

Questions and Answers Regarding the RFP for Energy Consulting Services
Joint Fiscal Office
Posted: September 6, 2024

- 1. If JFO selects more than one consultant, will the selected consultants compete for specific, budgeted scopes through a supplemental mini-bid (or similar) process, or – if multiple consultants are selected – will each consultant be assigned to one or more topics areas with no supplemental competitive processes?**

No supplemental competitive process is contemplated at this time. If JFO ultimately decides to contract with multiple consultants, it is anticipated that JFO would assign topic areas to each consultant.

- 2. If JFO selects more than one consultant, will these consultants have the ability to collaborate on JFO-defined tasks – to maximize internal consistency of analysis across topic areas? Or does JFO prefer consultants to submit joint proposals (i.e., teaming arrangements) that cover the maximum number of subject matter areas?**

If JFO ultimately decides to contract with multiple consultants, it is expected that consultants would have the ability to collaborate. JFO currently expresses no preference on the submission of joint proposals.

- 3. On Page 15, the first row of the table titled “Upcoming Energy Issues for the JFO Energy Consultant(s)” refers to the annual RES progress report filed by the Commissioner of Public Service. Will the JFO’s selected consultant play the lead role in research, analysis, and report development? Or does the JFO envision a more limited scope – in which the selected consultant reviews, assesses, and comments on a report drafted by PSD staff (or a separate third party)?**

The Commissioner of Public Service will prepare the referenced report. JFO anticipates that the consultant will review and comment on the report and its underlying analysis, and perhaps do additional analysis.

- 4. Will the scope include stakeholder engagement? If yes, will such engagement be limited to state government agencies/offices, or will engagement include market participants and other interested parties?**

There may be some work that requires engagement with other state agencies. It is not yet clear whether, and to what extent, further engagement with other entities may be required.

- 5. Will stakeholder engagement (if applicable) include in person meetings? Virtual meetings? If yes, how many of each and when (approximately) will they occur?**

Virtual meetings are acceptable to JFO. It is not yet known how many, or when, such meetings might occur.

- 6. Who will review draft deliverables? JFO only? Multiple state agencies? State entities, market participants and other interested parties?**

It is expected that JFO would be the primary reviewers of draft deliverables.

- 7. Should the “Fixed Hourly Rate” (required by section 2.1.1) be expressed by title classification? If yes, may each title classification be expressed as a range (i.e., if not every analyst has the same rate) or should one rate be specified per classification? If not by title classification, please state how JFO would like the “Fixed Hourly Rate” expressed.**

Proposing a range is acceptable to JFO.

- 8. Consultant rates are typically adjusted each calendar year. May the proposal specify rates by calendar year, or does JFO require another approach?**

Proposing rates by calendar year is acceptable to JFO.

- 9. What is the preferred form of final deliverables? A written Word/PDF Report? PowerPoint slides? Will it vary by assignment?**

The format for deliverables will vary by assignment and may also require testifying to legislative committees.

- 10. The RFP clearly states that “Access to and copies of the Contractor’s *non-proprietary* models, spreadsheets, and data for use by JFO staff will be established as part of the contract” (emphasis added). Where *proprietary* models are used (in whole or in part) for selected engagements, please confirm that contractual obligations will be fulfilled by delivering summary outputs from such proprietary models.**

That is correct. A final contract with chosen vendor/s can also stipulate this.

- 11. Will this work be task order driven (e.g. will there be individual scopes, mini-bids, etc.) based on area and service need?**

The work is expected to be driven by tasks as assigned by JFO based on area and service need.

12. Can JFO provide anticipated level of effort they expect from this work? Can you provide any past level of effort information or overall FTE anticipated?

This is a new effort, so it is unclear how much effort may be required. The anticipated level of effort will depend on the topics and proposals under considered by the General Assembly.

13. Are there any of the issues listed in Attachment D where the consultant would be the primary author of the reports and/or rules? Or is this work anticipated to be review of existing published reports and/or rules?

The referenced reports are being prepared by other entities. However, the consultant/s would be expected to track the variety of work and reports that are underway and review and analyze the work done for these reports. The consultant/s may also be directed by JFO to perform some additional work as needed.