



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Office of State 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 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 #:	MPUC Management Audit of Versant Power		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 90,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20250424000000002499
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	5/1/2025	Proposed End Date: 4/30/2026
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	David Brevitz dba Brevitz Consulting Services Overland Park, KS		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Expert Consulting Services to assist OPA in PUC's audit of Versant Power's Operations & Management Practices.		

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 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 checked="" 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.

To provide immediate expert consulting services to assist and advise the OPA relating to MPUC investigation in Docket No. 2024-00111 which resulted in the Commission initiating an Audit of Operations and Management Practices Pertaining to Versant Power.

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

The OPA is authorized by statute ([35-A M.R.S. ch. 17 §1702, §1706](#)) to represent the interests of Maine utility ratepayers in proceedings before the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC); and may employ expert witnesses and pay appropriate compensation and expenses to employ the witnesses.

Time is of the essence in engaging a consultant. Per Order dated April 8, 2025, The Commission, based on concerns raised in the audit report of Overland Consulting (Docket No. 2024-00111), directed Commission Staff to initiate a formal investigation in the management and performance of Versant Power; therefore an expert consultant is needed to begin immediately.

The selected vendor has unique expert experience in utility holding company structures, affiliate services accounting, and management decision making processes.

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 (\$175/hr) compares favorably to other expert witness consultants that the Office has engaged in similar cases.

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 the Maine PUC 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 lack of availability of other vendors contracted by the OPA, and the need to retain the consultant quickly supported the use of a single source contract.

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

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

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:	HEATHER SANBORN	Date:	4/24/25
-------------	-----------------	-------	---------

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>41C2BA36FAF44CD...</small>		
---	---	--	--

Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	5/30/2025
-------------	----------------	-------	-----------