

1. **Question:** The RFP states, “The public engagement facilitator will be required to affirm that neither it nor any of its applicable personnel or subcontractors has or presently expects to have any beneficial, contractual, or business relationship with the Vermont Department of Public Service...” We just completed a public opinion research project (survey and focus groups) on renewable electricity for Vermont PSD. We may have an additional presentation of the results forthcoming for PSD. Would this engagement preclude us from applying for this project, or would a disclosure like this be sufficient?

Answer: That engagement would not preclude you from applying for this project. Please disclose and describe the contractual relationship with the Department of Public Service, including the end date of the engagement. These details would be used in the evaluation of an application.

2. **Question:** The RFP state that “...the facilitator will lead, in consultation with the Commission, the scheduling, advertising, targeting, and hosting of public hearings/meetings.” Does “targeting” include inviting participants to the events, tracking registrations, etc, or will the Commission be responsible for building the room for each event?

Answer: The Commission will provide background on its traditional methods of public outreach and engagement. The facilitator will have the primary responsibility in identifying potential participants.

3. **Question:** Is there an anticipated total budget for the project, including the cost of producing and placing advertising and siting and putting on the public events?

Answer: Approximately \$20,000. The Commission will separately cover the cost of advertising and hosting public events.

4. **Question:** The RFP states that “The Commission shall arrange for language assistance to be provided to members of the public as requested using the services of professional language services companies.” Does that mean that the facilitator does NOT need to include language services in its bid for this project?

Answer: RFP bids do not need to include language services. Proposals may address best practices for language assistance services consistent with the Vermont Language Access Plan.

5. **Question:** If the facilitator is responsible for procuring language services, what languages does the PUC anticipate needing to have available for events? Does the PUC have any staff that are proficient in any of the languages anticipated to be offered?

Answer: Please see reply to question 4.

6. **Question:** Will Vermont be able to make available any public advertising space (billboards, variable messaging boards, space on state websites) to promote the events?

Answer: Space on one or more State of Vermont websites will be available.

7. **Question:** Regarding equity, would the PUC consider low-income Vermonters regardless of racial or ethnic identity as a target equity group for these discussions, in addition to non-white and indigenous residents?

Answer: Yes.

8. **Question:** Does PUC have existing relationships with groups working with the target populations (eg Efficiency Vermont, social service providers, low-income fuel assistance providers) that could be leveraged to publicize the events?

Answer: Yes.