically sound, and objective assistance or advice, or (2) being given an unfair competitive advantage¹ -- are fully disclosed on the attached ___ page(s) and formatted to show:

- For ease of presentation, the OCI information is divided into four parts, indicating whether the possible OCI is: organizational, contractual, financial, or other;
- The company, agency, organization in which I (or my organization) have a past, present, or currently planned interest or activity (financial, contractual, organizational, or otherwise);

¹ An unfair competitive advantage does not include the normal flow of benefits from the performance of the contract.

APPENDIX A

- A brief description of the relationship;
- The period of the relationship;
- The extent of the relationship (such as value of financial interest of work; percent of total holdings, total work, etc.); and
- A mitigation plan, as necessary.

Signature : _____ Date : _____

Name : _____ Title : _____

Organization : _____

Name of Person
or Organization: _____

OCI Questionnaire ¹

1. Will you (or your organization) be involved in the performance of any portion of the proposed work under this solicitation?
 - No.
 - Yes. The portion of the proposed work; the proposed hours and dollar value; and the type of involvement are fully disclosed on the attached pages.
2. What is (are) the major type(s) of business conducted by you (or your organization)? Please reply on the attached pages.
3. Do you (or your organization) have any affiliates?
 - No.
 - Yes. The name and a description of the major type(s) of business that each affiliate conducts are disclosed on the attached pages.
4. Will any of the following be involved in performing the proposed work under this solicitation: (a) any entities owned or represented by you (or your organization); (b) your organization's Chief Executive or any of its directors; or (c) any affiliates? ²
 - No.
 - Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given in the attached pages.
5. Are you (or your organization) an energy concern? ²
 - No.
 - Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given on the attached pages.

1 All questions in the questionnaire apply to affiliates as well. Whenever possible, each affiliate should submit a separate questionnaire. However, in the event each affiliate does not submit a separate questionnaire (for instance, to avoid completing a large number of questionnaires), this questionnaire must incorporate information regarding all affiliates.

2 See Definitions in Chapter 4.

Name of Person
or Organization: _____

6. Within the past 3 years have you (or your organization) had a direct or indirect relationship (financial, organizational, contractual or otherwise) with any business entity that could be affected in any way by the proposed work under this solicitation?
- () No.
- () Yes. List the business entity(ies) showing the nature of your relationship (including the dates of the relationship, and the dollar value of any financial relationship) and how it would be affected by the proposed work under this solicitation.
7. What percentage of your total income for the current and preceding fiscal years resulted from arrangements with any of the entities identified in Question 6 above?
- ___ % For the current fiscal year -- from / / to / / .
- ___ % For the preceding fiscal year -- from / / to / / .
- ___ % For the second preceding fiscal year -- from / / to / / .
8. Do you (or your organization) currently have or have you had during the last 6 years any arrangements (for example, contracts and cooperative agreements) awarded, administered, or funded -- wholly or partly -- by the Commission or any other Federal agency which relate to the proposed Statement of Work?
- () No.
- () Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given on the attached pages.
9. Do you (or your organization) have or have you ever had any contracts, agreements, special clauses, or other arrangements which prohibit you (or your organization) from proposing work to be performed in this solicitation or any portion thereof?
- () No.
- () Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given on the attached pages.

Name of Person
or Organization: _____

10. Do you (or your organization) have any involvement with or interest (direct or indirect) in technologies which are or may be subjects of the contract, or which may be substitutable for such technologies?
- No.
 - Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given on the attached pages.
11. Could you (or your organization) in either your private or Federal Government business pursuits use information acquired in the performance of the proposed work under this solicitation; such as:
- (a) Data generated under the contract?
 - (b) Information concerning Commission plans and programs?
 - (c) Confidential and proprietary data of others?
- No.
 - Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given on the attached pages.
12. Under the proposed work under this solicitation, will you (or your organization) evaluate or inspect your own services or products, or the services or products of any other entity that has a relationship (such as client, organizational, financial, or other) with you (or your organization)? This could include evaluating or inspecting a competitor's goods and services.
- No.
 - Yes. A full disclosure and discussion is given on the attached pages.
13. To avoid what you perceive as a possible OCI, do you (or your organization) propose to: exclude portions of the proposed work; employ special clauses; or take other measures?
- No.
 - Yes. A full discussion is given on the attached pages.
 - No possibility of an OCI is perceived. This answer is briefly justified on the attached pages.

I hereby certify that I have authority to represent my organization, if applicable, and that -- to the best of my knowledge and belief -- the facts and representations presented on the four pages of this questionnaire and on the ___ pages of the attachment to it are accurate and complete.

Name of Person
or Organization: _____

I recognize that OCI is an ongoing obligation. Should I become aware of any actual or potential OCI during performance of this contract, I will advise the OEP staff and (*applicant name*) and propose mitigation or explain why none is needed.

Signature : _____ Date : _____

Name : _____ Title : _____

Organization : _____

CONTRACTOR CEII NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

On behalf of [*contractor name*], I certify that [*contractor name*] will abide by the following terms with respect to critical energy infrastructure information (CEII) that the company has access to because of its work for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

- Only authorized company employees with a need for the information will be given access to CEII. [*contractor name*] will maintain a list of each employee who is given access to CEII, including a listing of each project for which the employee has been given CEII.
- [*Contractor name*] will not provide CEII to or discuss CEII with anyone outside the company, except that CEII may be discussed with the project's owner, operator, or applicant.
- Any copies made of CEII will be marked as CEII, and treated as CEII.
- CEII will be used only in performance of [*contractor name*]'s work for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. When [*contractor name*] has completed work on the project, all CEII will be returned to the Commission.
- I acknowledge that a violation of this agreement may result in negative consequences and could affect [*contractor name*]'s ability to contract with the Commission in the future.

By: _____
Title: _____
Representing: _____
Date: _____

OCI Certification

I, (*reporting individual*), am responsible for reviewing proposals received in response to (*applicant name*)'s Request for Proposals for the preparation of an Environmental (*Assessment/Impact Statement*) and related documents and services for the proposed (*project name*) Project.

I have reviewed the proposal of (*contractor name*) for Organizational Conflicts of Interest. I hereby certify that (*contractor name*) has complied with the OCI Representation or OCI Disclosure requirements of the RFP and that there are no real or apparent disqualifying conflicts of interest.

Signature : _____

Title : _____

Date : _____

(Project Overview Map)

APPENDIX F

(Appendix F, List of Available Background Documents, might be structured as follows:)

The following background documents are available and should be reviewed by all contractors prior to preparation and submittal of proposals in response to this RFP:

- *(Draft)* FERC Certificate Application environmental exhibit for the *(project name)*
- FERC staff's current Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures
- FERC staff's current Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan
- 1 set of *(draft)* alignment sheets
- 1 set of *(draft)* quadrangle maps
- *(any other major state or Federal applications containing pertinent environmental data)*
- FERC FEIS for the *(name of recent FERC EIS)* Project or and other recent FERC-prepared EISs

These documents (*, as well as other project-related documents not provided with the RFP,*) are available for review at:

(location)

Contact: *(name)*
(telephone number)

(Sample Contract)

There are a few concepts that we look for in all sample contracts for a third-party contractor. Although the language varies from contract to contract, the concepts are the same. These concepts as worded below should be incorporated into your contract.

- 1. The Contractor shall meet the time frames established in the RFP, or as modified by the FERC staff during completion of the Work by contractor.*
- 2. The Contractor shall not replace the Project Manager, assistant Project Manager, or other key employee or subcontractor personnel without the prior written consent of (company name) and the FERC staff.*
- 3. Other than monthly invoices and supporting documentation as discussed in _____, the Contractor shall not release any environmental documentation or related studies, reports, or other materials prepared under and discussed in the RFP to (company name) or any other entity (other than the FERC staff and cooperating government agencies as identified by the FERC staff) without prior written consent of the FERC staff.*
- 4. (Company name) shall have the right to audit any and all records and accounts that support such charges and are pertinent to Work performed hereunder at reasonable times during the course of the Work and for a period of _____. This right shall not include inspection of the Contractor's work product or other studies, reports, or materials prepared under the RFP without the prior written consent of the FERC staff.*
- 5. (Company name) and FERC staff shall have the right, at any time and in their sole discretion, to have any personnel of the Contractor, or the Contractor's vendor or subcontractor, either temporarily or permanently dismissed from the job and removed ...*
- 6. The Contractor is an independent Contractor under the sole technical direction of the FERC staff.*
- 7. The FERC shall have all ownership rights, including exclusive copyright ownership, in all data, reports, information, manuals, computer programs, or other written, recorded, photographic, or visual materials, or other deliverables produced in the performance of this contract. Neither (company name) nor the Contractor shall retain ownership interest in any product resulting from this Work.*

APPENDIX G