

Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County

Odor Evaluation and Odor Control Study

Request for Qualifications

RFQ Announced: November 9, 2023

SOQ Due: December 14, 2023

The Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County (hereinafter called “WSACC”, or “Owner”) invites engineering consulting firms (hereinafter called “Consultant”) having sufficient experience in providing consulting services as related to odor assessment and mitigation strategies in wastewater collection and treatment systems.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ), and the anticipated associated project, is for an odor evaluation surrounding the Rocky River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RRRWWTP) and immediately surrounding WSACC interceptors, along with an associated odor control study.

Scope of Work

WSACC owns and operates the RRRWWTP, Muddy Creek WWTP (MCWWTP), several associated pump stations, and an extensive network of larger-diameter collection system lines. The RRRWWTP is currently permitted for a monthly average flow up to 26.5 million gallons per day (mgd), with expansions in progress to take the RRRWWTP to a permitted monthly average flow up to 34 MGD (Phase 4).

The existing odor control system at the RRRWWTP consists of a 3,000 cubic feet per minute (cfm) biological odor control unit (OCU) followed by a 4,200 cfm wet chemical scrubber. The biological OCU, which operates as a bio-trickling filter (BTF), is designed to treat a total of 3,000 cfm of foul air and provides primary treatment to the two receiving bins and sludge mixer in the Imported Biosolids Handling Facility (IBHF) and two centrifuges and dewatered sludge bunkers in the Dewatering Building. The 2-stage wet chemical scrubber is designed to provide final treatment to the 3,000 cfm exhaust from the BTF combined with 1,200 cfm from the headspace of the two existing gravity thickeners. Current plant expansion includes two additional new gravity thickeners, and an option for one additional new centrifuge with a dewatered sludge bunker. Associated upgrades and additions to the odor control facilities at the RRRWWTP are planned as part of ongoing expansion efforts.

WSACC is requesting statements of qualifications (SOQs) from qualified firms interested in identifying odor-causing sources at the RRRWWTP as well as immediately surrounding WSACC sewer interceptor(s). This effort will also include an odor control study in which the consultant will assess current odor control equipment as well as projected improvements from planned (Phase 4) odor control updates, along with identifying any further odor control alternatives and recommendations. One signed SOQ and six copies, all bound, in addition to one electronic copy in searchable PDF format (provided on CD or flash drive), are to be submitted per the instructions outlined within the RFQ. Please review them carefully.

The project scope includes, but is not limited to, evaluation of the current odor control equipment and modeling impacts of odor-causing compounds on surrounding areas. WSACC will share expansion design reports, and any pertinent data and documents with the selected Consultant for this proposed effort.

WSACC currently anticipates that the scope will generally include the following elements, subject to further discussion and recommendations from the Consultant:

1. Background
 - a. RRRWWTP Unit Processes, surrounding WSACC interceptors, and Existing Odor Control Systems
2. Odor Evaluation
 - a. Identify RRRWWTP unit processes / facilities and surrounding WSACC interceptor(s) that produce odors
 - b. Identify types of odor-causing compounds and range of expected concentrations at each unit process / facility and surrounding WSACC interceptor
 - c. Model impacts of odor-causing compounds on surrounding areas (dispersion model, etc.).
3. Odor Control Study
 - a. Evaluate current odor control equipment and projected improvements from planned (Phase 4) odor control upgrades
 - b. As needed, evaluate alternatives for control of odor-causing compounds from RRRWWTP unit processes / facilities (those not already addressed with Phase 4 upgrades) and from surrounding WSACC interceptor(s)
 - c. Develop recommended alternative(s) for additional reduction of odor-causing compounds
 - d. Model impacts of any recommended odor control improvements on odor-causing compounds in surrounding areas (dispersion model, etc.).
4. Recommendations / Conclusions

WSACC may also elect to include other related services in the scope of work. A decision on any additional related components will be made after selection, and WSACC will work with the selected firm on the additional scope item(s) at that time.

Key Success Factors

1. Effective, consistent, and thorough communications with employees throughout the WSACC organization, WSACC member jurisdictions, the WSACC Board, State regulators, and others as needed.
2. Well-developed scope and schedule
3. Project completion on-schedule
4. Establishing a recommended path forward to cost-effectively address odor mitigation and odor control upgrades.
5. Well-documented project milestones and well-documented project changes (as needed).

Selection Process

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-64.31, WSACC is conducting a “qualifications-based” selection process without regard to fee.

WSACC will conduct a fair and impartial evaluation of all SOQs that are received in accordance with the provisions of this RFQ. WSACC will appoint a selection committee to perform the evaluation. WSACC reserves the right to obtain clarification of any point in a firm’s / team’s qualification package or to obtain additional information. All firms / teams who submit qualification

packages will be notified of the selection committee's choice. Final approval of any selected firm / team is subject to the action of the WSACC Board.

SOQ Submittal

SOQs should include the following sections:

- Project Team
 - Proposed Subconsultants (if any)
 - Brief Biographies for Key Team Members
- Experience and Approach

No "new work product" for the project may be part of the SOQs and/or presentation, and no "new work product" will be considered in the interview presentation or selection process.

The last day for questions on the RFQ is December 7, 2023. Questions must be submitted via email to Chad VonCannon at cvoncannon@wsacc.org.

SOQs shall be submitted in sealed, clearly marked envelopes. The SOQ shall be submitted to the Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus located at 232 Davidson Highway, Concord, N.C., 28027, before 2:00 p.m. December 14, 2023. Submittal envelope should be marked:

Statement of Qualifications – 'Odor Evaluation and Odor Control Study'

Attention: Chad VonCannon

Firms may change or withdraw their SOQs at any time prior to the due date by providing clear and concise written notice via email to WSACC. Withdrawal of a SOQ will not preclude a Consultant from submitting a new SOQ, provided that the new SOQ is properly submitted and received prior to the SOQ due date identified above.

Negotiations and Modification of Contract Documents

WSACC reserves the right to conduct negotiations with the Consultant regarding any remaining issues provided that the general work scope remains the same and that the field of competition does not change as a result of material changes to the requirements stated in the RFQ. If, in WSACC's sole discretion, it determines that the highest qualified Consultant is not responsive to the negotiation process, or that the parties will be unable to reach a mutually-acceptable Contract, WSACC may terminate negotiations with the Consultant. WSACC will then continue the process of negotiation with the next highest qualified Consultant until WSACC either successfully negotiates with a Consultant or cancels the procurement.

Conditions and Reservations

WSACC reserves the right to request substitutions of subconsultants. WSACC reserves the right to contact any Consultant if such is deemed desirable by WSACC to obtain any additional information including but not limited to experience, qualifications, abilities, and financial standing. WSACC reserves the right to conduct investigations with respect to the qualifications and experience of any Consultant. WSACC reserves the right to contact any firm/team to negotiate if such is deemed desirable by WSACC. WSACC reserves the right to reject any or all responses to the RFQ, to advertise for new RFQ responses, or to accept any RFQ response deemed to be in the best interest of WSACC. WSACC reserves the right to waive technicalities and informalities.

A response to this RFQ should not be construed as a contract, nor indicate a commitment of any kind. No binding contract, obligation to negotiate, or any other obligation shall be created on the part of WSACC unless WSACC and a firm jointly execute a contract.

Cost of SOQ Preparation

WSACC accepts no liability for the costs and expenses incurred by Consultants responding to this RFQ, in preparing responses for clarification, in attending interviews, participating in contract development sessions, or in attending meetings and presentations required for the contract approval process. Each Consultant that enters into the procurement process shall prepare the required materials and SOQ at its own expense and with the express understanding that the Consultant cannot make any claims whatsoever for reimbursement from WSACC for the costs and expenses associated with the procurement process. The RFQ does not commit WSACC to pay for costs incurred in the submission of a response to this RFQ or for any cost incurred prior to the execution of a final contract.