

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

ADDENDUM NO. 1 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Q. Under "Alternative Inspection Methods or Technologies" and the "Other Considerations" evaluation criterion, will LCEC consider a bidder's proposal that adds an independent record-verification layer to the weekly inspection deliverables? In such a layer, each pole record is sealed when delivered, so LCEC, DOE, or NRECA reviewers can later confirm it has not changed. The layer would not create, alter, or interpret inspection data, and all records would remain LCEC's property as the RFP requires.

A. LCEC will consider all proposals submitted in response to the RFP and will evaluate them in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 7. Any proposed approach, methodology, or additional feature will be considered as part of LCEC's overall evaluation of the proposal against the stated requirements and evaluation criteria.

Q. May a bidder include a technology-only subcontractor that performs no field work, subject to LCEC's prior written approval under the Subcontracting section? If so, should the request for that approval be included in the bidder's proposal

A. No. For this project, LCEC will not permit the use of subcontractors. Proposals should be submitted with the understanding that all services described in the proposal will be performed by the bidder.

Q. Separately from this solicitation, is there a process through which a technology vendor may propose a small evaluation pilot to LCEC after this RFP closes?

A. Questions and communications related to this procurement should be limited to matters concerning the RFP. Parties interested in discussing other business opportunities or potential future projects with LCEC may contact LCEC separately outside of this procurement process.

Q. Are all approximately 3,472 poles on the four Dallas Substation feeders located in Texas? Or will this be mixed in NM and TX?

A. The scope of work for the four Dallas Substation feeders is in New Mexico. No Texas facilities are included in this project.

Q. Does LCEC consider this project inspection services or construction?

A. LCEC considers the requested scope of work to be inspection services.

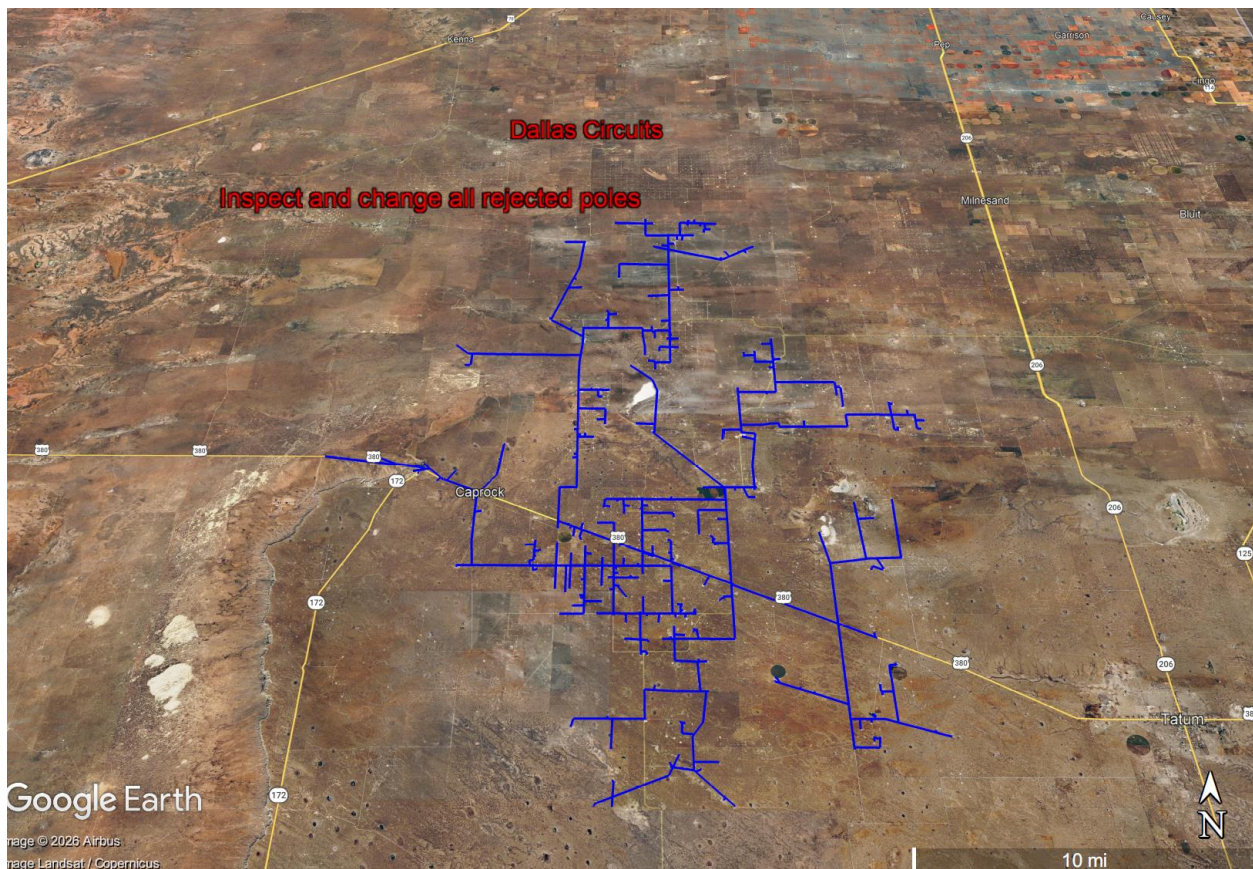
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Q. If it is classified as construction, are any bid, performance, or payment bonds required? If so, what amounts are required, and when must they be submitted?

A. N/A

Q. Although detailed maps/GPS data are provided after award, can LCEC provide a general feeder map or project boundary before bidding, under an NDA if necessary? Please identify known private-property, oilfield, locked-gate, traffic, terrain, or other access restrictions and who arranges permissions and customer notifications.

A. Detailed maps, GPS data, and related project information will not be provided prior to award. A general image of the project area is provided below for reference. Access to private property will be through existing rights-of-way, and keys will be provided for locked gates as necessary. No additional information regarding access conditions will be provided at this time.



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Q. Have these poles previously been inspected? If so, when was the last inspection completed, what methods were used, and are prior inspection results, rejection rates, and subsequent replacement records available to bidders?

A. The poles included in this project were last inspected in 2022. Prior inspection methods included visual inspection, sound and bore, partial excavation, full excavation, and internal treatment. Previous inspection records and related information are the property of LCEC and will not be made available to bidders or contractors. Accordingly, prior inspection results, rejection rates, and subsequent replacement records will not be provided as part of this solicitation.

Q. What GIS and asset-management systems does LCEC use? Is delivery in the required Excel format sufficient, or is import/integration also required?

A. LCEC's asset management and GIS systems are not pertinent to the requirements of this solicitation and will not be disclosed. Excel is the preferred deliverable format, and bidders are not required to provide data import or system integration services unless otherwise specified in the solicitation. In addition to the required Excel deliverables, the successful bidder shall provide a final master shapefile containing the completed inspection data.

Q. What triggers a partial excavation versus a sound-and-bore inspection, and who approves escalation to full excavation? Please confirm whether a pole is billed once at its final inspection category or whether staged inspection charges are cumulative. How are inaccessible poles, repeat visits, and owner-directed additional work paid?

A. Inspection methods shall be applied in accordance with the requirements set forth in the RFP. Generally, poles less than 10 years old and inaccessible poles are subject to Visual Only Inspection. Poles 10 years old or greater are subject to Sound and Bore Inspection (or other approved method). Partial Excavation Inspection and Full Excavation Inspection shall be performed when conditions encountered in the field warrant additional investigation as described in the inspection specifications. The determination to proceed from one inspection level to another shall be made by the bidder's qualified foreman, supervisor, or other experienced personnel in accordance with Section 2, Qualifications, and the inspection requirements of the RFP. For billing purposes, bidders shall provide pricing for each inspection category in accordance with Appendix I: Unit Cost Detail Template. Bidders should clearly identify in their proposal how inspection activities will be categorized and billed. Pricing for inaccessible poles, repeat visits, and any additional work shall be provided through the applicable unit prices included in the bid submission. Refer to Appendix I: Unit Cost Detail Template for pricing requirements.

Q. Who is responsible for arranging underground utility locates before excavation, and are there project-specific excavation restrictions around underground facilities, risers, or pole grounds?

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A. The bidder shall be responsible for arranging any required underground utility locates prior to excavation. LCEC is not aware of any underground utility facilities within the scope of this RFP that would require special excavation restrictions.

Q. When proposing an alternative inspection method, must bidders provide a base proposal and pricing using the specified traditional methods, with the alternative priced separately, or may bidders submit only their recommended approach and associated pricing?

A. Bidders shall submit a base proposal and pricing that complies with the inspection methods and requirements specified in the RFP. Bidders may also submit an alternate proposal for consideration; however, any alternate approach shall be clearly identified and priced separately from the base proposal.

Q. How should alternative or combined methods be presented in Appendix I, and what supporting documentation is required for LCEC's evaluation and approval?

A. Alternative inspection methods or combinations of methods may be presented in a format similar to Appendix I: Unit Cost Detail Template. Bidders should provide sufficient information and supporting documentation to allow LCEC to evaluate the proposed approach. Evaluation of alternative methods will be conducted in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 7, Evaluation Criteria, of the RFP.

Q. Are any special permits or safety certifications required for drilling inspection holes in poles or excavating around pole bases?

A. Any required permits, certifications, qualifications, or training applicable to the performance of the work shall be as specified in Section 2, Qualifications, of the RFP.

Q. What is the anticipated date for written authorization to proceed, and are funding, environmental, and other required approvals expected to be complete by that date?

A. LCEC anticipates proceeding following approval of the prime contract.

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Q. Does the six-month completion requirement include final reporting, and LCEC review and acceptance? Are there required interim milestones, feeder priorities, seasonal restrictions, or limits on working days/hours that we should incorporate into our schedules?

A. The six-month completion requirement applies to all required inspection services and contractor deliverables, beginning on the date of LCEC's written authorization to proceed. Any final inspection report or other final deliverable required as part of the inspection services must be submitted within that six-month period. The six-month period does not expressly include LCEC's subsequent review and acceptance, provided the contractor has timely completed and submitted all required services and deliverables.

The RFP does not establish required interim milestones, feeder priorities, seasonal restrictions, or limits on working days or hours. Services will be invoiced based on the applicable unit-price inspection category and not based on labor hours or time worked. Therefore, LCEC does not impose working-hour restrictions for billing purposes.

The contractor remains responsible for scheduling and staffing the work sufficiently to complete all required services within six months. Work must also be coordinated with LCEC regarding system access, outages, safety requirements, property access, and any location-specific operating constraints. Any such coordination requirements communicated during performance will not change the agreed unit prices.

Q. If we will be required to sign a new contract in the template they provided, as this will be federal funding, or if we can modify our existing agreement?

A. No modifications to the agreement or an existing agreement will be permitted. Because this project is federally funded, proposals should be submitted with the understanding that the contract will be awarded using the agreement provided by LCEC.

Q. Can we get Exhibits F and G?

A. No. LCEC will not provide completed versions of Exhibits F and G. These exhibits are part of the proposed contract documents and are intended to be completed by the bidder/contractor, as applicable. Exhibit F requires the bidder to provide its proposed compensation and payment information, and Exhibit G requires the bidder to provide any applicable contractor safety requirements and supporting documentation. Bidders should complete these exhibits using their own forms, procedures, and documentation as appropriate.

This document constitutes Lea County Electric Cooperative's official responses to all questions received by the stated deadline of Friday, September 11, 2026, in accordance with the 2026-07 "Pole Equipment and Insulators IFB" Version 1.0 dated August 31, 2026.