

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Chambersburg Natural Gas Pipeline Resiliency Project - Phase II

**Issued:
Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**Proposals for items covered by this Request for Qualifications must be received by the
Rachel Strite, Utilities Project Manager
rstrite@chambersburgpa.gov, before 3 P.M., legal time, Tuesday, December 3, 2024.**

I. Introduction:

The Borough of Chambersburg (“Borough”) is seeking a qualified firm to perform an environmental review of its proposed natural gas pipeline replacement project, as required for a federally-funded grant project. The Borough was awarded grant funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (“PHMSA”) Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program (“NGDISM”) for its Chambersburg Natural Gas Pipeline Resiliency Project (the “Project”).

PHMSA will require the completion of the environmental review using PowerApps, and PHMSA will provide access to this tool. PowerApps is software that will facilitate real-time communication between PHMSA and the project team.

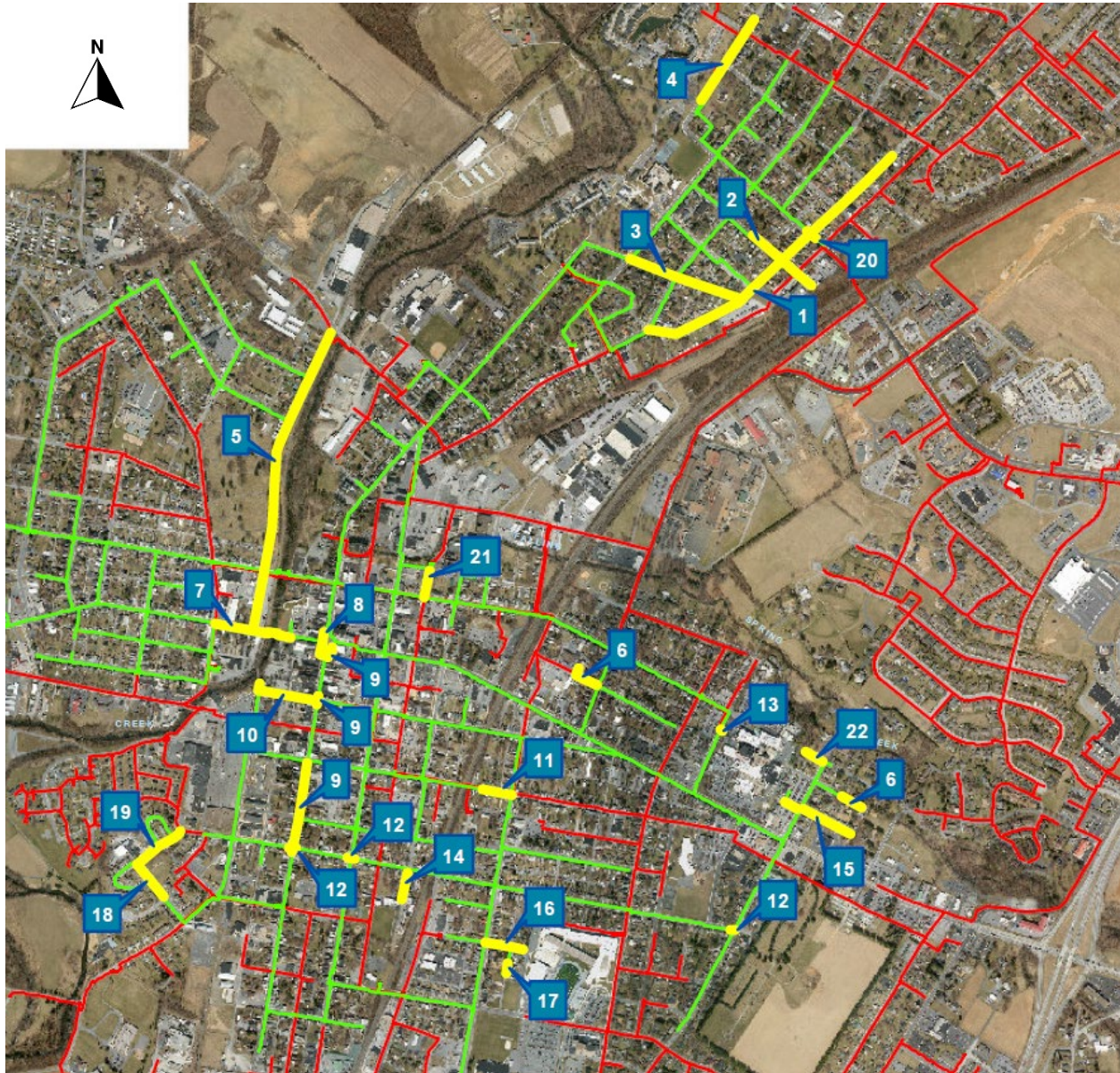
II. Project Summary:

The Borough is one of only two municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that owns and operates a natural gas utility – the other being the City of Philadelphia. Since 2000, the Borough has replaced more than 21 of its 26 miles of cast iron pipes, replacing a relatively substantial amount of existing cast iron main with modern materials each year - usually at a rate equal to or higher than the national average for cast iron replacement. Just under five (5) miles of legacy cast iron remain. The pipelines are over a hundred years old, and the cast iron is brittle and susceptible to cracking.

The proposed Project will occur on approximately twenty-two (22) segments of CI pipeline and unprotected steel gas mains throughout the Borough. As indicated in Figure 1 below, the following segments are included:

1. Scotland Ave. from Broad St. to Hudson Ave. – 3,195 feet
2. Ramsey Ave. from Wilson Ave. to terminus – 765 feet
3. College Ave. from Edgar Ave. to Scotland Ave. – 1,160 feet
4. Philadelphia Ave. (SR 11) from S. Penn Hall Dr. to Horst Ave. – 940 feet
5. Hood St. from Lincoln Way West to Commerce St. – 3,000 feet
6. Nelson Street from 5th Ave. Westward, and N. Coldbrook Ave. Eastward – 730 feet
7. Lincoln Way West from Spring St. to Franklin St. – 700 feet
8. N. Main St. from Lincoln Way West Northward – 110 feet
9. S. Main St. at E. Queen St., from W. Washington St. to W. Catherine St., and around the Borough Square – 1,500 feet
10. W. Queen St. from Water St. to S. Main St. – 710 feet
11. E. Washington St. from S. 4th St. Westward – 300 feet
12. E. Catherine St. at intersections with S. 2nd St. and S. Main St., and S. Coldbrook Ave. Westward – 150 feet
13. N. 7th St. at Regulator Station – 25 feet
14. S. 3rd St. from E. Catherine St. Southward – 300 feet
15. Duncan Ave. – 675 feet
16. Lortz Ave. from S. 4th St. to Chambersburg Area High School – 400 feet
17. Stanley Ct. from Lortz Ave. Southward – 110 feet

- 18. Buchanan St. from Candlestick Ct. to Redwood St. – 420 feet
- 19. Redwood St. from Buchanan St. to W. Catherine St. – 580 feet
- 20. Norland Ave. from Scotland Ave. Eastward – 120 feet
- 21. Harrison Ave. from E. King St. to Light Alley – 260 feet



- 22. E. King St. from N. Coldbrook Ave. Westward – 200 feet

Figure 1. Location of Proposed Project Segments in the Borough

III. Environmental Analysis Requirements

PHMSA has developed a Tier 1 Nationwide Analysis (Tier 1 EA), a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508).

PHMSA is using the programmatic, tiered environmental analysis to: (1) describe the effects of implementing the NGDISM Program, as mandated by Congress; and (2) ensure that implementation of the Program at any specific project sites complies with environmental laws and does not result in a significant environmental impact. Tiered environmental reviews are authorized by 40 CFR 1501.11. This Tier 1 EA will be followed by multiple site-specific Tier-2 analyses (Tier 2). Tier 1 establishes the purpose and need of the assessment and describes and evaluates the environmental and safety effects of the “Proposed Action” and the “No Action Alternatives” on the environment on a nationwide basis. Based on the analysis in the Tier 1, PHMSA has developed a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact “FONSI” to be used for projects that demonstrate consistency with the anticipated environmental impacts documented in this Tier 1 and that include appropriate site-specific mitigation commitments in the Tier 2.

Further, in July 2024, PHMSA published a public notice announcing that it will now be adopting a Department of Energy (DOE) categorical exclusion (CE) for pipeline replacement and repair, which includes many NGDISM projects, effective on 7/3/2024. (See **Attachment 1**).

The CE will impact the NEPA site specific EA process moving forward, as follows:

- The provisional grantees are still required to enter the information requested in PowerApps so that PHMSA can begin the environmental review process. The same information is needed whether the project is processed as a CE or as an EA.
- In order to apply the CE to a specific project, the project must (a) match the scope of the CE, (b) satisfy the “integral elements” criteria in the DOE CE, and (c) be evaluated by PHMSA for “extraordinary circumstances” to determine if the CE is applicable.
- Projects that satisfy the requirements to use the CE will save time by eliminating the public review/comment period that is required for EAs.

The Borough is seeking the services of a qualified firm to assist in the preparation of the required environmental review to help inform PHMSA’s determination as to whether the project is consistent with the impacts described in the Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the NGDISM. Documentation and analysis may include background research, results of record searches, field investigations, field surveys, and other technical studies. PHMSA also requests project proponents clearly describe the project area and limits of disturbance, including staging areas, access areas, and location of all construction activities. **Approval of the CE or EA is required before the grant funds will be released.**

IV. Proposal Structure:

The minimum criteria for Proposal considerations are as follows. Proposals that do not clearly and fully satisfy these minimum criteria will not be considered. **Please limit the proposal to 10 pages, not including resumes.**

1. The Responding Firm must complete conformance with all submission requirements.

2. The Responding Firm must demonstrate relevant experience with Tier 2 NEPA Analysis and CE for federally funded projects by providing three examples of similar projects along with client references for those projects.
3. The Responding Firm should provide resumes (2-pages in length) of professionals who would be working on the environmental review.
4. The Responding Firm should address its capacity to complete the environmental review in a timely manner. Please provide an estimated timeline and milestones for completion.
5. The Responding Firm must provide a cost estimate for completion of the environmental review, including billing rates for key staff, as well as overall cost for completion of the analysis.

One (1) electronic version should be sent to:

Rachel Strite, Utilities Project Manager
rstrite@chambersburgpa.gov

V. Proposal Selection Schedule:

RFQ issue date: Thursday, November 14, 2024
Questions to be received by: Monday, November 25, 2024
Response to questions provided by: Wednesday, November 27, 2024
RFQ proposal due date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 3P.M.
Estimated date of final section: Friday, December 13, 2024

Questions regarding this RFQ must be emailed to John Leary, Director of Natural Gas Utility (jleary@chambersburgpa.gov) no later than 5pm on Monday, November 25, 2024. Responses to all questions will be provided to all firms who have confirmed receipt of the RFQ by that date.

All responses must include the attached RFQ Summary Page as a cover page. **ALL RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 at 3 P.M. FOR CONSIDERATION AND LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.** No information submitted, including attachments, supplementary materials, addenda, etc. will be returned.

VI. Selection Criteria:

1. A Firm will be selected based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
 - A. Demonstration of relevant experience
 - B. Review of references
 - C. Capacity to perform environmental review in a timely manner
 - D. Cost to perform environmental review

2. A Firm will be recommended to the Town Council based on the evaluation of the above criteria and a determination of the best value to the Borough. Notwithstanding anything in this RFQ to the contrary, the Borough reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive any submission requirements contained within this RFQ, and to waive any irregularities in any submitted proposal.

**Receipt of Confirmation of Request for Qualifications for
Environmental Review: Chambersburg Natural Gas Pipeline Resiliency
Project - Phase II**

All prospective firms who obtained the Request for Qualifications electronically must email this
“Receipt of Confirmation” form no later than Wednesday, November 27, 2024 to:

Rachel Strite, Utilities Project Manager
rstrite@chambersburgpa.gov

The undersigned confirms receipt of all 7 pages of the Request for Qualifications and Attachments dated Thursday, November 14, 2024 for the services referenced above.

Name of Company: _____

Name of Recipient: _____

Signature of Recipient: _____

Title of Recipient: _____

Phone No: _____

Fax No: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____