

# Distribution Underground (DUct) Construction

## Contractor Engagement Event Discussion Summary – Vernon – Jan 25 2018

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**SAFETY**

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<p><b>How set in stone is the COR certification requirement? Have you considered that there are concerns of a mass industry exodus from this program (potentially supported by Work Safe BC) due to the difficult requirements and costs?</b></p>	<p>This is good feedback thank you. At this time, the COR certification requirement is an expectation of BC Hydro's and is expected to continue. If you do not currently have COR certification, there will be a mechanism written into the RFP that will allow us to consider bids from contractors who <u>intend</u> to obtain COR certification in the very near future. In this case, deadlines to obtain COR certification would apply</p>	
<p><b>Is Safe Certification acceptable?</b></p>	<p>No, at this time we do not expect that it will be a suitable alternative to COR certification. There is value to BC Hydro to adhere to a set standard. We understand this is a cost to our Contractors, and we are willing to pay for this</p>	
<p><b>How serious is the approach to BC Hydro's 9 lifesaving rules? If one is broken would automatic dismissal be expected?</b></p>	<p>That criteria has not been determined at this time. Safety is a priority and we intend to have monthly safety meetings with our contractors where a safety violation would be addressed.</p>	
<p><b>Is there a monthly quota or expectation in terms of safety reporting?</b></p>	<p>Yes, there is a high probability that there will be a safe reporting metric included in the contract. Contracts in BC Hydro where safety reporting measures have been implemented have increased safety awareness and fostered collaborative and constructive conversations between BCH and the contractors. For this reason we are considering this as a reporting metric. To be clear though, contract specific metrics have not yet been determined, nor will they be determined without the contractors input.</p>	

**QUALITY**

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<p><b>Does QC refer more to the placement of materials (i.e. the servicing of those materials) rather than the materials themselves?</b></p>	<p>Correct. Most materials are precast to BC Hydro standards and have already been QA'd and stamped. Note that the Contractor assumes responsibility for the quality of these products upon delivery to site. Inspections are highly recommended.</p>	

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
	<p>Additionally, There are some cast in place scenarios which should be captured in your quality management plans. The standards for this are outlined in the ES54 Standards.</p>	
<p><b>Will inspections be done on site? If so, won't this cause delays?</b></p>	<p>Yes, every job will be inspected. If BC Hydro does not have the inspection capacity to attend in certain circumstances, we will require proof of quality instead - photos for example. Providing something like this inspection status will be something that is addressed in your QA plan that BC Hydro will expect to be part of your bid package. BC Hydro will be paying for quality and as such, quality material and work is an expectation</p>	
<p><b>What testing will be involved i.e. Civ test, concrete designs etc.? Will this all be the responsibility of the Contractor?</b></p>	<p>Testing criteria are in the ES 54 Standards and are the responsibility of the contractor to affect as per the Standards.</p>	
<p><b>If alternative products are required, who will be involved? What if the quality of the concrete is not up to par?</b></p>	<p>In scenarios where you have been issued a work order with no mention of additional required materials, conversation will be required with the Contract Manager, who will involve the necessary parties. In this case, the Designer and BC Hydro Engineering are the appropriate contacts. Regarding concrete quality, it is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the concrete delivered to site meets the Standards or, where a non-standard batch design is used, that the non-standard batch design is approved by BC Hydro prior to work being performed.</p>	

## UNITS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<p><b>Will all rates be fixed in the initial 3 year contract?</b></p>	<p>Yes, the expectation is the price provided in your bid will be a price that reflects all costs required to cover that unit and that those prices will remain constant for the 3 year term of the contract. However BC Hydro understands extenuating</p>	

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	<p>circumstances can occur and will manage those scenarios on a case-by-case basis through conversations with contractors</p>	
<p><b>Would changing fuel prices be considered an extenuating circumstance?</b></p>	<p>No, we are expecting to use a fuel adjustor clause in the contract. And because this adjustor will be included as a separate contract +/-, it will not need to be included in the unit price in your bid. These types of adjustors will be explained clearly in the RFP in order for you unit price to reflect the correct overheads.</p>	
<p><b>Will you be requesting a fixed hourly rate for equipment, manning, etc.?</b></p>	<p>Variable units that will cover those. There will be no cost plus</p>	
<p><b>In remote areas, materials can be difficult to obtain. How will this be addressed?</b></p>	<p>We recognize that this is a challenge in certain areas. Variable units (I.E. Travel) will be applicable in these scenarios</p>	
<p><b>Will there be a unit for removing contaminated soils?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><b>How will coordination with BC Hydro crews that require standby or hold offs be addressed?</b></p>	<p>Trouble work, emergent work and standby will be included in the variable units list. Please note- in this case, the definition of standby time is on a coordinated site where civil and line are both present and the civil contractor has to "standby" while the line crew performs a function of their work then the civil contractor continues their work. This does not mean standby time over a weekend waiting for a trouble call or standby time waiting for a storm call. This is strictly for coordinated work.</p>	
<p><b>How will standby for weather be addressed and who will monitor this?</b></p>	<p>Standby units will apply and we expect Contractors to self-report on this with integrity</p>	
<p><b>How will safety watch be addressed?</b></p>	<p>When the job is coordinated, the line crew is responsible to act as a safety watch. On non-coordinated work the expectation is that the civil contractor engages a safety watch (third party or ROC contractor) that acts as a safety watch for that job. There will be a variable Safety Watch Unit to address the cost.</p>	

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>There are a lot of variables associated with travelling. 100km can take 1 hour or 9 hours depending on conditions, how can we address this?</b>	We would consider coupling travel units with standby units if there were unexpected issues getting to work sites. This is often labelled as an equitable adjustment. This will be a conversation with the Contract Manager that may result in a change order to the initial estimate / assessment for the work order	
<b>Why are you moving to a unitized approach?</b>	It provides more visibility into our spending and provides more information to us moving forward in order to provide our supply base (you the contractors) with a more reliable demand plan based on historical trends, etc.	
<b>Will overtime rates apply in travel units?</b>	The criteria for overtime work will be addressed in the RFP	
<b>How will LOAs be addressed?</b>	LOAs will be separate from a unit price and applied where applicable	
<b>You have mentioned you are looking for unit prices for the '80%', can you provide an example of an average job and all unit involved so we can estimate accordingly?</b>	We will consider adding an example of an average job to the RFP to allow for a more accurate price estimate on units.	Explore options for providing such a list
<b>Why can't travel be billed by the hour instead of in 100km increments?</b>	This is an interesting suggestion which we will consider. Travel units need to be consistent across all of BC. We are trying to find the best solution for all.	Consider alternative travel measurements

## REGIONS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>Are the regions set in stone? Could Salmon Arm, Merritt and Revelstoke be included in region 10 instead of 9?</b>	No, if the regions do not make sense, we can adjust them. We are here for this exact purpose and knowing you are the regional experts, we want to understand if one of our anticipated regions does not make sense.	Consider regional boundary adjustment, taking into account impacts on efficient contract administration

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>Would you give Salmon Arm its own region since there are so many Contractors in the area?</b>	The regions are built on density of work, not necessarily contractor availability.	
<b>Which region will Golden and the Kootenay's fall under?</b>	They will not fall under a region. Those areas of the province will be serviced by the pre-qualified contractors selected in stage 2	
<b>How will the work in the North be broken up? E.g. Prince George, Williams Lake, Quesnel?</b>	Prince George and the surrounding area will be a region. The rest of the work in the North will be provided by the pre-qualified contractors selected in stage 2	
<b>In terms of the RFP, will all regions close at the same time?</b>	Yes, all regions will be available to bid on simultaneously once the RFP s released on BC Bid and will close at the same time as well.	

## GENERAL

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>Can you provide examples of the type of work this contract covers?</b>	Maintenance, back bone installs of feeder network, small junction boxes, manholes, grounding, fixing crushed ducts, trouble related work (pilasters, dig-ins etc.) non-standard installations as dictated by site conditions. Please consult the ES -54 Standards for all related materials and types of equipment that this contract covers.	
<b>So will this contract include any of the Capital projects?</b>	We cannot confirm that at this point. Right now, we know that the maintenance and system upgrade work will be. While there will always be Capital projects tendered out, there may be an opportunity to include some in this contract.	Build demand plan to determine which work will be included
<b>Who will issue this work? Will it be issued locally?</b>	We are moving towards a single point of contact system. We will have a centralized administration system and work will be issued by Service Contract Administrators	

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<b>Does the work get spread out throughout the year?</b>	Typically, the customer driven work is unpredictable and may vary from region to region and season to season. Where possible, BCH will attempt to provide forecasted workloads for planned work (i.e. maintenance, system improvement etc.)	
<b>Will the volume of work be guaranteed</b>	No. We will provide an indication in the RFP, but there will be no guarantees of work volume in the contract.	Generate demand plan
<b>Would you work with the Contractor to map out an annual forecast?</b>	Where BCH can predict work we will attempt to provide a forecast. Trouble, emergent and customer driven work cannot be forecasted/predicted. Historical data may give an indication of future work but is not guaranteed and should not be relied on for planning purposes (i.e. crew staffing, equipment etc.)	
<b>Will stage 2 work use the same unit list or will it be quoted work at lump sum costs?</b>	It is anticipated that we will have a modified unit list for the pre-qualification stage. But one agreement will not influence the other - meaning the contracts from our stage 1 and 2 procurement expectations will be separate agreements	
<b>If subcontractors are hired to ensure capacity, will they require BC Hydro approval?</b>	At this point we are not expecting to approve the expected list of subcontractors. We will however expect that general contractor will be able to provide proof of each subcontracts capability to perform the work.	
<b>Is there a right to refuse work once a contractor has been awarded the contract for a region?</b>	No, if a Contractor is awarded the region they will have bid on that region proving their ability to service that region as required, and thus are expected to be able to complete the work. Subcontracting is an acceptable means of increasing capacity.	
<b>You want us to guarantee capacity, but you won't guarantee volumes?</b>	We will provide an indication / forecast, but that is correct the contract will have no guarantees of work volume. We are open to suggestions on how to develop and work with you to provide more reliable demand forecasts that benefit our Contractors	
<b>Will BC Hydro be providing quarterly work volume estimates?</b>	The delivery plan forecast will give an indication of planned work but not an indication of unpredictable work. Yes, the plan is to provide this information quarterly	

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<b>How much notification will be provided before the work has to be completed?</b>	<p>It is anticipated that we will have set service dates for particular categories of work. For example, emergent work could be 30 days or less, or perhaps 15 days or less.</p> <p>We acknowledge that time is required to plan work. Where outages are required, BC Hydro will need to adhere to those. We also expect to pay a premium for short cycle / emergent work</p>	
<b>Who will be responsible for scheduling outages?</b>	<p>BC Hydro will be responsible for this and it will be communicated to Civil Contractor</p>	
<b>What does this group think of the RFP release date?</b>	<p>Spring is a good time because you know your workforce at that point and can bid other work around it</p> <p>By September, you may lose interest that late in the season Sept-Dec is high time for all of us</p> <p>Ramp tends to ramp down in August due to vacations, but back up in September</p> <p>It also depends on how long we have to complete the bid and how many Units need to be bid on</p>	<p>BCH to compile all feedback and adjust RFP release date as required</p>
<b>Will BC Hydro develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the performance of the contract on their own, and will these be a considering factor in the RFP?</b>	<p>No, any KPIs that will be used to measure the performance of the contract will be developed collaboratively with the successful Contractor after the contract has been awarded. This will include measuring things that are valuable to both parties, like on time payments for example. Certain industry KPIs, like safety, however, will be considering factors when assessing the bids.</p>	
<b>Are you looking into using Ariba?</b>	<p>Yes, it is currently being used for invoicing and payment purposes with several suppliers and has been successful in processing payments.</p>	



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<p><b>As a current Contractor, sometimes we receive tasks from different BC Hydro departments for the same job (e.g. the civil work AND the electrical / line work), and often the in service dates (ISD) dates are not aligned therefore adding more of an administrative cost to the contractor. How can this be addressed on the BC Hydro side?</b></p>	<p>Currently we do not have a system to identify corresponding work orders for different categories of work, or one that would amalgamate the work orders where the same contractor is responsible for both those categories of work in that region. But we understand this is impacting current contractors today and will take this back to the team discuss further.</p> <p>However, we should also recognize that where a contractor successfully won numerous categories of work, those administrative fees would have been considered in those prices meaning, what may feel like additional administrative costs should be covered by prices included in the bid. Also note that ISD dates can be adjusted or negotiated. This comes down to your relationship with the Contract Manager</p>	<p>BCH to discuss internally with process team</p>
<p><b>Will there be guidelines in the RFP that indicate which adjusters, indexes, etc. will be included in the contract and therefore not be considered in overhead for unit prices?</b></p>	<p>Yes, the RFP will clearly state which indexes or adjustors will be included in the contract and calculated at a determined frequency (i.e. quarterly, annually, etc.), and therefore will not need to be included when determining the price of each unit.</p>	

FOR FEEDBACK