



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:	OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	ANDREW LANDRY, DEPUTY PUBLIC ADVOCATE		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:	SOLE-SOURCE CT ASSISTING OPA WITH VARIOUS FERC PROCEEDINGS & ISO NE MATTERS RE T&D RATES		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 60,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20231005000000001028
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	Proposed End Date:
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	11/10/2023	Effective Date: 6/18/2024
	Previous End Date:	10/31/2024	New End Date: 10/31/2025
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	Stinson LLP Washington, DC		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Continued Consulting Services to assist and advise OPA on utility regulatory matters with FERC and in ISO-NE processes.		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) requires continued expert consultant services to assist and advise the OPA with on-going utility regulatory matters in various Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings and in Independent System Operator New England (ISO NE) matters. This may include, but is not limited to, providing advice, and assisting in drafting of filings with FERC and ISO NE.

The Public Advocate, by statute, represents the interests of Maine utility ratepayers, with special emphasis on the interests of low-income customers in proceedings before state and federal agencies and courts. Because the staff of the Office is composed primarily of attorneys, we rely on a consultant to provide expert advice and testimony on the matters described herein. This advice and testimony are critical to allowing the Office to effectively represent ratepayer interests in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission & ISO NE matters.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

The selected provider has unique expert experience in FERC jurisdiction over merchant transmission and distributions matters.

The OPA is authorized by statute ([35-A M.R.S. ch. 17 §1702, §1706](#)) to represent the interests of the ratepayers of Maine's regulated utilities before state and federal agencies and courts; and may employ expert witnesses and pay appropriate compensation and expenses to employ the witnesses.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The vendor's hourly rate compares favorably to other expert witness consultants that the Office has engaged in similar cases/matters.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

The Office of the Public Advocate routinely puts contracts for expert consulting services for proceedings before Maine's regulated utilities before state and federal agencies out to bid through the competitive RFP solicitation process. In this instance, the experience of the vendor, the reasonable price offered by the vendor, the need to retain the consultant for on-going matters, supported the use of amending its single-source contract.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – If No, proceed to Part V.


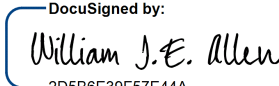
PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

The requesting department signatory understands and acknowledges Maine’s Conflict of Interest statutes.

PART VI: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	William S. Harwood, Public Advocate	Date:	6/18/2024
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  2D5B6E39F57E44A...		
Typed Name:	William J.E. Allen	Date:	6/18/2024

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