

# Distribution Underground (DUCT) Construction

Contractor Engagement Event - Vancouver Island - Dec 05 2017

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## SAFETY

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>Will COR certified contractors be preferred for selection over those that intend to obtain COR certification?</b>	In the interest of fairness, we would like to give both COR and non-COR companies the opportunity to bid. However, COR certification will be a requirement within a certain time frame of contract award. Note there are other acceptable certification equivalents such as Forestry Safe and ISO. Contractors intending to bid on the RFP should consider not only the costs of implementing COR, but also the associated costs to sustaining the certification within their company.	Determine if current COR certified companies will be given preference during evaluation and selection for future contract, over companies with intent to certify. BC Hydro also acknowledges that COR Certified companies will have more insight into the costs of sustaining the certification and their bids will reflect this, over other companies that may not include the same sustainment costs in their bids
<b>What is the reason that COR certification is now mandatory?</b>	BC Hydro has taken the initiative to continuously improve our safety standards and expects to hold their contractor base to the same standards (or better) as they are considered an extension of BC Hydro	
<b>What is the future direction of BC Hydro's smoking policy?</b>	BC Hydro does not have a smoking policy that extends to Contractors. Contractors should be reminded however that sites Contractors and their employees are expected to operate on/in may have established smoking regulations which must be followed.	
<b>Will all sub trades (sub-contractors and suppliers) be required to have COR and/or Drug and Alcohol policies</b> <b>Do SUPPLIERS require COR? How are suppliers to be differentiated from contractors? Eg. A truck driver delivering concrete</b>	All Contractors are required to hold their sub-contractors and suppliers to the same standards that BC Hydro holds Contractors to. If a Contractor determines this expectation is best managed by having sub-contractors become COR Certified (for example) that will be a decision of the Contractor (not BC Hydro). However, BC Hydro will hold Contractors accountable for the standards, including safety, of their sub-contractors.	BC Hydro will investigate whether there is a different expectation(s) for sub-contractor and suppliers.
<b>(The group was asked for feedback on the Drug and Alcohol policy)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Majority companies acknowledged a Drug and Alcohol policy is already mandatory in most Contractor groups</li> <li>- Some companies have already implemented mandatory pre and post incident drug and alcohol testing</li> </ul>	

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<b>If a Contractor is acting as PRIME, does their COR certification cover everybody on site?</b>	BC Hydro recognizes that this is a larger question where we will need to determine whether COR covers sub-contractors as well.	Next step is to make firm decision on expectations of COR as it relates to the proponent, their sub-contractors and other contractors on site when a MEW exists.
<b>Will there be a Vancouver Island platform for PSSP training? Will it be BC Hydro funded?</b>	<p>BC Hydro does not pay for PSSP training. PSSP Training for contractors is delivered by the Electrical Energy Training Group (EETG). Please contact EETG directly to schedule training.</p> <p>Contact Information for Electrical Energy Training Group:</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 1-877-859-8228 EXT #1 for PSSP Training  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:registration@eetg.ca">registration@eetg.ca</a></p>	Confirm that this is our direction and that we will continue with this understanding.
<b>(BC Hydro safety culture was described)</b>	BC Hydro aims for a 'just' culture approach to safety. Incident reporting, including near miss reporting, is seen as a positive indication that Contractors are aware of safety issues and interested in taking steps to ensure risks are reduced	

## QUALITY

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>Based on the scope of work, is the expectation that all work would have some type of an ITP (Inspection Test Plan)? And how does this relate to pre job expectations and regionalized expectations?</b>	<p>There is an engineering guide available. This can be searched at bchydro.com, search term "distribution standards". In addition, inspection points are outlined in pre job documents.</p> <p>There are defined witness and hold points (ITP) in the pre-job documentation. There are spaces in the pre job document for additional witness and hold points at the discretion of the Inspector. For tendered or project work, the expectation would be that the ITP would be clearly defined by the program/project manager and that the information would be included in the project Scope of Work (SOW) and that that information was clearly communicated to all parties prior to construction starting.</p>	BC Hydro will discuss the opportunity to include examples of what is contained in the pre-job documentation in the RFP but contractors should remain aware that each job, each inspector, and each program/project manager may require different amounts and frequency of inspections.

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<b>(Expectations were outlined to the group)</b>	BC Hydro would encourage any Contractor to build a relationship with their civil inspector to facilitate the understanding of standards and quality assurance. Contractors are expected to take ownership of their services and quality	
<b>(The group was asked for feedback on the quality standards)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality Standards should be reasonable, make sense, not be overburdening, and please be very clear</li> <li>- A mechanism is required to capture the frequency of testing required in relation to job size</li> <li>- Concerns about the availability of materials and suppliers in remote areas. If BC Hydro demands specific products, additional travel / costs will be required</li> </ul>	There are clear requirements to what our standards are for materials. If they cost more, they cost more. Availability and transportation will vary between regions and will require flexibility on our side in regards to pricing in the regions. Expectation vs. reality needs to be at the forefront of our minds when we approach this topic.

## UNITS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
<b>Can the 100km travel increment standard be reduced?</b>	BC Hydro is looking for opportunities to reduce the administrative burden that varying travel unit distances would result in.	BC Hydro will look into the variable unit for travel further
<b>Can the 100km travel increment be different in different regions</b>		
<b>How will weather and traffic delays be accounted for?</b>	The contract will be written to account for working conditions 80% of the time. Normal weather and traffic delays (80% of the time) should be reflected in bid rates. There will be contract provisions for extenuating circumstances	
<b>How will travel to the gulf islands and ferry travel be accounted for?</b>		BC Hydro will discuss travel parameters further to determine the best future solution for this unit.
<b>How can the distribution of scope over TIME be accounted for? Eg. 10 metres in 1 day vs. 3 days – additional mobilization, travel, traffic control costs</b>	This is a risk that the contractor needs to manage. The contractor controls their crews and their schedule. We will not pay for inefficiencies.	Identify the difference between project work (single mob/de-mob) vs ongoing work (multiple mob/de-mob's) to determine impact to Hydro.

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Can traffic control units be broken out? Can a flat rate for traffic control be considered?	We would consider this, however, it will be difficult for Business groups to define/budget for when this occurs and an administrative burden due to change orders taking place randomly and without any parameters.	Determine if this is something BC Hydro could entertain.
Will there be units for contaminated soils and/or environmental investigations	Yes these types of unit will be included in the future Unit List	
Will BCH be asking for unit rates when pre-qualifying contracts or just quality and safety etc.?	BC Hydro anticipates using the unit list in some way for our stage/phase 2: pre-qualified list of contractors in lower-frequency areas, but a final decisions has not been made at this point	We will discuss this and provide answer once Stage 2 of our sourcing strategy commences
Will the units be shared soon?	Yes the Unit List will be made available to you via a follow up email and through BC Bid on, or before December 22 2017.	

## REGIONS

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
Could the regions be further reduced, thereby reducing travel time?	Adding additional regions creates an administrative burden on BC Hydro which is why regions have been kept to a minimum	Have a realistic look at the admin burden vs. advantage of smaller regions in some areas.
Can the North Island be included?	There is not enough volume of work on the north Island to warrant a regionalized contract	

## GENERAL

QUESTION / COMMENT	BC HYDRO SESSION FEEDBACK	BC HYDRO NEXT STEP(S)
Will the RFP evaluation criteria be made available?	The evaluation criteria, percentage weightings, and process will be published with the RFP	

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<b>How will payments be handled when Contractors are unable to provide invoices due to other sub trades?</b>	Unit rates that contractors provide in their bid should include all overhead aspects to perform that unit of work. Meaning, a Contractor should be able to pay subs as they see fit knowing that their estimates and rates BC Hydro will be invoices includes these types of overhead.	
<b>Will there be any joint work with Telus or Shaw? (concerns about union job sites)</b>	We cannot say at this point, but the BC Hydro contract will not preclude any contractor from working with other clients such as Telus or Shaw. Union-only companies are not required to work on Shaw or Telus sites.	
<b>Will work volumes be guaranteed?</b>	Volumes will not be guaranteed, however, historical data will be provided that indicate potential forecasted work volumes	
<b>What is the expected response time for jobs?</b>	Contractors will work with their Civil Inspector as work is ordered to determine a reasonable mobilization period	
<b>Are there permit fees for municipalities?</b>	* <i>Please note:</i> In the session it was stated that these are not required; however Contractors are expected to be familiar with, comply with and pay for all municipal requirements and permitting as it relates to the work they perform in the regions they are awarded.	
<b>How will payments be done? Will there be any holdbacks?</b>		Confirm that we are not doing hold-backs. Decide on whether a bond is required.
<b>Why is there such a long time between RFP close and Contract Award? When will the selected Contractor be expected to begin work?</b>	The length of time represents an interest on BC Hydro's part to ensure thorough and fair evaluation criteria are developed and then used to score bids accordingly. The contract is expected to be awarded in January 2019 and contract transition can be expected to take place between January 2019 and April 2019	Will look at project schedule and determine if bid evaluation timeline can be reduced
<b>Based on a three year term, will there be opportunities to re-negotiate within that term. How about escalation process? Eg. Inflation, union contract changes</b>	There will not be an opportunity for re-negotiation while the contract is in effect. Labour costs are expected to be forecasted. Yes, there will be an escalation process for extenuating circumstances.	

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Is BCH going to provide a list of standardized BCH supplied materials? Will this be reflected in the RFP?	A list of standardized BCH supplied materials was provided that in the session handout and will be provided in a follow-up email and BC bid post. Related information will also be provided in the RFP, or prior to the RFP.	
How will we deal with surface restoration since there are various methods?	The unit list will clearly outline what types of restoration is required. Our expectation is that the contractors are aware of those municipal/MMCD/AHJ requirements and reflect that in their unit prices.	BC Hydro will consider adding a KPI capture the success / areas of improvement related to surface restoration.
Will administrative requirements (back end processes such as change control, invoicing etc.) be included in the RFP?	Yes. BC Hydro can also share some (limited) templates to facilitate these processes	An outline of how the back end processes flow can be provided. Samples of change order forms can be provided, samples of payment approval forms can be provided in the RFP
Where should any follow-up questions be directed?	<a href="mailto:cucinfo@bchydro.com">cucinfo@bchydro.com</a>	