



### 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:		Maine Public Utilities Commission	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Sally Zeh	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 250,000	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20241108*1208
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	11/12/2024	Proposed End Date: 11/12/2025
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:		RLC Engineering Hallowell ME 04347	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Consulting services on the examination of Maine's high voltage transmission system.	

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 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.

RLC Engineering of Hallowell Maine is an excellent candidate for a sole source contract for Maine’s examination of its high voltage transmission system. RLC routinely conducts technical analyses of the transmission system in Maine and has a deep understanding of the limitations of the system and its future needs to bring energy into the regional system. RLC has performed studies of large generator interconnections to the New England power system, including demonstration and modeling of the effect of interconnections and the avoidance of negative impact on the state and regional grids. RLC has also studies of congestion in certain key locations on the grid. In addition, RLC has Transfer Capability Analyses to estimate the ability to transmit power from one part of the system to another while respecting transmission limits. Most important, RLC has conducted multiple regional planning studies that examine the ability of the system to comport with mandatory reliability standards of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council. RLC provided such reliability services to Central Maine Power as its lead investigator on the Maine Power Reliability Project – the largest single transmission expansion development in Maine’s history. As it explores possible solutions on an expedited basis, the Commission is in urgent need of RLC’s expertise as it works with state and federal partners to engage in wholistic transmission planning that will serve Maine and the region for many years to come.

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

RLC is uniquely qualified because they have been involved in designing the transmission system in Maine for many years, including the design and build of the MPRP transmission line. They are familiar with the ISO-NE transmission planning process, have consulted with and advised numerous parties who have developed projects in the ISO-NE territory. In addition, they have recently provided expert consultation to another regional grid authority, the PJM, on transmission planning for that region. The reason it is an emergency is because ISO-NE is about to embark on a major transmission planning process as well as the preparation to launch a procurement of transmission to bring energy into the grid, with a significant amount of that energy coming from Maine. The planning for the procurement process has already begun and the Commission requires immediate assistance to meaningfully participate in the planning process.

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

Costs are similar to other engineering expertise the Commission has utilized.

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

An RFP may occur if more work is needed in subsequent years.

**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):	 Phil Bartlett (Nov 12, 2024 08:43 PST)		
Typed Name:	Phil Bartlett	Date:	11/8/2024
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  Kathy Paquette 41C2BA36FAF44CD...		
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	11/18/2024

# RLC Engineering-PJF Nov 2024

Final Audit Report

2024-11-12

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