

VA262-14-B-1525 RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION  
(RFIs)

QUESTION

- 1) We have some confusion about Block 17 of the SF 1442. Block 17 indicates a Base Bid line item and (3) Bid Deductive Alternate line items. Section 01 00 00, Part 1.2 – Statement of Bid Items indicates (3) Bid Alternates, but does not indicate we are to delete the work described in each alternate, they appear to be additive. Drawing sheet LC102 has an “Alternate Bid Construction Legend” at the top of the page with (4, *not* 3) Alternate Bid Items and they are depicted as additive alternates as well. The questions are:  
Are there 3 or 4 Bid alternates?

VA ANSWER – There will be main Bid item and 3 deductive alternate items.  
See Revised 010000 General Requirement Specs for details.

- 2) Will the Alternates be additive to the Base Bid?

VA ANSWER – See response to Item 1 above.

- 3) Will the VA provide a Price Schedule clarifying all of the Bid Alternates?

VA ANSWER – See response 1) above.

QUESTION

- 4) Section 01 00 00, Part 1.1 – B and Section 01 45 29, Part 1.1 both state that the Testing Laboratory will be retained by the VA. Please confirm that material testing will be arranged and paid for separately by the VA and will not be a cost factor for the Contractor.

VA ANSWER – All Material testing will be at contractor's cost.

QUESTION

- 5) The scope of the alternates in the drawings (Sheet LC102) do not correspond to the narrative descriptions of the alternates in specification section 01 00 00 1.2 Statement of Bid Items.

VA ANSWER – See response to item 1 above.

- 6) The wording of the Alternates is also ambiguous and on their own could be additive or deductive. Only by looking at the 1442 would one determine these are deductive.

VA ANSWER - See response to item 1 above.

- 7) Alternate 1 – Per LC102 These stone veneer finishes are additive. Also, 2 of the seat walls are also additive per LC102.

VA ANSWER - See response to item 1 above.

- 8) Alternate 2 – Synthetic Lawn – Please define the extent of the removal of this system. Please refer to H/LC104

VA ANSWER Synthetic lawn is not an alternate. This is part of the Base Bid item noted on LC101 item #16 and LP101. Detail H/LC104 details product type and installation. Also refer to synthetic turf specification section 321813.

QUESTION

- 9) Please provide a site map with laydown area and staging area within 175' of the center of the Patio.

VA ANSWER – See attached Staging Area sketch, SK-2. (VA)

QUESTION

- 10) Stone Veneer is typically found in Specification Section 04 40 00. Please provide specification for this process and product application.

VA ANSWER Refer to detail A/LC102, keynote # 9 for specification of stone veneer. Refer to attached specification section 04 20 00 Unit Masonry for stone veneer.

QUESTION

- 11) Item 7 Bid Contents – this requires 2 items the 1442 and bid bond  
Item 19 VETS-100 – Do you want this form as part of the bid package?  
Item 20 CVE Verification – Do you want this submitted as part of the bid package, or will the VA verify compliance independently?  
Item 21 SAM – Do you want verification of SAM registration submitted with the bid package?  
Safety Record – Do you want a record submitted with the bid, or will this be verified post award?  
Reps & Certs – If a contractor is up-to-date in SAM, do you want the Reps and Certs submitted with the bid?

VA ANSWER - See Solicitation Instructions to Bidders, #7 for BID CONTENTS.

QUESTION

- 12) Construction completion time is given only 120 days. Given submittal preparation, VA or AE submittal review/approval and logistic (purchase & delivery of material) would take long lead-time. Will time extension be granted in the event that the contractor encounters the issue?

VA ANSWER – Revised completion time is 180 calendar days (VA)

QUESTION

- 13) Reference: Access/ Specifications Section: I Objective, 2, c,d,e. (No Drawings provided by VA show this route)

Spec section I Objective, 2, c states “c. Maintain negative air pressure in construction area as needed. d. Corridors shall remain accessible during working hours. e. Perform phasing to access inpatient areas on other hallways after hours.”

It has become clear that the only entrance/exit to complete this project will be through the double doors to the patio. Based on the schedule parameters (120 days) it is this contractor's opinion that the hallway from the double doors entrance to the patio to the sliding door to the outside will need to be turned over to the contractor and blocked off until project is completed because of the constant move of equipment & materials in / out. It is impossible to set up Daily containment of negative air (and maintain pressure throughout the hallway) on a daily basis with only plastic walls. Daily It would probably take 2 hours to install plastic and negative air machine then at the end of the day another hour to remove the entire system and therefore providing only 4 hours of daily productivity (after workers take their lunch and breaks). Therefore, is it possible eliminate VA Staff access to room IE-80, IE79 storage, Block off Doors that lead to room IE-29, Block off Community Living Center Entrance Double Doors, male and female bathrooms, build a temp wall separating the hallway and vending machine room (so wall next to room IE-64C keeping that door open for access to community living center entrance double doors) and a temp wall next to the exterior sliding door that has a sign showing “1 South” and “Beds 1-60”. Therefore, we are creating a direct path to the project from building entrance sliding door (this door is next to the current

construction area) to the double door patio that would be for contractor use while construction. Please advise if there are no life safety issues and if this is acceptable.

**VA ANSWER – The subject corridor is the main thoroughfare for the CLC and cannot be turned over to the contractor exclusively for the project.**

**Contractor shall use carts that can be fully covered and dusted off prior to entering the building. Contractor employees transporting shall be dusted off prior to entrance to the building. An Infection Control plan shall be submitted for approval prior to performance of work that will involve transporting of debris and material through the CLC. This process was done by another contractor inside the main building and found effective. Possible alternative option would be the use of crane to lift larger volume of debris and material outside of the building. A crane lift plan is critical and needs to be submitted for approval prior to scheduling any lift to clear the path of swing. Only few hours a day can be authorized for the lift using crane. Delineation shall be established and contractor personnel shall be managing the foot traffic inside the building prior to every crane lift. There are life safety issues and Integrated Life Safety Measures (ILSM) that will be conducted by VA Safety prior to acceptance of any construction submittal process by contractor. Contractor shall submit Safety and Infection Control Plan to be approved by VA. (VA)**

**14) Reference: Existing Footings / Noise restrictions**

There are large footings that will require a 100lb jack hammer with compressor to demolish the large footings. This equipment is very loud and from the site visit we were told that there are elderly people. Is there a noise restriction for equipment? If so what are they? Please Advise.

**VA ANSWER –Noise shall be controlled to minimum possible and sound deflectors shall be installed on the CLC walls. (VA)**

**15) Reference: VA Hospital Staging Coordination**

There will need to be a staging area for demolition debris tubs and other equipment. Usually VA states to coordinate with facility after the Award is given. However, in walking around the site there is no logical location to stage. Before providing a bid to the VA a staging area will need to be determined in order to calculate how much extra work is needed to take and bring materials to staging area. Please Advise.

**VA ANSWER – Staging area and construction route drawing is indicated in the attached Sketches SK-1 and SK-2. (VA)**

**QUESTION**

16) SF 1442 Block 13a. Requests original and 1 copy;  
Instructions to bidders (page 6 of 42, Paragraph # 03: Requires us to provide 1 (one) Original Hardcopy.

**VA ANSWER**

**1 HARD ORIGINAL - NO (0) COPIES**

**REMINDER: WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN INK**

**REMINDER: ACKNOWLEDGE AMENDMENTS SF1442 BOX#19.**

QUESTION

- 17) "f. **Scheduling and phasing** of all work shall be performed so as to Minimize interference with normal hospital functions which may require Contractor working outside regular working hours; 7:00 AM through 5:00 PM Monday through Friday."

Demolition will be noisy and disruptive. Do the above regular work hours/days from the specification pertain to the demo work?

What is the path of travel for the following, and is there a site logistics plan available?

- Moving construction equipment in/out (general and heavy)
- Removing debris
- General construction access and hours
- Construction temporary storage and staging location(s)

VA ANSWER –Moving heavy equipment in/out depending on the size and weight can be done through double doors. Flooring inside the building shall be protected from scratches, scuff and damage due to heavy equipment or carts. Contractor shall submit plans on how the existing flooring will be protected for approval by the VA. Removing debris shall be through the use of carts through double interior doors. Construction access and through double doors and hours as indicated in the contract. – Contractor staging area and construction route are as indicated in Sketches SK-1 and SK-2. Noisy and disruptive work shall be done 8AM through 4PM. (VA)

QUESTION

- 18) After visiting the site it was apparent that space is at a premium at your facility. If you could possibly give a location for the staging area, the dumpster location and also the where the subcontractors would be allowed to park. This would be helpful in determining access time frames to and from the site.

VA ANSWER – See VA Answer to item 15 above on access and staging area. No parking space will be utilized by Contractor unless VA approved. VA

- 19) After walking the site it was apparent that getting the concrete to the Patio area was going to be a challenge .Will the V.A. allow hoses to be brought through the hospital for the purpose of pumping the concrete?

VA ANSWER –Pumping concrete using boom is acceptable. Submit safety plan prior to overhead pumping of concrete. (VA)

- 20) The plans reflect the elevations for new work. But they do not show the existing elevations. Can the Government supply us with a plan that has the existing elevations on it?

VA ANSWER – As-built drawing 1-00L6 is provided for reference. (VA)

QUESTION

- 21) Architectural say prime & paint the patio structures. Plan Page SE001-Structural Steel Spec Note 4 says all steel exposed to weather to be galvanized. Is what is under roof deck considered exposed to weather?? Please clarify if all or no patio tubing and steel are intended to be galvanized or if only what is outside of the roof deck covering.

VA ANSWER – All steel to be galvanized, primed, and painted. (HMC)

QUESTION

22) Can we use the Area to the south (currently under construction) to stage a crane?

VA ANSWER – See item 15 above. (VA)

23) Will we be required to Sound Baffle all of the windows within the courtyard to lesson patient disturbance.

VA ANSWER – Yes. (VA)

24) Will the project require afterhours work?

VA ANSWER –Yes, applicable to all utility shutdowns. (VA)

25) Will the project require weekend work?

VA ANSWER –Yes, applicable to all utility shutdowns. (VA)

26) Can Patients/staff be relocated in certain rooms if we have to crane materials overhead?

VA ANSWER – Yes, but an approved Crane Plan first is required. (VA)

27) Can materials be brought in through the hospital?

VA ANSWER – Yes, Safety & Infection Control plan shall be submitted for approval by VA.

28) Can we utilize a portion of the loading dock area North of the Project?

VA ANSWER – No. (VA)

29) Will we be given a Staging area onsite? If so where?

VA ANSWER – Yes, See item 15 above. (VA)

30) Are there Grade Beams underneath the existing Trellis Column? If so what Size?

VA ANSWER – Existing conditions are to be verified. No “as-built” drawings to the patio structures are available. (HMC) For informational purposes, the main CLC building has 30” X 30” grade beam. Patio is expected to have at least four feet deep footing supporting each concrete post. (VA)

31) How far we will be running the communication line to tie into the new Emergency Telephone shown on AS101 Detail 18?

VA ANSWER – See Sheet Note # 5 of Drawing Number ES101 for details. (VA)

32) Are there any as-built drawings that can show the wall the fire extinguisher cabinet is installed on?

VA ANSWER – No “as-built” drawings that show the walls are available (HMC). Existing walls are stucco on steel studs. (VA)