



Okanogan County Electric Co-Op (OCEC)
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

“OCEC MAKE READY POLE REPLACEMENT IFB 2025-003”

Request for Quotes and Qualifications (RFQQ)

regarding

Electric Utility Pole replacements for
the Okanogan County Connect Project

Issued by: Adam Glenn / Broadband Manager

Street Address: 93 W Chewuch Rd., Winthrop WA 98862

Issued: March 12, 2025

The following timetable outlines the anticipated schedule for the IFB and Purchase Order process; however, the timing and the sequence of events resulting from this IFB may vary.

Anticipated Events Dates:

- RFQ Provided to Vendors: 5:00 p.m. PT, March 12, 2025
- Last Date for Questions Related to RFQ: 5:00 p.m. PT, April 2nd, 2025
- Quotes Due: 5:00 p.m. PST, April 9th, 2025
- RFQ Evaluations Completed by: 5:00 p.m. PT, April 10th, 2025
- Purchase Orders Submission Start Date: No later than: 12:00 p.m. PT, April 14th, 2025
- Purchase Order Issued: Within 10 days of the Award

Delivery Instructions: Complete proposals may be delivered either by hand, courier, postal service, or other means to the OCEC offices located at 93 W. Chewuch Rd, Winthrop WA 98862; or with an electronic copy either emailed to aglenn@ocec.coop or included on a thumb drive or other suitable method (supplied by bidder). All proposals and accompanying documentation will become the property of OCEC and will not be returned. Bidders accept all risk of late delivery of mailed proposal regardless of fault.

Please address questions and responses via electronically to: aglenn@ocec.coop

Public Announcement

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that OCEC, an equal opportunity employer, is seeking an experienced, qualified firm to contract to perform electric utility construction and maintenance activities to make the electric distribution system ready for the construction of fiber to the home telecommunication network. These projects are funded/partially funded, by federal award number CPFFN0145 (ARPA Capital) awarded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. OCEC requests firms who are licensed in the State of Washington to conduct business and to provide qualifications for construction and maintenance work in the electric supply space and on electric distribution utility structures, Small, Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises (MWBE) are encouraged to submit bids. Submitted bids will be opened at 5:00PM PST, April 10, 2025, at 93 W. Chewuch Rd, Winthrop WA 98862. The firms should supply qualifications for all services requested in the IFB and incomplete bids will be rejected.

The IFB may be obtained on the OCEC website at [Okanogan County Electric Co-op \(ocec.coop\)](http://Okanogan County Electric Co-op (ocec.coop)) details may also be obtained via email from Adam Glenn, email aglenn@ocec.coop or by phone at 509-996-2228.

Okanogan County Electric Co-operative Background Information

In 1939, closely following the 1936 enactment of the Rural Electrification Act into law by President Franklin Roosevelt, public utility districts and private member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperatives, such as OCEC, were allowed to secure government-backed loans to build infrastructure for rural areas neglected by other electric companies. The newly formed OCEC obtained a \$69,000 loan through the Rural Electrification Act and began servicing its first member-owners. Around the same time, the Okanogan Public Utility District (PUD) entered the Methow Valley. Originally formed to provide electric service to those living in the neighboring and more populous Okanogan Valley, the PUD extended its reach into the Methow by acquiring a generation station from Washington Water & Power (now Avista), a privately run company that had profitably sold electricity since 1928 to a concentrated, easily accessible segment of the Methow's population, centered around the town of Twisp.

Over eighty years later, OCEC and Okanogan PUD each provide electric service to about half of the 7,500 electric consumers in the Methow Valley and share a common transmission line into the area. Okanogan PUD provides power for the lower part of the valley, covering residents in the town of Twisp, while OCEC serves the needs of the upper Methow valley, including the Twisp and upper Methow river valleys.

In 2023, continuing with that spirit of service, OCEC acquired Methownet, a locally founded fiber and wireless internet service provider. Methownet brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and talent to the OCEC team and will continue to be an integral part of providing world class telecommunication services to the residents of the area they call home.

Project Description

The Okanogan County Electric Co-Operative (OCEC) has received grant funding to build a new fiber-to-the-home and middle-mile fiber optic distribution network. The system will be deployed with a mixture of both aerial and underground construction methods. As part of the engineering, design, and permitting activities for this network, OCEC has identified approximately 200 electric distribution structures that will need to be replaced or modified to safely accommodate the addition of the fiber optic cables and other items in the telecommunication space. A list of these poles will be made available as an exhibit to this IFB. OCEC will supply any permits and all capital materials such as utility poles, cross arms, pins, insulators, transformers, cut-outs, protection devices, hardware, backfill, and all other necessary materials. Bidders will need to provide all labor, equipment, and consumables required to safely complete the work.

General Project Schedule

Construction activities will commence immediately following the notice of award, execution of contract, and the notice to proceed. It is expected that the electric make ready work and pole replacements would be complete by December 31st, 2025, but may continue beyond that as needed. The overall project has a deadline of October 31st, 2026.

Request for Quotes and Qualifications; Units

The pricing for labor units requested by OCEC are outlined in the provided "Exhibit B Unit Bidding Sheet". These units are designed to provide pricing for all activities. Units may be subject to revision as part of the IFB question and answer process and as detailed on subsequent addendums. The activities expected to be delivered as part of this procurement may include but are not limited to the following; setting new electric distribution poles, framing and moving electric conductor to new pole, placing transformers and other equipment, rearranging secondary wires to create NESC communication worker safety zone, pulling old poles, moving adjacent underground hand holes, moving pad mounted transformers, and all other efforts necessary to complete the assigned work.

Contract

OCEC may negotiate a contract with the most qualified firm, but OCEC has no obligation to enter any such negotiations and, if it does so, OCEC reserves the right to terminate the negotiations without obligation and not execute a contract for the services.

Exhibits

OCEC is providing the following exhibits with this bid:

- A—Overview Map
- B—Unit Bidding Sheet
- C—Planned work
- D—Template Agreement
- E—OCEC Electric Distribution Standards

Response Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Proposals must include information on the background, experience, credentials, and certifications required to successfully complete this project. OCEC will evaluate responses using the following criteria to determine the most qualified bidder. Incomplete submissions may not be considered. Responses received after the stated deadline will not be opened or accepted and will be returned to the sender.

Response Requirements:

1. Company Profile
2. Company Approach to the project
3. Proposed project team with
 - organization chart
 - resumes of key personnel
 - licensing and certification
4. Reference summary and narrative of similar projects including reference contacts.
5. Summary narrative describing firm's ability to provide Errors and Omissions commensurate with a project of this size and nature.
6. Proposed Project Schedule
 - Estimated timeline for tasks.
7. Exhibit B – Unit Bidding Sheet
8. If applicable, your firm's certification of Small, Women Business and Minority Business enterprise.

Following a thorough review of the criteria above, OCEC may decide to retain the services of the most qualified response and move forward with contract negotiations. OCEC reserves the right to reject any and all submittals.

The awardee will be required to sign Exhibit D, the included Template Agreement, and to work with OCEC to develop a mutually agreed upon Scope of Work, to include bid units outlined in this request, project schedule, and Cost/Rate Schedule. It is understood that by furnishing a response the bidder can satisfactorily comply with all requirements.

Due to the prescriptions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), bidders may not assume their responses are confidential regardless of any statements included in the response. During the evaluation period, OCEC will make every effort allowable by law to maintain confidentiality. Upon award, during contract negotiations or if OCEC chooses to cancel or recast the IFB, confidentiality cannot be reasonably assured.

OCEC shall make every effort to negotiate a fair and equitable contract with the most qualified firm at a price and with terms that OCEC deems reasonable. OCEC will consider in its decision the estimated value of the services offered as well as the scope and complexity of the project.

If OCEC is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with the awardee, at what it deems to be a fair and reasonable price, then negotiations with the awardee shall be formally terminated and in accordance with RCW 39.80.040, OCEC may select another firm and repeat this process until an agreement is reached or until qualified candidates are exhausted.