

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY (DC WATER)

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

for

## Lead Free Replacement Program



**Solicitation #:** DCW-SOL-21-10097,2

**Issue Date:** 7/22/21 11:02 AM

**Proposal Due Date:** 8/23/21 2:00 PM

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## Solicitation Information

Question Deadline	
Outreach/Pre-Bid Date and Time	
Outreach/Pre-Bid Location	
DC Water Point of Contact Name	Reginald Scott
DC Water Point of Contact Tel	(202) 787-2528
DC Water Point of Contact Email	reginald.scott@dcwater.com
Proposal Submission Method	
Regulatory Requirement	
Inclusion Program	
Inclusion Program Utilization Goals	
Contract Term	
External Funding Source	
Bond Required	

## ABOUT DC WATER

In 1996, the District Government initiated the creation of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), an independent authority of the District of Columbia providing services to the region. On April 18, 1996, following a 30-day Congressional review period, the District Council enacted DC Law 11-111, "The Water and Sewer DC Water Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996."

DC Water is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of 11 principal and 11 alternate members. The Board is composed of six District of Columbia representatives, two each from Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and one from Fairfax County in Virginia.

At DC Water, we care about our community. We often travel throughout our city, meeting those who live or work in Washington, D.C., so we can better understand their concerns and share our latest news on neighborhood water and sewer services.

DC Water's service area is approximately 725 square miles providing retail water and wastewater (sewer) service to the District of Columbia. Additionally, DC Water provides wholesale wastewater treatment service to Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland and Fairfax and Loudoun counties in Virginia.

The Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant is the largest advanced wastewater treatment plant in the world, with a capacity of 370 million gallons per day (MGD), a peak capacity of 1.076 billion gallons per day and covering 150 acres.

To distribute water and support the distribution system, the DC Water operates over 1,200 miles of pipes, five pumping stations, five reservoirs, four elevated water storage tanks, 36,000 valves and more than 9,000 public hydrants.

To collect wastewater, the DC Water operates 1,800 miles of sanitary and combined sewers, 22 flow-metering stations, nine off-site wastewater pumping stations, and 16 storm water pumping stations within the District.

Whether you are a new customer or you already have an account with us, DC Water appreciates the opportunity to provide you with quality and dependable water and sewer services. DC Water is committed to supplying you with useful information, whether it pertains to understanding the charges on your bill or how to check your home for leaks. Customer care associates are available to assist customers Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. We also provide a number of self-service options, such as automated meter reading, automated bill payment, account balance verification and high usage notifications.

## LEAD FREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) is reaching out to Engineering Consultants and

Utility Contractors to request information regarding the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) services to support DC Water's "Lead Free DC" (LFDC) initiative and its goal of replacing all lead, galvanized, and brass water service lines in the Washington District of Columbia service area by 2030.

The purpose of this RFI is to gather insights and interest from firms who are experienced replacing lead service lines with Water Authorities and lead service line replacement programs like DC Water.

The Target audience includes Engineering Consulting firms that can perform Program Management Services, Utility Contractor firms that can perform Utility Contractor Services, and/or firms that can provide both Program Management and Utility Contractor services.

Questions have been prepared to gain an understanding of Consultant and Contractor capacity and capabilities for lead line service replacement across several key areas including:

1. Program Management Services – Planning, Design, Permitting, Inspection, Field Engineering, and Construction Management of the overall LSLR program.
2. Utility Construction Services – Removing and Replacing estimated 28,000 lead service lines by FY2030 in the most equitable and efficient manner.
3. Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Objectives – Achieving significant and meaningful engagement by Certified Business Enterprises, Local Small Businesses, and the Local Workforce.
4. Innovative Practices – Providing the most effective delivery approach for this program including, but not limited, to organizational structures, contractual arrangements, joint-ventures, mentor-protégé, public private partnerships, or other effective means and methods for accomplishing LFDC's goals.
5. Innovative Financing – Creating a unique non-traditional financing strategy to fund capital projects from Public Private Partnerships to Pay for Success models, Design-Build-Finance, and more. The goal of alternative financing would be to provide a lower cost option for District residents and to meet the goals of the project. Please see more on DC Water's experience in Innovative Financing strategies. (see <https://www.dewater.com/innovative-financing>)

It is anticipated DC Water will use the information gathered through this RFI to develop Solicitations to replace of public and private water service connections of the DCW public water system, repair or replacement of associated water mains, and restoration of impacted worksite areas including asphalt paving, concrete-work, and landscaping.

Responses to this RFI will help DC Water plan for adequate resources and develop strategies for planned contract awards. DC Water will then issue one or more Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to the general public accordingly. By responding to this RFI we also hope to gain a more thorough understanding of you firm, and your experience and interest in participating in any future Solicitations. After reviewing all responses to the RFI document, DC Water may schedule meetings to further discuss the experience, capabilities or approaches of responding firms. Questions are to be asked and answered by both DC Water and the responding Contractors or Consultants to better understand a firm's capabilities and the LFDC project needs.

To receive notices about this RFI and any addenda, Contractors are strongly encouraged to register with DC Water's



Supplier Portal at [www.dewater.com/procurement](http://www.dewater.com/procurement) with commodity/category codes that match their products and services. This RFI and addenda to it will be issued on the Supplier Portal with the commodity codes listed in the Lines Section of this RFI. Contractors with at least one matching commodity code will receive automatic notification of the RFI and addenda. DC Water is not responsible for contractors not receiving such notifications if the contractors are not properly registered in the Supplier Portal.

RESPONSE TO THIS RFI IS VOLUNTARY. NO SELECTION OR CONTRACT AWARD WILL RESULT FROM THIS RFI. PARTICIPATION IN THIS RFI IS NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE LFDC SOLICITATIONS OR CONTRACTS.

ANY WORK AND ALL COSTS INCURRED BY VENDORS IN THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A RESPONSE SHALL BE AT THE VENDOR'S OWN DISCRETION AND EXPENSE. DC WATER WILL NOT BE OBLIGATED FOR ANY VENDOR COSTS RELATED TO THIS RFI.

THIS RFI DOES NOT REPRESENT A COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE, LEASE OR LICENSE ANY PRODUCT OR SERVICE AND DOES NOT OBLIGATE ANY FUNDS BY DC WATER.

RESPONSE TO THIS RFI IS NOT MANDATORY AND WILL NOT PRECLUDE A FIRM FROM PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUBSEQUENT SOLICITATION.

**REQUIREMENTS (Required responses for your proposal)**

*\*Response is required*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

You must review all contents and provide all requested responses. If you are not familiar with this online solicitation, please visit the links below and review these training documents first:

1. <https://www.dewater.com/sites/default/files/Procurement/forms/DCW%20ERP%20Training%20Part%201%20Vendor%20Registration.pdf>
2. <https://www.dewater.com/sites/default/files/Procurement/forms/DCW%20ERP%20Training%20Part%202%20Managing%20Profiles.pdf>
3. <https://www.dewater.com/sites/default/files/Procurement/forms/DCW%20ERP%20Training%20Part%203%20Managing%20Solicitations.pdf>

If you have questions, please submit your questions using the Message feature available in this online solicitation. Contact Reginald Scott at [reginald.scott@dewater.com](mailto:reginald.scott@dewater.com) with any technical issues or questions.

**Section 1. Business Requirements and Services - Best Practices and Capabilities****\*1. Construction Services****RESPONSE REQUIRED**

What does your firm believe to be the best practice for the following and how would your construction crews and support organization deliver on these best practices - provide your description of the best practice and how your firm would deliver to meet or exceed these best practices:

1. Achieving the desired replacement rates to meet or exceed LFDC goals by 2030 (between 2000-5000 replacements per year).
2. Efficiently replacing multiple lead services lines on a per block basis, and individual lead service lines on a per premise basis
3. Means and methods for reducing the time it takes to replace a lead service line.
4. Minimizing disruption to homeowners, neighbors, and the public
5. Mitigating safety concerns to contractor crew and the general public.
6. Traffic control planning, permitting through DC agencies, and worksite management.
7. Recovery and disposal of the replaced lead pipework and reducing contamination.
8. Preferred identification and replacement methods including trenchless pipe replacement methods.
9. Development and utilization of Certified Firms and local Labor workforce.
10. Mitigating anticipated material, labor, and equipment price increases.
11. Performing utility work in a historic and densely populated urban area (Washington DC).

Select one of the following:

- a. Response Attached (*Response attachments are required*)

**\*2. Consulting/Support****RESPONSE REQUIRED**

What does your firm believe to be the best practice for assisting the DC Water staff with program responsibilities and how would your firm deliver on these best practices - provide your description of the best practice and how your firm would deliver to meet or exceed these best practices:

1. Preparing and monitoring the overall program schedule, as well as project schedules.
2. Recommendations for structuring and managing multiple replacement programs (including DC Water-driven capital projects and customer-driven voluntary programs)
3. Identifying and managing prioritized lead service line replacements at premises with vulnerable populations (children and pregnant women)
4. Building automated processes for data-sharing and case tracking across multiple replacement programs
5. Preparing monthly reports to provide the status of program and working group KPIs.
6. Assisting with program outreach efforts including Board of Director presentations, public forums/meetings, developing outreach literature, websites, and door-to-door information campaigns
7. Establishing and maintaining a data management system.
8. Preparing multi-year budgets, monitoring the budget, review of invoices/ billings based on milestones, and routine progress reports.
9. Providing technical support to optimize use of GIS and Maximo databases.
10. Providing Standard Operating Procedures for prioritizing, packaging, and sequencing of lead service line replacements.
11. Helping to advocate for program funding and applying for non-ratepayer funding sources
12. Identifying unknown service lines through data analysis, water quality sampling and test-pitting
13. Helping to administer program contracts for each of the working groups
14. Assisting with outreach to eligible LFDC contractors to increase the number and quality of contractors working on the program.
15. Assisting with construction administration and inspection of the 23000-5000 LSLs replaced each year
16. Developing and maintaining a database to record communications and activities with stakeholders including District agencies, D.C. Council, advocacy and community groups
17. Assist and track required permitting across multiple programs and for multiple projects
18. Designing public-facing website to share program progress

Select one of the following:

- a. Response Attached (*Response attachments are required*)

**\*3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**  
**RESPONSE REQUIRED**

DC Water is committed to ensuring that District-based certified firms are fully given the opportunity to compete and participate in the program. It is anticipated that a 50% Certified Business Enterprise utilization goals will be established on this project.

1. Describe any challenges you foresee in meeting this goal.
2. What technical skills, including certifications will be needed by firms to be able to perform on this project?
3. How often has your firm met the diversity and inclusion goals on your projects? Describe the challenges you faced, if any, in meeting the goals.

As part of its commitment to local hires, DC Water has established a 75% new hire goal.

1. Describe what would be necessary to help you achieve this goal.
2. Do you have a registered Apprenticeship Program in your home state or in the District of Columbia?
3. Do you have an internship or a mentor-protégé program within your company?

Select one of the following:

- a. Response Attached (*Response attachments are required*)

**\*4. Potential Risk and Lessons Learned**

For each of the business requirements below that your firm has experience with, please discuss Potential Risks, Lessons Learned, and Innovative Solutions/Approaches. If your firm does not have experience with any of the below, you may skip the question or business requirement:

1. Construction Services (See Requirements Section 1.1)
2. Program Management and Engineering Services (See Requirements Section 1.2)
3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (See Requirements Section 1.3)

Select one of the following:

- a. Response Attached (*Response attachments are optional*)
- b. No response to this question

**\*5. Innovative Funding and Project Delivery**

DC Water has a history of innovative financing that funds capital projects and reduces the financial burden on ratepayers or transfers risk. For more information on DC Water innovative financing, see [dcwater.com/innovative financing](http://dcwater.com/innovative-financing).

For this program we are seeking ideas for alternative delivery and financing structures that would deliver the project on-time and on-budget, and this could include a proposal for project financing (Design-Build-Finance). This could also include performance payments or sharing arrangements for cost savings achieved during project implementation.

What financing and delivery models have other agencies used to structured similar contracts (MSA, BOA, IDIQ, Design-Build, et.al.) to be more successful?

Select one of the following:

- a. Response Attached (*Response attachments are optional*)

## Section 2. Letter of Intent

**\*1. Interest or Intent to Participate in Future Solicitations**

**RESPONSE REQUIRED**

Although this RFI will not result in any contract award, DC Water will use the information received to develop



future Solicitations for Engineering Design & Consulting Services and/or Utility Construction Services for Lead Free DC. Please let us know if you are interested in providing bids or proposals for future Solicitations related to Lead Free DC by including a Letter of Interest (LOI). The LOI should be no more than three (3) pages and should include the following Information:

1. Does your company provide Engineering Services, Construction services, or both?
2. Do you intend to participate as a Prime Consultant/Contractor or as a Sub-consultant/Sub-contractor?
3. Will your firm respond to future solicitations as part of a Joint-Venture, Mentor-Protégé, or other teaming arrangement?
4. Is your company certified as a DBE/WBE or other socio-economic certification?
5. A summary telling us about your company, products and services, industries you serve, organizational structure, number of employees, major customers, locations, company history, and other relevant information to help DC Water learn about your company.

Select one of the following:

- a. Interested in bidding on future solicitation(s) LOI attached (*Response attachments are required*)
- b. Not interested in bidding on future solicitation(s)

## Lines Instructions

There are no lines. The line(s) used here are to capture the category name to be associated with this outreach event.

## Line Information

Line	Category Name	Quantity
1-Outreach Event - Construction	237110 - NAICS code - Water and Sewer Line and Related Structures Construction	
2-Outreach Event - Construction Management	541330 - NAICS code - Engineering Services	

**This PDF version of solicitation is made available only for your convenience to quickly view the solicitation contents and is NOT intended to provide your responses on this PDF document.**

**You MUST submit your responses (proposal) online using DC Water's online solicitation application.**