



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

July 27, 2022

Re: RFP #2022-03, Request for Proposals to Retain a Rate Case Consultant(s)

Prospective Consultants:

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA or Authority) acknowledges receipt of correspondence via emails dated July 25, 2022, from Daymark Energy Advisors and Polk & Vine, LLC, containing questions in response to the Authority's Request for Proposals to Retain a Consultant (RFP) in Docket No. 22-07-01, Application of Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut to Amend its Rate Schedule, as well as in at least one electric rate case that may be filed in calendar year 2022. The Authority provides the following responses to the clarifying questions help further clarify the contents of the RFP (**responses in red**):

1. Please provide docket reference numbers for the most recent rate cases that have been decided by the PURA for Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut (Aquarion) and the United Illuminating Company (UI).
 - a) **The most recent Aquarion rate case with a decision is No. 13-02-20.**
 - b) **The most recent UI rate case with a decision is No. 16-06-04.**
2. Please clarify what is meant by the phrase "without limitation" noted on page 5.
 - a) **Services from selected consultant(s) are expected to primarily consist of the delineated tasks but are not limited to those listed in Section II.b of the RFP.**
3. Please confirm or clarify that the task, "Conducting cross-examination of party and intervenor witnesses" is requesting that the Consultant provide litigation support (e.g., drafting cross-examination questions), rather than asking the cross-examination questions at the evidentiary hearings.
 - a) **The Authority permits non-attorneys to pose cross-examination questions in its proceedings. As such, Decisional staff may request that consultant(s) draft and conduct the cross-examination questions at evidentiary hearings, or the consultant(s) may be asked to provide the suggested cross-examination questions to staff. In either case, suggested cross-examination questions must be submitted to staff at least one week in advance of the evidentiary hearings.**

4. Regarding the PURA Decisional Staff Consultant Tasks 1 through 5 (listed on page 5 through page 8 of the RFP), it does not appear that there is any reference to the chosen consultant submitting testimony. Please:
 - a) Confirm or clarify that the Consultant for Tasks 1 through 5 is not being asked to submit testimony in this proceeding.
 - i. The consultant(s) selected for any of Tasks 1 through 5 for Decisional staff will not be asked to submit testimony as they are assisting with conducting the investigation. Conversely, the consultant selected for Task 6 for EOE staff may be asked to submit testimony and serve as a witness during the proceeding.
 - b) If the Consultant is not being asked to submit testimony in this proceeding, please confirm or clarify that the chosen Contractor will act as an advisor to the PURA and Staff to assess the reasonableness of other parties' positions (e.g., Aquarion, UIC, Office of Consumer Counsel), but the Consultant will not sponsor positions/arguments on behalf of PURA Staff (or any other party).
 - i. The Authority confirms that the consultant(s) selected for Tasks 1-5 may serve an advisory role to Decisional Staff in assessing the reasonableness of the Parties' positions for inclusion in the Authority's proposed final decision(s). The consultant(s) shall not sponsor a position on behalf of PURA staff or any other Party.
 - c) If the Consultant is not being asked to submit testimony in this proceeding, please clarify the task noted in Task 3, which states that the consultant will, "Develop and propose rates to generate recommended revenue requirement and prepare typical bills under those proposed rates." Specifically, if the Consultant is not being asked to submit testimony, what would be the mechanism used for the Consultant to "propose" its position on the record?
 - i. Consultants retained to supplement Decisional Staff's rate design expertise will provide analysis for Decisional Staff's review and potential inclusion in the rate case Decision. Such analysis would necessarily be supported by the record.
5. Regarding page 10 of the RFP, please clarify what is intended by the term "written work product" in the statement, "Consultant(s) retained as an extension of PURA decisional staff will be expected to provide written work product for incorporation into a proposed final decision..."
 - a) Decisional Staff may request assistance from the Consultant(s) in drafting content for the relevant analysis portion of the proposed final Decision(s). If requested, the Consultant(s) will provide this content to Decisional Staff by the due dates described on page 10.
6. Does PURA anticipate awarding all rate case work to a single firm, or spreading it out on the basis of utility-by-utility filings?

- a) Per Section III.e of the RFP, PURA may award an RFP respondent one or more of the utility rate case proceedings; conversely, the Authority may select multiple Consultants to perform work on a single rate case. If a proposal addresses multiple utility industries, it should include both separate cost estimates for a water rate case and an electric or gas rate case. Respondents may also submit cost proposals for groupings of services across multiple rate case proceedings, if that results in net cost savings.
7. Does PURA score proposals for portions of the work scope by individual firms as high in value as proposals from firms offering an omnibus set of services?
- a) PURA uses the same criteria to evaluate both types of proposals. Specifically, individual proposals will be scored on the following criteria: (1) grasp of scope; (2) credentials for this type of engagement; (3) experience for this type of engagement; (4) bidder's approach to meeting the objectives of the RFP; and (5) cost effectiveness.
8. Does PURA request separate scopes of work for electric, natural gas and water utility filings, or a generalized work scope irrespective of the type of utility?
- a) A proposal may include a scope of work that applies to multiple types of utilities, but should include separate cost proposals. If there are cost efficiencies to be gained by grouping services across multiple rate case proceedings, a proposal may also include that.
9. Regarding the Issues described in Tasks 1 through 5, do you anticipate any testimony being presented by PURA staff either separately or as combined testimony with the Consultant?
- a) Decisional Staff do not submit testimony into the record; therefore, testimony will not be required from a consultant(s) retained for Tasks 1 - 5. Please see responses to question 4.
10. Regarding Appendix B item 1: Please clarify that proposal budgets are required pursuant to the tables in the RFP, but that for each rate case a not-to-exceed budget should be submitted.
- a) Correct; proposals should include a not-to-exceed budget.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq.
Executive Secretary

cc: Service List