

Responses to Questions – Camp Nelson National Cemetery
Solicitation No. VA-786A-12-R-0007

GENERAL NOTE- The technical specification sections to be used for the project may include but are not limited those provided in the solicitation or available on the VA Website: <http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/ncaSpec.asp>. The Design Build Team may need to supplement the specifications available with original sections that comply with the expanded CSI format.

Question:

1. The SF 1442 states that project duration is 300 Calendar days however the RFP page 3 of 15 states 365 days- please clarify.

Answer: ***Project duration is 300 days.***

2. The SF 1442 states Cost range \$1-2M however the RFP page 3 of 15 states \$250,000 to \$1M – please clarify.

Answer: ***The cost range is \$500,000 to \$1M.***

3. The SF 1442 states Price Volume one original and 1 copy to be submitted however page 10 of 59 of the solicitation states Original only – please clarify

Answer: ***1 price proposal original and one copy shall be submitted.***

4. The RFP states that Corporate Experience is limited to 3 projects. Are we able to submit 3 projects for the Prime and 3 for the major subcontractor or are we to submit a total of 3 for our entire team?

Answer: ***Only 3 projects will be submitted. The projects can represent any members of the project team.***

5. Our firm has served as the landscape architect of record (A/E of record) for previous columbarium design-build projects with the NCA. Page 9 of the RFP states “The DB A/E who prepares the construction documents shall be a professional architect or engineer licensed in the state of Kentucky.” From our reading of the RFP, it is unclear whether it is acceptable for a landscape architect (NAICS code 541320) to serve as the architect/engineer of record for this project. Please confirm that it will be acceptable for a landscape architect to serve as the architect/engineer of record for this project.

Answer: ***Structural design elements shall be sealed by a KY licensed professional engineer. A Landscape Architect is acceptable as the Professional of record.***

6. In Document 001 Solicitation the URL given on page 4 of 13 at the end of the Statement of Work does not work.

Answer: ***This is the target will direct you to the requested document,***
<http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/nca/NCADesignGuide.pdf>

7. Document 002 Request for Proposal indicates that the drawing deliverable requirement is AutoCAD 2003. Using the current version of AutoCAD it is not possible to save back to the 2003 version. Most firms do not, have the capability to provide AutoCAD 2003 files.

Answer: *The AutoCAD deliverable format shall be compatible with ACAD2010.*

8. Item D4 in the Request for Proposal indicates that the COR may, if he/she chooses, require weekly jobsite visits from a registered architect or engineer during construction. In many cases, the cost of each visit will be over \$1000.00. How is the bidder to price this variable amount?

Answer: *A total of three jobsite visits from DB AE registered architect or engineer during construction shall occur at the midpoint in the project, pre-punch list, and final inspection.*

9. Has a geotechnical report been completed? Is completion of a geotechnical report part of the scope of the design-build work? Section 01 45 29 references Piles and Caissons. Does the Government anticipate that deep foundations such as these are needed on this project? Can bidders assume that shallow-type foundations can be used?

Answer: *No geotechnical investigation report has been performed for the subject site. The government does not anticipate the use of caissons or other deep foundation type structures. It is up the Design- Build team to develop an appropriate foundation design based upon a geotechnical investigation and report that is to be procured by the DB Contractor. Section 01 45 29 is only included by reference from other sections. The NCA has not performed any predesign.*

10. Some specification sections are repeated more than once in the PDF file. Are they the same?

Answer: *One specification section, Section 01 45 29 Testing Laboratory Services was uploaded twice to the FBO.*

11. Section 01 45 29 references testing for Shot Crete. Where is this product required for this project?

Answer: *Only specification sections relevant to the project design shall be required. The specifications included in the Solicitation represent only a sample of the VA specs that will be required to be edited specifically for the final design. The number and specific selection of specifications represent what may be required but in no way are to be considered a limitation. Additional sections from the VA NCA's standard library may be required as well as newly created sections by the Design Build AE to properly support the project*

12. The compaction test methods are not edited, nor are the number of tests required. Is it up to the design-builder to choose which test method they prefer to use and the quantity?

Answer: *The test methods are to be recommended by the Geotechnical Investigation Report that is to be procured by the DB Contractor; however each relevant specification section does provide minimum frequencies.*

13. Specification sections are provided for Architectural Precast Concrete and Cast Stone. Where are these products to be used? Are they acceptable substitutes for the cut stone on the wall or the cut stone wall cap?

Answer: No. Cut limestone shall be used.

14. A building Demolition specification is provided. Are there buildings or parts of buildings to demolish in this project?

Answer: No.

15. The specifications indicate that the design-builder is responsible for contracting the State's SHPO for release of the project. We therefore assume that no contact has been made with them. What happens if the contract has been awarded and the SHPO does not approve the project?

Answer: The contractor is responsible for contact and coordination with the SHPO. The VA believes that such an element is within reason for approval. Also please note the requirement for shovel testing on Page 11 of Attachment B Part IV Para D2.E.

16. There is a reference to using the rendering as a reference for laying out the columbarium. However, no rendering is provided?

Answer: There is no rendering or reference.

17. Is the section, "Under Request For Proposal Design-Build for 750-Niche Columbarium" the Scope of Work for this project? In the Solicitation the Scope of Work is indicated to be Attachment (B). Please clarify.

Answer: Attachment (B) references a 12 page document titled "Request for Proposal Design- Build for 750 Niche Columbarium" that covers 4 parts:

Part I – Project Objectives

Part II – Responsibilities of the Design-Build Team

Part III – Proposal Requirements

Part IV – Post Award Requirements

18. According to the list of Sections in the specifications, we are missing Section 09 06 00 Schedule for Finishes. Is it still required? If it is still required, please provide.

Answer: This section is not required. See response to Question #11.

19. According to the list of Sections in the specifications, we are missing Section 01 57 19 Temporary Environmental Controls. Is it still required? If it is still required, please provide. Section is required.

Answer: This is the target will direct you to the subject specification.

<http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/ncaSpec.asp>

20. According to the list of Sections in the specifications, we are missing Section 04 73 11 Memorial Marker. Is it still required? If it is still required, please provide.

Answer: No memorial markers are required to be supplied for this project.

21. According to the list of Sections in the specifications, we are missing Section 04 73 31 Marble Niche Covers. Is it still required? If it is still required, please provide.

Answer: *Please reference the VA spec located at <http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/ncaSpec.asp> However the niche covers are to be government furnished-contractor installed.*

22. According to the list of Sections in the specifications, we are missing Section 31 20 11 Earth Moving (Short Form). However, we do have Section 31 20 00 Earth Moving. Which specification section do we need?

Answer: *Short Form is provided for projects of limited scope and shall be suitable for this project. Short form can be found here: <http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/ncaSpec.asp#31>*

23. We have in the specifications Section 32 12 16, Asphalt Paving, but that is not listed as a section we are to have. Do we need this section or was it inadvertently added to the specifications?

Answer: *It may be needed depending on the design that is selected Please reference the VA spec located at <http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/ncaSpec.asp>*

24. We have in the specifications Section 01 42 19, Reference Standards, but that is not listed as a section we are to have. Do we need this section or was it inadvertently added to the specifications?

Answer: *Please reference the VA spec located here: <http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/ncaSpec.asp#31>*

25. The site is a National Historic Site and will therefore come under the review of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Is the project A/E responsible for filing project plans with the SHPO? If so, what level of review by the SHPO will the A/E be responsible for? Will the A/E be expected to complete the work necessary for a Section 106 review?

Answer: *See response to Question #15.*

26. Is the turf in the project area currently irrigated? If so, will the Contractor and A/E be responsible for designing and constructing modifications to the existing irrigation system as required to build the columbarium plaza?

Answer: *The subject area is not irrigated currently and the DB Team shall design an irrigation system for all of Section I to determine proper supply line size to be used, however only the area directly associated with the columbarium construction planting shall be installed. The irrigation design for Section I is to show proper head-to-head coverage, equipment type, line and lateral size and routing.*

27. At the site visit it was mentioned that the stone facing for the columbarium units will match the flagpole wall and retaining wall facing stone. Would you please provide a local source for this matching stone face material?

Answer: *Several suppliers are in the area. The stone that was used for the veneer of the existing walls is limestone. The specific stone mix is 85% Kentucky River Marble (white/gray) and 15% Buff.*

28. We know that landscape irrigation is an important part of the columbarium design and construction. Is there a water line or source for the irrigation system available in the frontage road at Area "I" or will the water source be a well or other source?

Answer: *Water source is a domestic connection near the front entrance of the cemetery that extends along the primary access drive. VA will provide as-built documentation.*

29. Is there a need to accommodate parking at the site?

Answer: *Yes, similar to a pull-off or widened road.*

30. Will you provide defined boundaries for the site to ensure we stay within the limits?

Answer: *The design boundaries shall include all of Section I for irrigation design. Construction boundaries shall be defined by the east edge of the existing burials to the internal road. See attached*

31. Since a project boundary has not been defined and it was acknowledged at the site walk that the solicitation incorrectly defined the project boundary, would the deadline be extended by 1 week to accommodate the revised site?

Answer: *The submission deadline has been extended to April 23, 2012.*

32. Are we allowed to remove the existing tree and if so, will the cemetery staff remove the tree?

Answer: *The tree may be removed if required and such removal will be the responsibility of the Contractor.*

33. What is the required standoff distance from the road for the vaults?

Answer: *The VA standard at new cemeteries is 10' but this dimension varies widely section to section at older cemeteries. No vaults are being proposed for this project. The columbariums shall offset 20' from the existing flush grave markers of the existing burials.*

34. How many design submittals to the VA after award (or at what phases) should be included in our schedule for the VA to review?

Answer: *Please see Part I on page 1 of 12 in the RFP (Attachment B).*

35. In order to match the existing stone, could you provide the name and contact information for the source of the stone?

Answer: *See response to Question #27.*

36. Will a topo survey be provided for the revised site location?

Answer: *No. The design builder is to conduct and provide a new up to date survey. The survey limits shall include, but not be limited to, all of Section I and roadway associated with columbarium improvements. The survey will locate all section grid monuments, all topographic and planimetric features and the grave marker rows so the irrigation can be adequately designed for Section I as noted in Question 26 above.*

37. What landscape plantings are desired?

Answer: *Low maintenance.*

38. Will state and local design permits be required? Or will coordination with the local authorities be adequate?

Answer: *Contractor is responsible for identifying coordinating and obtaining all required permits including those related to erosion and sediment control.*

39. Does the VA require WEEKLY site visits by the A/E as the solicitation states. This directly increases the project cost to the government and is likely not necessary.

Answer: *See Response to Question #8.*

40. Where can we set a temporary construction trailer? The new existing site is too small to accommodate a construction trailer/office.

Answer: *Cemetery Director to provide answer/location, however because of limited open space in the cemetery there is little to no available land to set a trailer. Contractor should consider not bringing a construction trailer to the site.*

41. Specification 01010-17, Paragraph 1.21 CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS, B, requires a commercial photographer. Can the general contractor take the photos and furnish them as per the specifications?

Answer: *The Contractor may take the photographs in lieu of a commercial photographer.*

42. Was the coping used on the walls currently on site architectural precast or limestone?

Answer: *Limestone*

43. Can excess excavated dirt be spoiled on site or does it need to be hauled off site?

Answer: *Excess excavated dirt, soil, and unsuitable materials are to be hauled off site.*

44. The proposed location of Columbarium is indicated at section R. The section R is served currently by the Entrance road to the Cemetery. Would the design/construction require the access to the Columbarium through the existing Entrance road or through an extension of interior road that is currently terminated at the North of section S?

Answer: *Section I has been identified as a new location for the columbarium. See answer to Question #30.*

45. Please indicate the width of interior road?

Answer: *Unclear as to questioner's reference. The average pavement width for the roads that surround Section I is 21 feet.*

46. Is the existing irrigation controller extendable or a new controller is needed. Please indicate the location of existing controller and electrical connection. What is the voltage of electrical connection?

Answer: *Existing two wire controller, located at the primary committal shelter, is expandable. It runs off of a 110V circuit.*

47. What is the size of the main and pressure of water available for irrigation?

Answer: *The water line service along the primary cemetery road is 6". The water pressure at the street is over 100 psi (as noted by Nicholasville Public Works in 2011).*

48. Would the construction access be the same as normal Cemetery access?

Answer: *Yes.*

49. Would VA consider Bid Alternates?

Answer: *No bid alternates shall be accepted.*

50. Is any soil report available? What soil bearing capacity we should consider for the foundation design?

Answer: *No soil report is available for the subject site within the Cemetery. Procurement of a Geotechnical Investigation and Report is a part of the DB Team's scope for this project.*

51. Do we need to consider irrigation system for Camp Nelson? If yes, can you provide us the following information:

a. Design requirement:

Answer: *Irrigation shall be designed for all of Section I but shall only be installed around the columbarium improvements.*

b. Which existing water source we can use?

Answer: *City domestic water main, located in the primary road, serves the site. Recently developed crypt sections tee off this service main.*

c. Existing electrical source for irrigation system.

Answer: *The existing two wire controller is run off of 110V Circuit at panel in primary committal shelter. Existing two wire controller is housed in a freestanding pedestal near the primary committal shelter.*

d. Is there any underground installation at the project site? **Answer:** *Not in Section I*