



City of Tacoma

Questions and Answers

Multiple Substation Retrofit RFB Specification No. PT25-0112F

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions via the in-person mandatory pre-bid meeting. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org. Navigate to [Current Contracting Opportunities / Public Works and Improvements Solicitations](#), and then click *Questions and Answers* for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

- 1. Question: Section 5 – (Soils Management) reads as if it is the contractor's responsibility to tailor the analysis based on the known/suspected contaminants. Since we have never drilled at these substations before, we do not have any knowledge of known contaminants to tailor our lab testing to. What substances do we need to assume that we need to test for at all three sites?**

Answer: As stated in previous answers, there has been no known contamination at the site(s) since built and there have been no known potential contaminants on site. Please see Section 5.04 for specifications on the execution of this work. Vendors can proactively reach out to agencies such as the Washington State Department of Ecology or Pierce County to ask about possible contaminants to help gauge what could potentially be at the sites to assist in developing the bid response. Tacoma Power has not been made aware of any issues or possible contaminants specifically.

- 2. Question: Section 5.01 B2 – States that “All areas where soils will be removed, must be evaluated for potential contaminates of concern prior to beginning excavation.” How is the contractor supposed to sample the drill cuttings prior to beginning drilling? We would need to drill a hole to produce any spoils. Is the intent to grab a bulk sample by hand at the surface?**

Answer: Tacoma Power is relying on the expertise of the vendor to determine which method is best to have the work completed in a timely fashion. As stated in Question & Answer #1 – it is the intent of Tacoma Power to have pre-construction meetings at least a month before work begins to discuss any issues before solidifying a timeline and scheduling work to begin. The vendor would need to decide if the sampling work would need to be done immediately after contract award, prior to pre-construction meetings, or closer to the work start date.

- 3. Question: If we drill a sample hole before production drilling operations begin, how will the contractor be compensated for the unknown wait / standby time that is associated with waiting for the lab to provide the appropriate test results?**

Answer: The contractor should account for any potential standby time related to obtaining test results within their overall bid. No separate compensation will be provided for wait or standby time associated with lab turnaround.

Bidders are encouraged to base their schedules and pricing on typical lab processing timelines and to plan their work accordingly.



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Tacoma Power is willing to work with the awarded vendor to provide access to the sites for sampling in a timeline that makes the most efficient and cost-effective sense for work to be scheduled and begin. Once sampling occurs, if the sites are exposed to potential contaminants, Tacoma Power will notify the vendor for appropriate amendment to any Soil Management Plans in process.