



July 30, 2010

MEMO TO: Prospective Bidders

SUBJECT: **Addendum No. 2**
City of Durham Contract WS-81: 2010 Water and Sewer Improvements

This addendum provides answers to questions from prospective bidders that have been submitted since the pre-bid conference held on July 14, 2010. This addendum does change the original quantities in the proposal.

Question No. 1: *Both the Water Main and Sewer Main spec sections have a section titled “Unsuitable material.” Each section describes the payment to include hauling off the unsuitable and the replacement will be paid as “borrow material.” However, the bid proposal does not include a pay item for borrow material. Under which pay item to we include the borrow material?*

Answer No. 1: The contractors should provide suitable backfill for each CY of “unsuitable material” removed in the “Water” and “Sewer” sections, and suitable material for each CY of “undercut” in the street repair bid items, and suitable material for each CY of “rock excavation” in the “Water” and “Sewer” sections, as part of their bid prices for these items allowing for compaction.

Question No. 2: *NCDOT normally requires specific working hours while working in their right-of-way. What are the allowable working hours for this project?*

Answer No. 2: The Contractor is only allowed to work Monday through Saturday using natural light. No artificial lighting may be used and the Contractor cannot work on Sundays.

Question No. 3: *Will we be able to close the streets to install the water/sewer mains?*

Answer No. 3: The Contractor will not be allowed to close the street and must maintain at least one open lane of traffic throughout the construction.

Question No. 4: *Sheet WS-81/5 references abandoning the force main by pumping flowable fill. What are the limits of this abandonment? Also, is this to be incidental or will it be paid under item 5 “flowable fill?”*

Answer No. 4: The flowable fill for the force main will not be paid under bid item No. 5 and should be included in the lump sum cost to remove the pump station.

Question No. 5: *In discussing the active shoring over the past few days, it has become apparent that the design of the shoring may change due to actual conditions such as rock or wet conditions. In order to bid the project accurately, are we to assume the rock profiles shown are accurate and the soil is suitable? If the actual rock profile differs from the plans, or the soil is not suitable, will the contractor be given a change order if the shoring design changes?*

Answer No. 5: The rock profiles are for “illustrative” purposes only and are not accurate representations of the actual geology. These profiles were shown to illustrate how we computed the quantity estimates for rock removal. There is no geotechnical information provided. The Contractor has the option of taking boring samples if they feel they need to in order to prepare the appropriate bid. The geotechnical engineer who will be a subcontractor should require soil borings as part of the design services; the soil borings will provide the design data necessary for the active shoring system as well as provide an indication of where (vertically) consolidated rock might be encountered and if there are wet soils or a water table which need to be taken into consideration in the design and use of the active shoring systems.

Question No. 6: *After looking at the bid for the project we would like to request that the active shoring have a minimum bid amount associated with it to keep the bidding process fair and contractors from being able to unbalance bids in the bidding process.*

Answer No. 6: Several plan holders who have indicated that they will be providing bids for WS-81 have expressed concern about the active shoring bid items based on a contract that was previously bid in another jurisdiction where the bid form was structured in a manner similar to WS-81. The concern that has been expressed is that some bidders may understate the amounts for active shoring and that the pricing for those items may not be reasonable resulting in a low bid for which it will not be possible to complete the project. As a result, in determining the lowest responsive bid, and consistent with state bidding law, the City will evaluate the reasonableness of line item bid pricing including whether the overall bid is balanced.

There may be one more Addendum issued on Monday, August 2, 2010.

As a reminder, the bid opening for this project will be held on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at 2:00 PM in the Public Works Conference Room 3A.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Byron Brady, PE, CPESC
Contract Management Supervisor