City of Tacoma
Environmental Services Department / O&M Division
Biosolids DEwatering Polymer (Rebid)
RFB Specification No. ES19-0432F

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Samol Hefley, Senior Buyer by December 2, 2019. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org: Navigate to *Current Contracting Opportunities* / *Supplies*, and then click *Questions and Answers* for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

Question 1: Section 1.06, per the bid specs, vendors are allowed to submit up to two (2) polymers for individual bids. Is there a required number of sample sets to be submitted for each polymer trialed?

Answer 1: The City will take three sets of samples for each polymer. The vendor will request when they would like these samples taken. Only sample sets where the end results meet the required minimum solids capture rate of 90% and minimum cake solids if 22% will be considered for bid analysis.

Question 2: If one of the polymers does not qualify and one does, will the City only require a bid for the qualifying polymer?

Answer 2: Only bid on a polymer that qualifies. This may result in only one, or no, bid.

Question 3: Section 1.07 What is the specific amount of time between shutting off wash water and collecting the filtrate discharge?

Answer 3: Five (5) minutes. The sample line will be opened during this time to ensure that it gives a representative sample of the filtrate line contents.

Question 4: How many sample sets (filtrate discharge, cake, polymer solution, and feed) are required to be submitted during the four day trial?

Answer 4: Please refer to response to Section 1.06: Question 1

Question 5: Will all official sample sets be required to meet the minimum bid specifications (i.e. 90% capture and 22% cake) or will all samples submitted during the four day trial be averaged?

Answer 5: Only sample sets where the end results meet the required minimum solids capture rate of 90% and minimum cake solids if 22% will be considered for bid analysis. Samples will not be averaged.

Question 6: How long is one required to wait between a polymer and/or mechanical adjustment and when a sample set is collected?

Answer 6: Three (3) hours. This will give sufficient time to get a representative cake sample of the adjustment made.

Question 7: What specific location will the cake and filtrate samples be collected at the screw press?

Answer 7: Cake samples will be pulled from the sample port at the end of the screw press. Filtrate samples will be pulled from the sample line at the dewatering building sample sink.

Question 8: Will the vendor be allowed to make adjustments to the screw press set points during the trial? If so, are there any screw press set points vendors will not be allowed to adjust?

Answer 8: The vendor will be allowed to adjust the Polymer System Target Concentration Set Point (i.e., polymer dosage in mg/L), Spray water times and duration, flock tank mixer speed. The press will be run in constant flow mode (constant flow of sludge at a predetermined number of gallons per minute; about 100 gpm). No other adjustments may be made.

Question 9: How will the total amount of polymer solution used, and the total amount of feed gallons be measured during the formal trial period?

Answer 9: These will be measured by flow meters already in place for the screw press to be used.

Question 10: Considering how physical characteristics will vary in each vendor's dry polymer, how will the City accurately measure the specific solution concentration the vendor requests?

Answer 10: Once the dry polymer is loaded into the polyblend hopper the auger will be run for a specific time interval and there polymer discharged during the time be collected and weighed. Based on this information the polyblend auger setting will then be set to deliver the proper amount of dry polymer to produce the desired solution concentration. Once the dry polymer has been batched into solution a sample will be taken to verify the concentration. If necessary, adjustments will be made to the polyblend auger settings.