

State of Maine
Master Score Sheet

RFP# 202408154					
Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis					
Bidder Name:		GDS Associates	London Economics International		
Proposed Cost:		271,000	142,540		
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Section I: Preliminary Information	Pass/Fail	N/A	N/A		
Section II: Organization Qualifications and Experience	35	35	18		
Section III: Proposed Services	30	28	25		
Section IV: Cost Proposal	35	18.40	35		
TOTAL	100	81.40	78		

Award Justification Statement
RFP# 202408154
Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

I. Summary

The RFP was issued on behalf of the Maine PUC seeking proposals for expert consulting services to review the annual informational FERC filings.

II. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process was conducted in accordance with the rules and protocols of the State of Maine. Specifically, a team consensus approach was used to assign scores for Sections II and III, and Section IV was scored using the required mathematical formula. The evaluation team included three PUC Staff members, each of whom has extensive experience in the areas relevant to this project. Individuals on the team included a senior analyst, an analyst, and a staff attorney.

III. Qualifications & Experience

The proposal of the awarded bidder indicated extensive on-point experience and strong qualifications related to the subject matter areas and processes relevant to this project. The awarded bidder has presented a highly experienced team that has demonstrated significant subject matter expertise in performing relevant projects.

IV. Proposed Services

The proposal of the awarded bidder provided detailed and comprehensive descriptions of the scope of the services to be provided as well as a thorough and logical process that covered all steps in the process and indicated a clear understanding of the key objectives of this analysis. The selection committee indicated that the awarded bidder has a deep understanding of the FERC formula rate process.

V. Cost Proposal

Cost proposal of the awarded bidder: \$271,000

Appendix D of the RFP provides: "Should an adjudicatory proceeding commence, the Commission will use the consultant's hourly rates from any resulting contract and the work will be conducted on a time and materials basis." Based on that, it is unclear whether "formal" challenges before FERC (identified as within the scope of the RFP) would be part of an adjudication (and thus outside of the scope of the RFP), and also unclear whether "other project

costs" for this RFP should include costs associated with travel to FERC--which would be a formal adjudication. The winning bidder provided pricing for both the base bid as well as additional costs for formal challenge. For this evaluation we used the higher of the two, \$271,000. In other words, under either treatment of the costs associated with formal challenges, the bid from GDS receives the highest total score.

VI. Conclusion

For the reasons summarized above, the consensus evaluation and scoring of the evaluation team resulted in the award to GDS Associates as indicated in the accompanying evaluation and scoring documents.



Philip L. Bartlett II
CHAIR

Patrick J. Scully
Carolyn C. Gilbert
COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Amy Dumeny
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

October 21, 2024

Michele Slater, Principal
GDS Associates, Inc.
1850 Parkway Place, Suite 800
Marietta, GA 30067

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award under RFP # 202408154, Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

Dear Ms. Slater:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Proposals (RFP), issued by the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission for a Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis. The Commission has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP, and the Commission is hereby announcing its conditional contract award to the following bidder:

- GDS Associates, Inc.

The bidder listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking. The Commission will be contacting the aforementioned bidder soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFP, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Commission and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Commission is executed. The Commission further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFP, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFP are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Dumeny".

Amy Dumeny
Administrative Director

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



Philip L. Bartlett II
CHAIR

Patrick J. Scully
Carolyn C. Gilbert
COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Amy Dumeny
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

October 21, 2024

Marie Fagan
London Economics International LLC
717 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 1A
Boston, MA 02111

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award under RFP # 202408154, Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

Dear Ms. Fagan:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Proposals (RFP), issued by the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission for a Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis. The Commission has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP, and the Commission is hereby announcing its conditional contract award to the following bidder:

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**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: GDS

DATE: 10/11/2024

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Maine Public Utilities Commission

Name of RFP Coordinator: Celeste Gaylord

Names of Evaluators: Michael Simmons, Amy Mills, Ethan Grumstrup

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• List all other pass/fail criteria of the RFP, if any .	N/A	
•		
•		
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Organization Qualifications and Experience	35	35
Section III. Proposed Services	30	28
Section IV. Cost Proposal	35	18.40
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>81.40</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: GDS

DATE: 10/11/2024

**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I
Preliminary Information**

Section I. Preliminary Information

Evaluation Team Comments:

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: GDS

DATE: 10/11/2024

**EVALUATION OF SECTION II
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Availabl e</u>	<u>Points Awarde d</u>
Section II. Organization Qualifications and Experience	35	35

Evaluation Team Comments:

Refer to the sections and content of your RFP to develop a bulleted outline for notes for each section. Delete the sample below and these directions and replace with your own outline based on your RFP.

- I. Overview of the Organization
 - GDS demonstrated relevant experience with FERC transmission rates and associated accounting matters.
 - Project team is qualified to perform these services and has expertise in regulatory process (currently providing formula rate update review for public clients).
 - Projects show relevant experience with reviewing transmission rates, providing expert testimony, and preparing challenges and data requests.
 - GDS has performed at a high level in previous MPUC consulting arrangements.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: GDS

DATE: 10/11/2024

**EVALUATION OF SECTION III
Proposed Services**

	<u>Points Availabl e</u>	<u>Points Awarde d</u>
Section III. Proposed Services	30	28

Evaluation Team Comments:

Proposed Services / Implementation

- Scope of work shows a clear understanding of the formula rate update process.
- Details show awareness of the ME utilities at issue/formula rates
- Description of services to be provided and timelines were clear and understandable.
- Timelines are consistent with expectations.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: GDS

DATE: 10/11/2024

**EVALUATION OF SECTION IV
Cost Proposal**

Lowest Submitted Cost Proposal	.	Cost Proposal Being Scored	x	Score Weight	=	Score
142,540	.	271,000	x	35 points	=	18.40

Evaluation Team Comments:

Appendix D "Should an adjudicatory proceeding commence, the Commission will use the consultant's hourly rates from any resulting contract and the work will be conducted on a time and materials basis." Based on that, it is unclear whether "formal" challenges (identified in the RFP) would be part of an adjudication, and also unclear whether "other project costs" for this RFP should include costs associated with travel to FERC--which would be a formal adjudication. For this evaluation we used the \$271,000, if we used the \$200,000 the score would be 24.94.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: LEI

DATE: 10/11/2024

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Maine Public Utilities Commission

Name of RFP Coordinator: Celeste Gaylord

Names of Evaluators: Michael Simmons, Amy Mills, Ethan Grumstrup

<u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)		
• List all other pass/fail criteria of the RFP, if any.	N/A	
•		
•		
<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Organization Qualifications and Experience	35	18
Section III. Proposed Services	30	25
Section IV. Cost Proposal	35	35
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>78</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: LEI

DATE: 10/11/2024

**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I
Preliminary Information**

Section I. Preliminary Information

Evaluation Team Comments:

N/A

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: LEI

DATE: 10/11/2024

**EVALUATION OF SECTION II
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Organization Qualifications and Experience	35	18

Evaluation Team Comments:

1. Does not include the certificate of insurance or certificate of good standing. – Not complete submittal.
2. LEI has extensive experience in the New England electricity market, but it is more geared towards economic analysis and market modeling.
3. Team members have demonstrated experience as expert witnesses.
4. LEI has performed well in past MPUC consulting roles.
5. LEI did not include any FERC formula rate experience.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER: LEI

DATE: 10/11/2024

**EVALUATION OF SECTION III
Proposed Services**

	<u>Points Availabl e</u>	<u>Points Awarde d</u>
Section III. Proposed Services	30	25

Evaluation Team Comments:

1. LEI demonstrates an understanding of the scope of work.
2. The work plan generally makes sense and is within the expected schedule.
3. It is not clear what the value of the three workstream approach is.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154
RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis
BIDDER: LEI
DATE: 10/11/2024

**EVALUATION OF SECTION IV
Cost Proposal**

Lowest Submitted Cost Proposal	,	Cost Proposal Being Scored	x	Score Weight	=	Score
142,540	,	142,540	x	35 points	=	35

Evaluation Team Comments:

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: GDS Associates

DATE: 10/9/2024

EVALUATOR NAME: M Simmons

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Overview of Organization

- P / GDS demonstrates experience working with on transmission rates for various PUCs, municipalities and utilities.
- P/ Experience provided is relevant to the scope of the RFP.
- P/ Project team has the experience and expertise to perform the scope of work.
- P/ GDS has expertise to bring additional specific subject matter experts on board if necessary (taxation, depreciation, cost of capital and ROE)
- P/ GDS has performed to a high standard in prior MPUC consulting roles.

2. Subcontractors - GDS does not plan to utilize subcontractors.

3. Organizational Chart was provided and was satisfactory.

4. Submission met all criteria of the RFP for completeness.

II. Proposed Services

1. Services to be Provided

- P/ GDS shows a strong understanding of the scope of work.
- P/ GDS provided specific accounting standards that it planned to use as its guide.

2. Implementation – Work Plan

- P/ Work plan is consistent with past performance of this service.
- P/ GDS has identified key communication check-ins with MPUC staff.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: GDS Associates

DATE: 10/9/2024

EVALUATOR NAME: M Simmons

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

- P/ Project timeline is realistic and consistent with past performance.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: GDS Associates, Inc.

DATE: 10/8 & 11/24

EVALUATOR NAME: Amy B. Mills

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Overview of Organization

- P/I broad experience/perspective/range of clients and services
- P primary client government/regulatory agencies
- P qualifications reference experience reviewing annual formula rate updates

2. Project examples

- P currently providing formula rate update review for public clients
- P descriptions show direct experience in annual update reviews

3. Organizational Chart/Qualified personnel

- P rate and regulatory experience
- P formula rate review experience

II. Proposed Services

1. Services to be Provided

- P details reference formula rate updates
- Q/I corrected dates from RFP for filing dates
- P details relate to ME utilities at issue/formula rates
- P detailed description of services

2. Implementation – Work Plan

- P accounts for differences between service territories
- P logical and reasonable tasks/timeframe

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: GDS Associates, Inc.

DATE: 10/3/2024

EVALUATOR NAME: Ethan Grumstrup

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

A. Qualifications and Skills

- In business since 1986.
- (+) Serves states regulatory agencies.
- (+) Services include financial consulting, transmission planning, cost of service.
- (+) Regulatory, compliance, and expert testimony experience.
- (+) Expert witness in FERC proceedings.
- (+) Has reviewed O&M, capital additions, CWIP, and AFUDC.
- (-) No mention of familiarity with FERC system of accounts, rules, or case history.

B. Similar Projects

- (+) Projects show relevant experience with reviewing transmission rates, providing expert testimony, and preparing challenges and data requests.

C. Personnel

- (+) expert witnesses, cost of service, production cost modelling, AFUDC, transmission rates.

II. Proposed Services

A. Services to be Provided

- (+) Appears to follow the scope of work in the RFP.
- (-) Lacks specificity.

B. Implementation – Work Plan

- The work plan fits within the timeline.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: London Economics

DATE: 10/10/2024

EVALUATOR NAME: M Simmons

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Overview of Organization

- P/ LEI has significant electricity market experience in ISONE
- P/ LEI understands the transmission rate model used in NE.
- N/ Neither references nor experience illustrate past work on formula rate review.
- P/ LEI has performed at a high standard in prior MPUC consulting roles.

2. Subcontractors -None

3. Organizational Chart – Provided and key personnel and roles are clearly defined.

4. Other documentation: N/ certificates of good standing and insurance were not attached to the response. Bid is considered incomplete.

II. Proposed Services

1. Services to be Provided

- P/ LEI has presented a comprehensive understanding of the scope of work.

2. Implementation – Work Plan

- P/ Implementation of work plan is clear and well thought out.
- P/ LEI has included a lot of communication with MPUC staff in their process.
- I/ LEI proposed to prepare formal report of its findings.
- P/ LEI timeline is clear what deliverables can be expected.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: London Economics, LLC

DATE: 10/8 & 11/24

EVALUATOR NAME: Amy B. Mills

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Overview of Organization

- P/I has a background with range of clients of services provided
- P brings perspective of serving clients both private and government
- N qualifications do not reference experience reviewing annual formula rate updates

2. Project examples

- N does not include formula rate update review
- P examples show extensive utility background

3. Organizational Chart/Qualified personnel

- P extensive background in electric utility industry
- N no description of expertise in formula rate review

II. Proposed Services

1. Services to be Provided

- N proposes producing reports that may have limited value
- P deliberate attention to detail of scope of services

2. Implementation – Work Plan

- P details include scope of services from RFP
- N workflow does not demonstrate expertise in formula rate review

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202408154

RFP TITLE: Consultant For FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

BIDDER NAME: London Economics International LLC

DATE: 10/4/2024

EVALUATOR NAME: Ethan Grumstrup

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Maine Public Utilities Commission

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

A. Qualifications and Skills

- (+) Specializes in expert testimony, transmission.
- (+) Knowledge of New England regulatory environment.
- (+) Typically serves government agencies.
- (+) Mentions expertise in reviewing FERC filings, utility cost structures.

B. Similar Projects

- (-) Does not references any specific projects.
- (-) Most of the described experience is irrelevant to the RFP.
- (-) No description of projects associated with FERC proceedings/filings.
- (+) Describes studies of transmission costs and benefits

C. Personnel

- (+) Team members have served as expert witnesses.
- (-) No mention of experience in FERC proceedings.

Certificate of Good Standing and Certificate of Insurance appear to be missing.

II. Proposed Services

A. Services to be Provided

- (+) Appears to fulfill the RFP requirements.

B. Implementation – Work Plan

- Appears to fit RFP requirements



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Philip L. Bartlett, II
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202408154
RFP TITLE: Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

I, Michael Simmons accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Michael Simmons
Signature

10/1/2024
Date



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Philip L. Bartlett, II
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202408154
RFP TITLE: Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

I, (print name at right)

Amy B. Mills

accept the offer

to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

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Signature

Amy B. Mills

Date

10/1/24



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Philip L. Bartlett, II
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202408154
RFP TITLE: Consultant for FERC Transmission Rate Analysis

I, (print name at right)

Ethan Grumstrup

accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

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Ethan Grumstrup
Signature

10/1/2024
Date