

RFI FORM

Contractor Name:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

Send to: cecil.nichols@va.gov

RFI (REQUEST FOR INFORMATION)			
PROJECT NO.:		RFI NO.:	009
PROJECT NAME:	EMERGENCY INSTALL New Wires & Breaker, Bldg 5A	DATE REQUESTED:	05/17/2017
SOLICITATION NO.:	VA262-17-Q-0929	REFERENCE:	
DRAWING:		SPECIFICATION SECTION:	

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED

Please be specific as possible:

GENERAL COMMENTARY / FEEDBACK

Please see answers provided below.

FYI: my experience reference warranty issues (or lack thereof) is:

- 1) system not operated in accordance with manufacturer recommendations
- 2) failure to maintain
- 3) unauthorized repairs by someone other than manufacturer

VA Long Beach has expressed interest to move forward with solicitation RFQ as advertised with subsequent amendment A00001 pending to provide Government (VA) response to contractor submitted RFIs and job walk-site visit sign-in documents.

v/r,
Cecil

Cecil S. Nichols
Contract Specialist, Construction Branch
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
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Network Contracting Office 22 (NCO 22)
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Telephone: (562) 766-2267
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From: Bernabe, Julio D
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 1:41 PM
To: Nichols, Cecil S
Subject: FW: CONCERN: VA262-17-Q-0929, EMERGENCY INSTALL Wires & Breaker, Bldg. 5A, VA Long Beach HCS
Importance: High

1. Yes the VFD and the Motor was evaluated by Johnson Control technician, no issue.
2. I don't know where the warranty of the pump stands. I assumed it's not under warranty.
3. The pump, the motor and the drive are all good according to JCI technician. No mechanical issue or electrical issue or problem that I'm aware in regards to the pump.

From: Nichols, Cecil S
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Bernabe, Julio D
Subject: CONCERN: VA262-17-Q-0929, EMERGENCY INSTALL Wires & Breaker, Bldg 5A, VA Long Beach HCS
Importance: High

Julio,

It has been brought to Contracting's attention and I need definite clarification on below issues raised during yesterday's job walk-site visit with regard to:

- 1) Has the inoperable chiller pump been evaluated by a pump manufacturer / representative (who specializes in pumps)?
- 2) What is the status of current warranty on pump installation?
- 3) What is/was the nature of Johnson Controls evaluation of the pump? (was it purely electrical or did it involve the mechanical operation of the pump)?

The issues have now been raised and it is inherent we perform our due diligence in achieving a proper reply before award of an otherwise wasteful contract. I've had similar issues on multi-million dollar private sector contracts when I was a superintendent / QCM and a pump specialist was required to troubleshoot / repair. Please reach-back for Engineering assistance if needed in obtaining a valid response.

Good Morning Mr. Nichols,

Having attended the job walk yesterday at VA Hospital, Long Beach, we've determined the cause of the melted wiring and breaker to be directly related to an internal leak in the pump causing an electrical short, thus destroying the aforementioned items requested for replacement. The onsite plant manager in a telephone conversation (May 16, 2017) with my partner stating the pump in question was leaking externally and it was making twice as much audible noise as the other pumps. He then advised Johnson Controls inspected the pump and it was fine. This is not the case, nor do we believe Johnson Controls tested the pump correctly for an electrical short. Johnson Controls earlier advised the wiring terminals were not tightened down firmly at the breaker causing the wiring and breaker to melt (**FAULTY INSTALLATION**). Highly recommend having Johnson Controls with the pump manufacturers representing present to test the pump correctly prior to any wiring or breaker install. **THIS SHOULD BE A WARRANTY ISSUE SINCE IT WAS ONLY INSTALLED 4.5**

YEARS AGO, AND ALL PHASES OF BREAKER, WIRING, AND PUMP SHOULD BE PERFORMED BY THE ORIGINAL INSTALLER.

FYI... The other pumps are operating perfectly with identical wiring and breaker configuration. The plant manager also advised he sent specifications and requirements for the breaker and wiring via email, but this was never done. **NO SPECIFICATIONS IN OUR POSSESSION AT THIS TIME FOR THE WIRE AND BREAKER SIZE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATEMENT OF WORK...VA26217Q0929**

Finally, if this SOW proceeds forward without regarding the recommendations stated herein, it will be a waste of money to the Federal Government because the wiring and breaker will melt again.

Respectfully,

v/r,
Cecil

Cecil S. Nichols
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PROJECT MANAGER'S RESPONSE

SEE ABOVE COMMENTARY / FEEDBACK!

TRACKING NO.:

AMENDMENT NO.:

VA PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER:

DATE:

Cecil S. Nichols, Contract Specialist

05/17/2017