

2016 Northern Rockies Pre-proposal Meetings: Q&A

What's new for 2016 Solicitations?

- All Heavy Equipment and Support Water Tender Operators will need to annually compete the Light Walk Test, walking 1 mile in 16 minutes, carrying no additional weight.
- Verification documents for engine & crew to have 3 signatures on the individual verification form &/or red card. The company owner, individual being verified and verifier. The new verification form is posted on the NRCG website. Still need verification form sent into contracting officer.
- Chainsaw chaps meeting USFS Specification labeled with 6170-4F or 4G, green or orange in fabric color.
WILDLAND ENGINES -- (c) Chainsaw protection/chaps meeting USFS Specification 6170-4F or later
- Etching of hardware: Vendors are required to permanently mark their equipment inventory with vendor/company information. Acceptable markings shall be etched or engraved. Painting or marking the equipment with permanent markers is not acceptable. In addition, the vendor is to maintain a complete inventory list, including any extra items they may be carrying.
- No Change: NRCG will not allow multi typing of resources. Vendors must select the most appropriate Type for each piece of equipment.
- NRCG Drug & Alcohol Protocol for Contracted resources now included in solicitations.
NRCG DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROTOCOL FOR CONTRACTED RESOURCES
- Brakes required on all axles for water handling equipment and anything over 36,000 lbs. GVWR require an auxiliary brake system. Logistical equipment built prior to when brakes were required on all axles are not affected with this change providing they meet DOT requirements.
D.2.1.2 -- Equipment Requirement. All equipment shall have: (p) All vehicles 36,000 GVWR or greater shall be installed with an operator-controlled auxiliary braking system in addition to the service brakes (i.e., engine retarder, transmission retarder, driveline retarder, or exhaust retarder).
- Portable Toilets and Hand Wash Stations 100 miles included in daily rate. Turn in full miles on shift ticket – first 100 miles for that day deducted from total daily miles.
These are 1 year contracts with option to renew for additional 2 years. The government will review annually.
- Potable Water Trucks- no fiber glass tanks allowed. *C.2.2 1 m.*
- Gray Water- Truck need to be sanitized when switching between gray water and black water.
- T-3 Caterer - clarified wording on mobilization cancellations. *C.21.6 Order Cancellation*

How are the inspections done for the equipment offered? Northern Rockies MOU holders will inspect Potable Water, Gray Water, Fuel Tenders, Water Handling Equipment and Heavy Equipment w/water. Vendor will contact them for inspection. The government will inspect T3-Caterers and Weed Wash resources. Portable Toilets and Hand Wash Stations don't require pre-award inspections. Inspections need to go to the Contracting Officers prior to awards.

EXHIBIT I - CONTRACTOR ASSOCIATIONS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Can I choose any dispatch center? You must be within 450 miles of the city and state of that resource. Keep in mind you may need to go to that center for pre-use inspection & will need to meet the Date & Time needed as requested by Dispatch.

D.5.1 -- HOST DISPATCH CENTER SELECTION. Regional and local awards may not be made to vendors designating equipment City and State location more than 450 miles away from their selected Dispatch Center.

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Is 1 digital Radio or 2 required on engines? Must be P25 compliant. Engines shall have a minimum of two radios (one shall be handheld), Support Water Tenders shall have a minimum of one radio (handheld or mobile), only radios listed on the National Interagency Fire Centers National Interagency Incident Communications Divisions website <http://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/documents.html> are approved.

D.2.3 -- Programmable Radio: Engines and Water Tenders. (a) Engines shall have a minimum of two radios (one shall be handheld), Support Water Tenders shall have a minimum of one radio (handheld or mobile)

Can private engines run red lights n sirens? No. Per state statutes private entities are not classified as emergency vehicles

How will 8" tops on boots be measured? In R1 it will be from ground up - If no FS standard default to NFPA Standards

What is the Length of Chainsaw Chaps? 2 inches below the top of the boot.

Have a fully qualified ENGB floater- can I have that additional crew member at owner's expense? Incidents has the final say. Talk with dispatch to discuss with the incident. No pay for additional personnel requested by the contractor is the norm.

What is a double shift? Requires a whole new crew and the incident will order double shift.

D.21.8 -- PAYMENTS. (a)

How many chains required on skidgine? 4 *EXHIBIT M – FORMS AND CHECKLISTS*

On skidgines can they carry chainsaw? Yes just make sure you have it on your inventory list & new chaps.

Is the government responsible to turn in the evaluations? Agreement states government would turn in but vendor usually submits also. *D.20 -- PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS*

What if your crew has extended travel time to gather up and get together? It is your business decision on where your crew is coming from. If you accept an order you must meet the date & time needed.

Are prices for 3 years? BLM, BIA, MT-DNRC are 1 year with 2 year options. The Forest Service is 3 years and the VIPR awards open yearly in January for roll-over modifications to adjust prices or dispatch center.

Will 2013 resource populate some information in VIPR? No- create new resource for 2016. Do not delete the 2013 resource.

When 2016 resource is in VIPR how will we know offer is there? You will get a notice from VIPR and under the 'my quotes tab' the status of the bid shows.

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What if we have to change our contact number? Contact the contracting officer. For US Forest Service agreements in VIPR you can make changes and you need to let Debbie know to do administration mod.

Does SAM filter into DUNS & Bradstreet (DUNS)? You will need DUNS number to build in SAM. PTAC can help with that.

How big are Potable Water Tank openings? For non-baffled tanks the ocular ports must be large enough to see inside of tank. *C.2.2 2 b.*

Can a Fuel Tender Vendor pull trailer behind his tender? If it's a camper trailer- it is Incident's decision.

Do we take the Light Duty test with the MOU holder? Yes or can self-administer and provide documentation individual passed.

Does that include RT-130? No. Must go to training provider. Training provider is different than MOU inspectors. *D.16.3 Personnel Records Verification*

Who needs to be verified? Engine & Crew personnel by Equipment Inspector / Personnel Verification MOU Holder. Water Tender & heavy equipment operators are not required to be verified annually.

What is the verification signing process for engine crews? Verification form with the 3 signatures (verifier, employee, contractor) send to Tim Murphy The engine needs to either carry a copy of the verification form for each crew member or red cards with all 3 signatures on the red card.

For WT operator? WT operator requires RT-130 & proof of walk test.

Instead of carrying personal verification records in binders can they carry on thumb drive? Keep in mind inspection sites may not have computer access. Recommendation is to have hard copies on hand.

What is the point systems for the score of equipment? Advantage points are listed in the solicitations. *D.6.2 -- RANKING OF AWARDED RESOURCES FOR DISPATCH PRIORITY (d) Advantages.*

Are there other advantages? There may be set asides for small business concerns. Socioeconomic categories examples: HUBZone, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned, and 8(A)

Have formulas changed for transport? Formula is "Attributes/ (Daily Rate + Transport Guarantee) = CBA score used to establish DPL.

Is FS going to require registration in VetBid? Paper certification is required. There are 4 PTAC in the state that are Vet certified to assist.

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For the Weed Wash can bid be submitted through the mail? The BIA will do an amendment to the solicitation to allow bids mailed in or submitted in FEDConnect.

The Weed Wash agreements do not expire until 10-31-2016. Will these agreements still be used? Awarded vendors have been notified explaining the situation. Once the 2016 awards are made the current awards will no longer be valid.

Debris disposal for weed wash? The government will determine disposal. *C.1.2—Contractor Provided Equipment (d)*

Will Performance evaluation system used? Still being developed at this time, currently a pass / fail system.

If we turn down a call will it will have adverse effects on us? No. It is not a contract until you except an order. No punitive actions for turning down an order.

How do we look at the prices so we can get an idea how to bid? All pricing information is FOIA information and pricing information posted on NRCG website. Look at DPL Lists.

Can there be amendment on the requirement to carry a shovel nobody uses them? No, no changes at this time.

I read in agreement you have to show up with water Tender fully loaded? *D7.1.1 states "The Contractor shall arrive at the incident fully outfitted and prepared to perform under the terms of the agreement."*

With regard to water, the expectation is that the contractor travels appropriately for the equipment and compliant with all applicable regulations. Confirm with dispatch how the fire wishes you to arrive to the incident and fill site locations.

If WT is over filled & goes over GVWR can we have put a drain pipe in? No

My '77 Peterbuilt water tender the DOT regulations say it is not required to have steering axel brakes?

For tactical equipment, you will have to have them. The Forest Service requires DOT regulations be met and can be more restrictive.

If we are filled and meet GVWR can we go on highway? You are responsible for your eqp and must be in compliance with DOT and State laws.

When do we turn in after-market certification? You'll need it at time of inspection.

Are you going to cap transports with typing and how do you know what type of transport you'd have? The gov't doesn't need to be paying a high price for a transport of smaller piece of equipment that is transported with a T1 transport. If you choose to use a larger transport that is your decision.

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What if we get reassigned to another incident and we are required to leave our hose and fitting on the line how do we get back up and meet the specs. You should get form AD-107 for replacement. If no break in assignment the government will loan you equipment. It is up to you to leave your equipment.

If we go to different fires how do we etch our equipment? It is a company decision how it gets etched.

On solicitations they all call on NFPA hardhats 4 point or 6 point suspension? As long as they meet NFPA 1977.

If you have not been in a hub-zone how do you know if you're in one? They do change every few years. Check Hub-Zone maps for designated areas. SBA.gov or contact PTAC & they can help you thru.