

1. OSHA Safety Training: Section 010000, para 1.3.E.1. states all employees shall have the 10 hour safety course and/or 30-hour safety training as determined by the COR. We need to know what to bid. Typically, on VA projects, workers must have completed a 10-hour safety course and the project superintendent must have completed OSHA 30-hour safety training. Please confirm that applies on this project.

A: Section 01 35 26, paragraphs 1.4.B.4.f and 1.8 describe the safety training requirements. "Generic" workers only need the 10 hour course.

2. Phasing: In reference to Section 010000, para ~~1.11.H~~ **1.10.H**, is the intent to complete each phase in its entirety before commencing work on the next phase? Please clarify.

A: This paragraph suggests a phasing plan. The Contractor is responsible for developing a work plan, schedule, and may develop their own phasing plan for Medical Center review and approval. More than one phase may be under construction at a time. Work on concurrent phases may require the Contractor to provide multiple temporary generators to maintain the Medical Center's 24/7 operations.

3. Temperature Control: Section 010000, para ~~1.11.J.1~~ **1.10.J.1**, requires the contractor to maintain a minimum temperature of 40 degrees at all times. Does this requirement apply to work outside the building? Is a temporary, temperature controlled structure required for work outside the building? Please clarify.

A: Temperature control is required to be maintained for existing temperature controlled areas within the existing buildings. No temperature controlled structures are required to be built outside. Does not apply to outside work areas. This is to protect water piping, and anything sensitive to freezing, that is inside an existing building.

4. Professional Surveying Services: In reference to Section 010000, para 1.15, specifically, what professional surveying services are required for this project?

A: Professional surveying services are only required as needed to support the Contractor's efforts described in paragraph 1.16 Layout of Work.

5. Section 010000, para 1.22, Utility Services: Is this paragraph accurate, or will electricity be provided at no charge to the contractor? Please confirm.

A: The Medical Center will allow the Contractor to use the following utilities free of charge: 120V, 20 amp, duplex receptacles within project areas, water from exterior hose bibbs, water from Janitor's Closets within the project areas. The Contractor shall arrange for all other utility needs at their cost.

6. Infection Control: Please provide a project-specific *Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA)* for this project as a whole or each phase individually. Specific infection control measures that the VA will require the Contractor to implement must be stated. To simply state that this is (for example) an ICRA Class 3 or ICRA Class 4 project is not sufficient for bid purposes. For instance, will hard construction barriers be required or would a Zip-Wall barrier suffice given the work required? Is negative air required? Is it necessary for workers to wear tyvek overalls and shoe covers, etc? If the project is ultimately designated an ICRA Class 4, please identify ante room locations. For ICRA Class 3 and 4 designations, please identify where the negative air duct will have to be routed to exhaust air. In short, the infection control requirements that will be imposed must be specifically stated so we know what to bid.

A: This project will include ICRA Class 2 and Class 3 work areas as described below:

1. Dual generator area: Class 2
2. Building 90: Class 2
3. Basement hallway Building 11, above ceiling: Class 3

4. Building 96: Class 2
5. Third floor kitchen Building 11, food prep area: Class 3
6. Third floor kitchen Building 11, back room and hall around electrical panels: Class 2

For Class 3 areas: Plastic barriers with zipper openings are acceptable. Negative air pressure machines are required if there is a readily available path to exhaust the air. If not, scrubber machines can be used inside the air barrier. Additional requirements are defined in the Attachment to Section 01 00 00 starting at page 23.

7. Sheet E-3: Will work in the kitchen area be required to be done at night or on weekends?

A: Yes. Work in the kitchen will generally be restricted to Monday – Friday from 3:30pm to 11:30pm and on Saturday from 8am to 4:30pm.

8. Sheet E7: Will existing generators be turned over to the VA or salvaged or disposed of by the contractor?

A: Per Section 01 00 00, paragraph 1.12.A.2, all items not reserved shall become property of the Contractor and be removed by Contractor from Medical Center. This project removes only the existing Generac generator from service. The Generac generator will become the property of the contractor.

9. Performance Period: Lead time for fabrication and delivery of the generators required for this project could be as much as 22 weeks. That does not include the 3-4 week duration for preparation of generator equipment submittals. To that, you have to add time for submittal review and approval. Considering procurement and required phasing, it is this contractor's opinion that a 240 calendar day performance period is insufficient to complete the project. The procurement duration which includes submittal preparation; submittal processing, review and approval and fabrication and delivery could be 30 weeks. Would the VA consider a separate procurement NTP and performance period before it issues the construction NTP?

A: The performance period for the base bid will be 310 days. See the Revised Schedule B for performance periods for the additive bids.

There is no “required phasing” (see response to RFI #2). The Contractor may adjust the phasing plan to accommodate long lead time items. The VA and A&E will work hard to expedite submittal review and approval times.

10. Sheet E7: Will other ongoing construction projects in the area where emergency power is installed affect our work? What coordination needs to occur between the different projects?

A: It is anticipated that the remediation project and the Building 90 roofing projects currently under construction in the project area will be completed before this contract commences. If these projects are still active when this project starts, then yes, the Contractor shall coordinate with them.

11. Detail 5/E12: What exterior dust control measures, if any, are required during site excavation and backfill activities?

A: Section 01 57 19, paragraph 1.5.D.1 describes required dust control measures.

12. Utility Service Interruption: Even with the required advance notice, we would like know what the VA's expectations are with respect to power outages which could take several hours. For planning purposes, will outages have to be accomplished after-hours, on weekends or holidays given the 24x7 medical center mission?

A: The Contractor shall provide temporary generators to maintain Medical Center operations as described in the construction documents. The Contractor shall provide two weeks notice of any planned power outage. The Contractor is responsible for developing a work plan and schedule for Medical Center review and approval. Generally, utility interruptions would be best on weekends. Each situation will be judged on its own merits.

13. Lay-Down Area: Will a lay-down area be provided in close proximity to the project? If so, where?

A: A lay down area will be provided as shown on the attached proximity map with Contractor staging, parking and container areas identified. These areas are dedicated for concurrent use by all contractors that are working on site. The exact areas available will be identified by the resident engineer at the pre-construction meeting.

14. Payment for Onsite Stored Materials: With the proper documentation, will the VA pay for materials/equipment stored off site? With proper documentation, will the VA pay for stored materials/equipment properly stored on site?

A: Payment will only be made for materials/equipment properly accepted and examined by the VA and stored on site by the contractor. Offsite storage will need to be physically verified by the COR in the contractor's local storage facility. Proper documentation is required for all.

15. Confined Space Entry: Will any areas of the construction site such as the basement or interstitial space require confined space entry safety measures?

A: None of the areas of work shown in the contract documents include "permit-required" confined spaces.

16. Existing Underground Utilities/Services: Can the VA provide an accurate as-built drawing showing the exact location of all existing underground utilities and services in the project work area? Existing obstructions will affect installation of new underground work which affects pricing.

A: The Medical Center will allow Contractor access to all available record drawings for the project areas. The Contractor is responsible for locating existing utilities prior to trenching in accordance with Section 26 05 41, paragraph 3.2.

17. Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM): Has the project work area been tested for asbestos? It appears ACM may be present in the basement crawlspace in addition to other areas. If so, and if it is the VA's intent to have the contractor perform ACM abatement, please provide abatement quantities for bid purposes.

A: The Medical Center has been tested and ACM is present including within the basement crawlspace. This project does not include ACM abatement.

18. Coring/Penetrations: Are all required corings/penetrations shown on the drawings? If not, other than those shown on Drawing E2, Notes 2 and 3, what other areas will require wall/ceiling/floor coring and/or penetrations? What is the wall/ceiling/floor thickness and construction type at each location? Will anything like furniture, fixtures or equipment (FFE) need to be moved in order to affix a coring machine to a given surface?

A: The Contract Documents do not show every core or penetration that may be required. The Medical Center will allow Contractor access to all available record drawings for the project areas to confirm existing wall/ceiling/floor characteristics.

19. Drawing ES1, Site Plan: The subject drawing does not identify existing concrete and or asphalt which may have to be sawcut, removed and replaced during installation of new underground services. Please identify locations of asphalt and concrete for all bidders who did not attend the site visit.

A: See attached trench detail for pavement information pertaining to the paved areas shown on Sheet E7.

20. May the Site Safety and Health Officer (SSHO) dual hat as the project Superintendent or have other project duties?

A: The SSHO can perform multiple duties. All project manual specifications and requirements must be followed.

21. There is no location on the site plan for contractor's office/staging area. Will the VA provide a paved area for the contractor's office/staging area?

A: See attached map. There is a limited area for contractor office trailers. It is available on a first come basis. Contractor will have to go through the local power utility to get electricity to that area. The VA will not provide free power there. There are more than adequate locations for parking and storage containers.