

**THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RELATED TO INDEPENDENT
CONSULTANT SERVICES IN GREAT RIVER UTILITY
OPERATING COMPANY, LLC'S POST ACQUISITION,
STATEWIDE RATE CASE**

Proposal Issue Date: Friday, July 1, 2022

Proposal Due Date: Friday, July 22, 2022, no later than 4:00 p.m. CST

Contact: Ross Hammons
General Counsel
Mississippi Public Service Commission
501 N. West Street
Suite 201-A
Jackson, MS 39201
Email:
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Telephone: 601-961-5821

SECTION 1 – SCOPE OF WORK

I. Introduction

On June 8, 2021, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (“Commission”) granted Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC (“Great River”) a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate as a water and wastewater public utility in Mississippi. To date, the Commission has approved the sale and transfer of 61 wastewater systems and 10 water systems in the state to Great River; before the Commission are 2 pending sale and transfer proceedings of water and wastewater utility systems making up an additional 20 utility systems across the state. All past and present related Great River dockets at the Commission are identified in the Attachment A to this Request for Proposals.

Over the last year, Great River has conducted a “Stabilization Period” where it has continued to operate the acquired water and wastewater systems; Great River has continued to charge the unique Commission-approved rate for each system. In the coming months, Great River will file its first post-acquisition, statewide rate case.

Many, if not all, of the acquired water and wastewater systems are dated. Many of the acquired systems are fully depreciated and in need of capital investment to ensure applicable compliance and produce the provision of adequate utility service in the state. Considering that, the Commission’s approval of the sale and transfer of the to-date 71 water and wastewater systems granted Great River an acquisition adjustment. The Commission’s June 8th Orders in Docket Nos. 2020-UA-143 and 2020-UA-144 provide a longer recitation of the circumstances supporting the granting of an acquisition adjustment.

A condition of Great River's acceptance of the Commission’s order granting it a certificate of public convenience and necessity was its agreement to pay for an expert to be hired by the Commission to advise the Commission during the first statewide rate case to be filed by Great River after the contemplated Stabilization Period.

The contractor will provide independent consulting services to the Commission during Great River’s first statewide rate case. Great River intends to file a notice of intent in the coming months to change rates pursuant to RP 9 with the Commission to establish statewide rates, charges and service rules and regulations for providing services in Mississippi. The scope of work contemplated in the Request for Proposals includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Reviewing and summarizing all pre-filed testimony, initial disclosures, supporting evidence, supplemental testimony and supporting evidence, and any of the information filed in the record.
2. Aiding, advising, and assisting the Commission as it evaluates the justness and reasonableness, both to the public and the public utility, of the rates proposed to be charged by Great River.
3. Providing general consulting services to the Commission during Great River’s rate case.

The period of performance of the contract is anticipated to begin immediately after contract execution following the August 2022 Commission Open Meeting and will be conclude following the completion of Great River Utility Operating Company LLC’s rate case.

SECTION 2 – RFP AVAILABILITY

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be published on the Mississippi Public Service Commission website at www.psc.ms.gov. A Request for Proposal also may be obtained by written request to:

Ross Hammons
General Counsel
Mississippi Public Service Commission
501 N. West St., Suite 201-A
Jackson, MS 39201

-or-

P.O. Box 1174
Jackson, MS 39215-1174

-or-

Email:
ross.hammons@psc.ms.gov
Telephone: 601-961-5821

SECTION 3 – CLARIFYING INFORMATION

Any company or person wishing to obtain clarifying information about this request for proposals may submit inquiries *in writing only* to:

Ross Hammons
General Counsel
Mississippi Service Commission
Email: ross.hammons@psc.ms.gov
Telephone: 601-961-5821

All inquiries for information must be made in writing and submitted to the Commission on or before **Wednesday, July 13, 2022, no later than 4:00 p.m. CST**, to the attention of Ross Hammons at the above email address. When sending an inquiry, include “RFP for GRU Rate Case” in the subject line of the email.

To ensure no applicant obtains a competitive advantage from acquisition of information unknown to other applicants, answers to all written questions that are submitted in a timely manner and are relevant to this RFP will be posted on the Commission's webpage,

www.psc.ms.gov, in the "RFP Listings" tab by **Friday, July 15, 2022, no later than 4:00 p.m. CST.**

SECTION 4 – TIMING/DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The times stated in this document refer to Central Time (CT). The closing date for proposals is **no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 22, 2022.** A proposal received after this deadline will not be considered. **Proposals may be either mailed or hand-delivered to the Commission. Submit six (6) bound copies to:**

Ross Hammons
General Counsel
Mississippi Public Service Commission
501 N. West St., Suite 201-A
Jackson, MS 39201

-or-

P.O. Box 1174
Jackson, MS 39215-1174

SECTION 5 – ELIGIBLE OFFERORS

To be eligible, applicants must be neutral and impartial and without any conflict of interest related to the Dockets identified in Attachment A. Eligible applicants must demonstrate legal capabilities, competence, relevant experience, and resources to perform the duties as delineated in the Scope of Work, Section 1 of this RFP.

SECTION 6 – PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals submitted in response to this request must meet the following conditions to be considered for selection. Emailed or faxed proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances.

PROPOSALS MUST BE WRITTEN ENTIRELY ON 8.5" x 11" PAPER. PROPOSALS SHOULD INCLUDE NECESSARY APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS. PROPOSALS SHOULD BE STAPLED IN THE TOP LEFT CORNER OR BOUND IN A 3-RING BINDER.

PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT PRESENT ANY BENEFIT, KEEPSAKE, OR VALUE FOR MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW PANEL.

Proposals shall begin with a cover page that clearly states the name of the applicant and the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address, if available, of the applicant's contact person who may be contacted directly regarding the proposal. The cover page shall make

up the cover of the proposal. A proposal must be submitted in the format outlined herein. Pages of the proposal must be numbered.

Proposals may reflect the provision of services by more than one consultant or consultant firm. However, each proposal submitted must address the requirements of the RFP in their entirety. Additionally, all proposals submitted in response to this Request for Proposals must include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The legal name of the consultant or consultant firm and the location of the principal place of business.
2. A thorough Executive Summary of the Proposal.
3. Evidence of the consultant's or firm's experience and abilities in the specified area directly related to the proposed service including, but not limited to, a list and supporting documentation reflecting the specific expertise and experience of the proposed consultant(s) in performing work in the relevant area.
4. The qualifications and experience of all persons who would be assigned to provide the required services.
5. Thorough and detailed pricing information.
6. Any available references for contracts of similar size and scope. Include the name of the organization; the length of the contract; a summary of the work; and the name and telephone number of a responsible contact person.
7. A statement verifying that the prospective consultant or consultant firm has or has not retained any person or agency on a percentage, commission, or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.
8. Discuss any conflicts of interest that may arise if your proposal is accepted.
9. Any additional information that will aid in evaluation of the response.

SECTION 7 – ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Publish RFP on Commission website	July 1, 2022
RFP Questions from applicants due to Commission	July 13, 2022
Responses to questions posted on Commission website	July 15, 2022
Deadline for submission of proposals	July 22, 2022
Selection approved by Commission	August 2022 Open Meeting
Contract award	Following August Open Meeting
Commencement of project activities	Following Contract Execution

SECTION 8 – EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Factors to be considered in the evaluation of proposals include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Responsiveness to all items set forth in this Request for Proposals.
2. Applicant's ability to provide the required services as reflected/evidenced by qualifications and experience.
3. Whether adequate personnel and other resources to perform the services are currently available or demonstrated to be made available at the time of contracting.
4. The overall detailed description of the proposed plan for performing the required services.
5. A record of past performance of similar work.

ATTACHMENT A

Docket Number	Petition Type
2020-UA-143	Round 1 - Water Acquisition
2020-UA-144	Round 1 - Wastewater Acquisition
2020-UA-146	Area Certificate
2020-UA-147	Area Certificate
2020-UA-148	Area Certificate
2020-UA-149	Area Certificate
2020-UA-150	Area Certificate
2020-UA-151	Area Certificate
2020-UA-153	Area Certificate
2020-UA-154	Area Certificate
2020-UN-155	Rates
2020-UN-156	Rates
2020-UN-157	Rates
2020-UN-158	Rates
2020-UN-159	Rates
2020-UN-160	Rates
2020-UN-161	Rates
2020-UN-162	Rates
2020-UN-163	Rates
2021-AD-115	Post-Order Compliance Docket - Water
2021-AD-116	Post-Order Compliance Docket - Wastewater
2021-UA-157	Round 2 - Water Acquisition
2021-UA-158	Round 2 - Wastewater Acquisition
2021-UA-187	Area Certificate
2021-UN-189	Rates
2021-UN-191	Rates
2022-UN-1	Rates
2022-UA-37	Round 3 - Wastewater Acquisition
2022-UA-38	Round 3 - Water Acquisition
2022-UA-41	Petition to Cancel Earthtek CPCN
2022-UA-55	Area Certificate