

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

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 website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		Office of the Public Advocate		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Barry Hobbins, Public Advocate		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		Central Maine Power Transmission Rate Case (FERC Docket ER09-938)		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 30,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20210708000000000037	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	8/1/2021	Proposed End Date:	7/31/2023
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:		Economic & Technical Consultants, Inc., Potomac, MD		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Expert services relating to federal jurisdictional transmission rate increase of Central Maine Power Company in FERC Docket No. ER09-938		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Please respond to ALL of the following:
1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

In order to review and challenge an increase in electric transmission rates filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the OPA requires an expert to perform technical review of the filing, make discovery requests and review discovery responses, prepare a preliminary/informal challenge, advise regarding negotiations and related tasks.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

The selected vendor has extensive experience in assisting similarly situated clients, such as consumer owned utilities and consumer advocates, in numerous similar proceedings. The vendor has been involved with the formulation of the first transmission formula rate and protocols in the country and has conducted the review of annual updates of a number of utilities in the country. According to one study this vendor's clients have achieved the best results in keeping the transmission rates at the lowest possible level. The Office of the Public Advocate contacted other potential vendors providing similar services regarding their availability for such an engagement and no others indicated availability. One had been engaged by another party in this proceeding.

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

The proposed pricing is very low compared to consultants engaged by the Office of the Public Advocate in various other proceedings. Vendor's ability to offer such low pricing is based upon its experience in assisting similarly situated clients, such as consumer owned utilities and consumer advocates, in numerous similar proceedings.

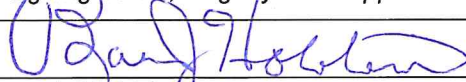
4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

The OPA anticipates primarily using competitive solicitation processes to select vendors to assist in future similar proceedings. In this instance, the experience of the vendor, the low 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 in this instance.

PART IV: APPROVALS

**Signature of requesting
Department's Commissioner
(or designee):**

By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.



Printed Name:

Barry J. Hobbins

Date:

7/ 26/2021

**Signature of DAFS
Procurement Official:**

DocuSigned by:

Sue H. Garcia

Printed Name:

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Sue H. Garcia

Date:

7/29/2021