

Distribution Underground (DUCT) Construction

Contractor Engagement Event Discussion Summary – Prince George – Feb 20 2018

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REGIONS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
(The group was asked if the Prince George regional boundaries make sense?)	It seems rather small, it should include Vanderhoof, Mackenzie, McBride	
How will places such as Terrace and Kitimat be serviced?	They will covered under Stage 2 of this process - the prequalified contractor list	
How many contractors will be considered for each region?	Only one contractor will be selected to service each region. A contractor could win multiple areas, but we will be identifying a cap. BC Hydro needs to maintain a degree of competitive leverage. If one contractor took the whole province, for example, there is a good chance there may not be any civil contractors left when we return to market in 3 or 5 or 7 years. There will not be an option to turn down work, however we do expect to see sub-contracting in order to meet capacity needs during certain times	
Regarding muster points - are we to assume all work will come from Prince George? Or will it come from Vanderhoof?	We are expecting the muster points to be where the bulk of the work is coming out of. The muster points will be identified in the RFP	Identify muster points
So there is a lot of risk on the Contractor to know all the soils required in the entire region you are bidding on, right?	Our expectation is that the cost of risk is balanced in the unit price. We understand winter construction is more expensive and winter travel is more expensive. We expect that in regions where there is lots of travel unit prices will reflect that difference. We are prepared to pay for quality work from a quality contractor.	

UNITS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
Is this going to be a unit price contract like the Lower Mainland?	Yes. This contract will include the same Distribution work types but it will be a different contract collectively	
It can be difficult to get things like sod at certain times. To do a transformer change for example, it can be difficult to finish off the restoration. What can we do in these instances?	This would be addressed with your Contract Manager on a case-by-case basis. A practical solution would be discussed an agreed upon. Note that restoration costs should be included in your proposed unit prices.	

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
With unit pricing, will there be circumstances that change the value, like digging into a 4 foot rock for example?	<p>We understand there is unpredictability in underground construction. We have incorporated variable units to deal with such situations. These can be discussed and approved with the Contract Manager so that a fair and equitable agreement can be reached.</p> <p>We don't want to be gauged, we require fairness and transparency. You will be required to demonstrate the work you have done so that you can be fairly compensated. We also understand that we do not want to interrupt the flow of work. We want to enable communication so that processes such as change orders can be easily approved and move on with the work.</p>	
For trouble units, what are you referring to?	An example would be when line crews are pulling a conductor. If they pull it out and can't get it back in because a duct was crushed, for example, they will need a civil crew to come out. It may be required immediately or as soon as possible. That is a trouble scenario.	
How do you factor in weather in travelling? For example, what if a motor vehicle accident shuts down the highway?	We don't have a specific answer at this time, but that would like be addressed by variable units. We will consider this	Consider travel unit - distance vs. time
How will LOAs be addressed?	We don't expect LOAs to be built into unit prices. They will be addressed in the RFP	Define LOA parameters
Do you want us to submit a unit price for all materials?	Duct supply will be a unit. Other materials such as glue, pull string, consumable items, saw blades etc. are expected to be covered in your overhead	
Will there be provisions for the degree of difficulty as far as ground conditions? I.e. Type 1, type 2, type 3?	There are soil classifications in the standards book. Section W is our construction specifications and it outlines cold weather etc. We are also relying on your regional knowledge to dictate the unit pricing. A unit in July will be the same as a unit December. The expectation is the unit price will be balanced. Understanding how to construct what we are asking you to construct should come through in the overall unit price. We will not break things down with respect to complexity such as level 1, level 2 etc.	

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
I see a problem with backfill material. The Contractor will likely have to keep a supply of certified material and our local yards don't supply year round. Could a storage unit be incorporated?	We will consider this	Consider need for storage in areas where materials can be difficult to source in a timely manner

GENERAL

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
To confirm, how long is this contract for?	This is a 3 year contract with two 2 potential year extension options	
Is the goal of the RFP to have one organization get all of the work for all upcoming bids under this civil contract?	Yes, the work that will be flowing through this contract will be the high frequency, lower value work, not necessarily capital projects. This contract covers more customer driven work, subdivision expansions, maintenance, express connects, trouble and restoration work. It is moderately complex to simple, lower value items. At the moment, we are in discussions with Capital Projects to determine if there is a possibility to include the larger pieces of BC Hydro work, but at this time, the contract is really focused on lower value, higher frequency work	
We thought the annual historical spend for the Prince George region would be higher, can you explain?	Historically, some of our work has not been captured well at BC Hydro. The numbers that we are showing are what we know now, but there may be more. You as the local contractors may have a better grasp on this. We are working on creating a forecast to give an indication of what work is upcoming	
Are new subdivisions considered capital work?	No, that is customer driven work and would be included under this contract	
Will all regions be bid on at the same time?	Yes, all regions will be included in one RFP and contractors can bid on multiple regions at the same time.	

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
How will certain RFP requirements be weighed? For example, what if a Contractor meets the safety and quality requirements but does not have civil underground experience? Or what if they have experience, but do not meet the safety and quality requirements?	We have not yet identified the weightings for the RFP, but we are looking for the most well rounded Contractor. We will figure out a way to balance these components. The weightings and evaluation criteria will be included in the RFP when it is released to market.	RFP weightings to be determined
How will civil underground work be issued in circumstances such as transformer jobs where coordination between Civil and Line is required? In the past, this work has been included with Line Services ROC jobs	That is an example of a collaborative effort between BC Hydro departments. In these cases, tasks will be issued separately.	
With regard to trouble calls - would it practical to say that you could get a 2am call to mobilize and get out to support a line crew to repair a transformer?	Yes and variable units would accommodate for this emergent work. Line crews will always be the first called to mobilize and respond and civil crews will be called in as required, and once the area is made safe	
What is the minimum response time required?	We have not yet outlined these details, but we will develop criteria around that	Develop criteria re response times for various work streams
With regard to materials is anything provided by BC Hydro?	Typically just precast unless we specify something specific. All grounding kits are also supplied as they come as a package with the precast. The standards will show you the complete installation requirements. Each section of the standards will also outline what materials are supplied by the contractor and what materials are supplied by BC Hydro in the Bill of Material	
Will Contractors be expected to keep a certain amount of material supply on hand?	We don't want to mandate that, but understanding your region and its constraints are an expectation. If that is a common problem we would expect you to develop ways to work around it	
Will BCH be working collaboratively with us in terms of shortage in duct supply?	If unusual or extreme circumstances arise, we will endeavor to work with you towards a solution	
Is the intent to schedule the bulk of the work over the winter when the costs can be higher?	No, we typically have a 'construction season' where the work volumes are higher. In the winter, the work volumes tend to be lower	

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Will the Contractor be involved in scheduling at all? Do we need have a crew of 100 for one month and a crew of 10 for the next?	We will have in-service dates that we would like to see the work done, but this can change with conversation with the Contract Manager. We need work to be done in a timely manner, however we want you to take ownership knowing that we having something to be delivered. Where line outages are required, you will be notified in advance. We also expect Contractors to utilize sub contracting arrangements when required	
What will be done to ensure on time payments?	BC Hydro has already taken steps to improve payment efficiencies and we intend to continue in this direction	
Will a release be issued with each job?	Our vision is to issue a high value release at the beginning of the contract. We will need to ensure this meets our crown corporation requirements, but we think this will increase efficiency. Every job will have its own work order	
Are we using Ariba with this contract?	Yes	
I see most of this as 'here's a job, go do it, send an invoice'. Will progressive billing be used in situations such as subdivisions?	We are not inclined to use progressive billing, but can consider whether it will be worthwhile. Generally, this contract is not geared up for this	Consider progressive billing situations
Do you think the Lower Mainland Contractors will understand the administrative burdens so that they can capture these in their bids?	Each group has received the same information	
Do you have prices in mind for the proposed units?	No, but we will develop some sort of baseline. We wouldn't collapse the RFP unless something extreme happened. The baseline will be a starting point, not a decision point	Consider including a baseline price in the RFP
(The group was asked - Are you interested in the capital projects and can you handle those as well as the currently proposed work?)	Yes, it would give us the ability to put a crew aside and provide consistent work	
Are customer builds included in this contract?	Customer builds are jobs that a customer wants done, but they have an external developer to do it. We have no control over the issuing of this work other than requiring that certain standards are met. This work is not included in this contract, but that does not preclude you from doing it for somebody else	