



City of Tacoma

## Questions and Answers

### Multiple Substation Retrofit RFB Specification No. PT25-0237F

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions via a pre-bid meeting on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at [www.TacomaPurchasing.org](http://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: Will the drill holes be inside or outside of the fence lines?**

Answer: On site, our team advised that all but the 3<sup>rd</sup> substation will have holes within the fence line, pending review of Engineering drawings. After review with the Engineering team, all of the perimeter drill holes will be outside the fence. The fence will be removed to facilitate the work being performed.

**2. Question: Will Tacoma Power crews be onsite during work?**

Answer: Yes, Tacoma Power crews will be doing all work outside of the well drilling scope as outlined in the specification which includes dirt disposal as well as all power work on the site. This work will be concurrent with the awarded vendor. Communication will be essential onsite for safety and work coordination.

**3. Question: Will the substations be de-energized?**

Answer: Yes, all substations and power lines in the area that could interfere with equipment will be de-energized prior to work beginning.

**4. Question: Where will the equipment be stored?**

Answer: Depending on the sites is where the equipment will be stored. Tacoma Power has identified secure sites for storage of equipment when work is not being performed and will supply security as well. Detailed information will be covered in the pre-bid meeting with the awarded vendor prior to work beginning.

**5. Question: Is there a timeline and order of substations?**

Answer: At this time, there is a tentative plan for the sequence, but it will require coordination of multiple projects with several crews within Tacoma Power. Due to this, and expecting potential unforeseen conflicts, the timeline will become firm closer to work starting date. It is hoped to complete all three projects in 2026. It is anticipated that vendors will submit bid prices with multiple mobilization and demobilization charges included in their pricing.

**6. Question: What are the holes we can see already on the property?**

Answer: Those are old salt wells which are no longer usable. These will be removed prior to work beginning.



City of Tacoma

## Questions and Answers

**7. Question: Can we get clarification on the number of holes to rods? Is it one rod per one hole or multiple rods in a hole?**

Answer: Please see Addendum #1 for an updated version of the information about rods and holes as well as how many holes will require GEM.

**8. Question: Can we quote separate mobilizations and demobilizations for each project?**

Answer: Yes, it is expected the bidders will include this cost into their bid price.

**9. Question: Will there be coordination of equipment staging as work is occurring onsite?**

Answer: Yes, communication will be key at each worksite. Team members who understand that communication is essential for the work being done correctly and efficiently are encouraged. Tacoma Power understands that things may change as work continues and it is important those performing the work will ask questions if something doesn't seem right or is outside of the norm of similar scope work which the contractor performs. It is preferable to discuss something to ensure safety and work is completed correctly than have an issue later.

**10. Question: Will the grid extend outside the fence?**

Answer: Yes, we will extend the grid 3 feet outside the fence in some places. This work will be done by Tacoma Power crews.

**11. Question: Are all utilities for this work located inside the fence?**

Answer: Tacoma Power will be doing all locates for utilities on site and have them marked prior to work beginning.

**12. Question: Would it be beneficial to utilize ground penetrating radar (GPR)?**

Answer: In previous reviews, it seems that GPR would be cost-prohibitive to the project. Tacoma Power feels that GPR is cost-prohibitive to these projects as there are not large pipelines in the area of the work being done. If a vendor chooses to utilize this technology, it would be at their own expense.

**13. Question: Is there geotechnical team looking at the sites for the scope of work?**

Answer: No

**14. Question: The depths have changed from the original specification (PT25-0112F) last summer – what caused this change?**

Answer: Our Engineering team does not note any significant changes from the previous specification, but, if the depths changed it was due further improvements associated with new design information.

**15. Question: Will there be any sample drills done prior to work being performed?**

Answer: No



## Questions and Answers

**16. Question: If Tacoma Power is handling the dirt disposal, how do we handle the dirt during work?**

Answer: Tacoma Power is still deciding how to handle at each site, but the most common procedure is to have the contractor stockpile the dirt with Visqueen below and above in an area designated.

**17. Question: What about groundwater? At one site it is expected drilling crews may encounter it. Do we just let it run off or do we want to capture it for testing?**

Answer: If groundwater is encountered during the drilling process, it can either be drummed up onsite or allowed to be placed on the dirt stockpile. It is not anticipated to encounter any large amounts of groundwater at these locations.

**18. Question: Do the teams need to decontaminate their equipment every day in case there is contaminated soil that may not be found immediately. Or would it be best to decontaminate in between sites?**

Answer: It is suggested to decontaminate the equipment between the sites.

**19. Question: Where will the staging areas be?**

Answer: This information will be covered prior to work beginning.

**20. Question: Is CAD welding part of this scope?**

Answer: No, Tacoma Power only uses compression hardware for the grounding work.

**21. Question: Is the fencing going to remain up during work?**

Answer: This will be decided and discussed in the meetings prior to work beginning. We plan to upgrade the fence at all but one location so it will be removed. This should facilitate the work being performed.

**22. Question: Is there lots of work that Tacoma Power will be doing while vendors are on-site?**

Answer: Communication is essential for this work. Tacoma Power may be executing additional scopes of work by crews while vendors are on-site. Vendors will need to be prepared to check-in and discuss work with the project manager on-site throughout the day to make sure everyone is working safely and efficiently.

**23. Question: Will we be able to shield the wells outside the fenceline?**

Answer: Yes, holes may be shielded.

**24. Question: Who will handle any trees or shrubs in the way of the work?**

Answer: Tacoma Power has grounds crews that shall perform any maintenance/removal prior to work beginning.

**25. Question: What are the direction of the feeders?**

Answer: This will be discussed during the meetings once the contract is awarded.



City of Tacoma

## Questions and Answers

**26. Question: Are the other scopes of work for this project being bid?**

Answer: Tacoma Power crews will perform all other scopes of work needed for these retrofits.

**27. Question: How far out does the ground grid come out from the station(s)?**

Answer: Three (3) feet outside the fence line.

**28. Question: Will all work be performed in daylight hours?**

Answer: Yes, all work will be done in daylight.

**29. Question: Does the casing stay in the hole?**

Answer: It is acceptable for the casing to stay in the hole overnight but must be removed prior to the GEM product being added.

**30. Question: Is Tacoma Power open to material similar to GEM but is a more affordable alternate?**

Answer: Tacoma Power is providing the GEM and has already purchased the materials for these projects. Contractor is required to mix it and place it into the hole with the copper rods.

**31. Question: To confirm, in the hole will be the casing, GEM material, and rod?**

Answer: No casing is to remain in the hole once the GEM is poured in. Items in the finished hole should be the GEM and coupled rods.