

RFP 2021-01 – Real-Time Monitoring Analysis of Water Distribution System – Leak Detection and Pressure

Niagara Falls Water Board Responses to Written Questions Received by January 29, 2021 Deadline

Note: Questions are not presented verbatim and multiple inquiries on the same subject may be combined.

1. In Section 5.1, what is meant by “no dig” hardware? Is the Water Board looking for a solution that can be incorporated above ground? Fire hydrant applications only?

We are looking to focus on equipment that utilizes existing structures in place such as valves or hydrants without requiring excavation to install. We want to minimize disruptions to the services the NFWB provides.

2. In Section 5.7, what is meant by “lifetime of devices”? Should lifetime be considered the standard life of the hardware battery?

When describing lifetime of device include a maximum and minimum lifetime. The minimum should refer to how long the device should function without intervention and a maximum should refer to how long a device could function with basic maintenance tasks being performed. In addition, specify battery life and approximate replacement cost.

3. In Section 7.2, must sub-contractors have previous experience with installation of the hardware?

Previous experience would be preferred with degree of experience based on difficulty of install and setup. Recognizing that proposers may be offering newly developed technologies, no minimum installation experience is required by this RFP. Provide sufficient details on installation experience to provide assurance of capabilities.

4. In Appendix A, Section B.7, is Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions insurance relevant to this type of a contract?

This requirement may be waived depending on whether the proposal includes work that would not be covered by the other required liability insurance.

5. Some forms in the RFP document need notarization. Considering the ongoing pandemic, can you please confirm if online notarization is acceptable?

Online notarization is acceptable.

6. Is the Water Board requiring any references? If so, what will the criteria be?

Proposers should provide references if available. The quantity and quality of references may be taken into consideration during proposal evaluation, but no specific criteria are set forth in the RFP.

7. Is the Water Board requiring the leak and pressure data be on the same user interface?

No, but it is preferred. If not, explain your systems method to compile the data to conduct analysis of the water system.

8. Is it possible to get the GIS files for the pilot project area, including available information on the relevant assets?

Relevant available feature class location and field data is included in the GIS files previously provided.

9. If you have conducted water audits in the past, would it be possible to obtain the summaries from the past 2-3 years of the audits?

Information concerning unaccounted water can be found on the NFWB website at <https://nfwb.org/reports/quality/> under the Water Quality reports. No further information on water audits is available.

10. Are all connections within the water system metered?

Domestic, and commercial services are metered with AMR meters, while fire protection services generally are not.