GAINESVILLE REGIONAL UTILITIES

CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Solicitation No. 2014-095

Issue Date: August 6, 2014

Due Date: September 9, 2014 @ 2:00 p.m.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
FOR
TRANSPORTATION AND BENEFICIAL REUSE OR DISPOSAL OF DEWATERED BIOSOLIDS

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A. INTRODUCTION

1) PURPOSE

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) is requesting information, (hereinafter referred to as INFORMATION) from qualified RESPONDERS regarding their ability to transport, and beneficially reuse or dispose of dewatered biosolids cake produced by GRU's water reclamation facilities (WRFs).

It is GRU's intent to assure that its biosolids are beneficially reused or disposed of in an environmentally responsible, regulatory compliant manner (Federal, State, County, and City). To this end GRU seeks information from RESPONDERS regarding beneficial reuse and/or disposal methods for GRU's biosolids including, but not limited to composting, land application, fertilizer production, energy production, landfilling or other uses.

The RESPONDER's biosolids beneficial use methods may be by application to farm lands, composting, or by other approved off-site beneficial use methods. Disposal shall be at an approved sanitary landfill. The RESPONDER must have all permits and approvals necessary for the beneficial reuse or disposal program detailed in the INFORMATION, *or provide the plan to meet these requirements in the* INFORMATION.

The INFORMATION submitted by RESPONDERS shall detail the RESPONDER's established operations in the beneficial reuse or disposal of biosolids and should demonstrate how RESPONDER would perform this service for GRU.

If "transport" of the biosolids material is not a part of RESPONDER's current business, RESPONDER must provide INFORMATION to cover transport of GRU biosolids from the Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility dewatering facility site to the proposed handling, processing, or disposal location.

2) GRU BACKGROUND

The City of Gainesville, Florida, doing business as Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), was established in 1912. Owned by the City of Gainesville, GRU operates under its home rule powers and pursuant to its Charter. The City owns and operates the combined GRU system (the "System"), which provides the City and certain unincorporated areas of Alachua County with electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, and telecommunications service. The water and wastewater systems were established in 1891 to provide water and wastewater service to the City.

GRU is governed by a seven-member city commission who is elected by Gainesville city residents to three-year terms and who may prescribe, revise, and collect fees or charges for GRU services and facilities in connection with its sewerage system. Since its formation, GRU's service area has grown through annexations and consolidations and GRU's present service area covers approximately 125 square miles. GRU operates and maintains two water reclamation facilities, Main Street Water Reclamation Facility (MSWRF) and Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility (KWRF), with a combined treatment capacity of 22.4 million gallons per day (MGD). GRU operates a wastewater collection system which includes approximately 165 lift stations and over 765 miles of wastewater collection system pipelines. GRU provides wastewater service to a population of approximately 185,000 people.

GRU' s water reclamation facilities currently treat and reclaim a combined total of approximately 16.3 MGD average annual daily flow of wastewater using activated sludge, secondary sedimentation, tertiary sand filtration, and disinfection. All of the effluent from the water reclamation facilities is beneficially reused for aquifer recharge, environmental restoration, industrial cooling, and/or irrigation at residences, commercial properties, golf courses, parks, and gardens. Currently, biosolids at both KWRF and MSWRF are aerobically digested to produce Class B biosolids in accordance with Title 40 CFR Part 503. Biosolids are currently thickened to produce a solids content of approximately six percent (6%) and hauled to a farm in Alachua County where they are land applied as a liquid (about 3400 dry tons per year).

Recent changes in the Alachua County Land Development Code pertaining to Class B biosolids land application sites have resulted in onerous and costly requirements that have made land application at GRU' s existing site in Alachua County infeasible. As a result, GRU entered into a Settlement Agreement and Consent Order with Alachua County that allows GRU to continue its current land application program until February 22, 2016. After that date GRU must cease land application of Class B biosolids at the current site.

By late 2015 or early 2016, the GRU's biosolids will be dewatered to approximately 20% percent solids. To accomplish this GRU is currently constructing a biosolids dewatering facility at the KWRF site located at 3901 SW 63rd Blvd, Gainesville, Florida, which will dewater biosolids from both KWRF and MSWRF using high speed centrifuges. GRU will transport thickened solids from MSWRF to the dewatering facility at KWRF. GRU expects to produce approximately fifty (50) to seventy (70) wet tons per day of biosolids on an annual average basis (see GRU Biosolids Generation Estimates Table "ATTACHMENT A"). The purpose of this RFI is to obtain information from potential RESPONDERS that would receive dewatered biosolids from GRU's dewatering facility and beneficially reuse or dispose of these biosolids. The following are two alternatives GRU has considered regarding the quality of biosolids it produces:

1. Digested Class B Biosolids – Under this scenario, GRU would continue to operate the aerobic digesters at its WRFs to produce biosolids that meet Title 40 CFR Part 503 Class B pathogen reduction requirements, but *not* Class B vector attraction reduction requirements.

2. Partially Digested Biosolids – Under this scenario, GRU would utilize some of its existing tanks to provide aerated storage of biosolids. The biosolids produced by GRU would not meet Class B requirements for pathogen reduction or vector attraction reduction. The RESPONDER receiving GRU's biosolids would perform whatever treatments are necessary to meet regulatory requirements for the final reuse or disposal method.

The choice of whether GRU produces digested or partially digested biosolids will depend on the requirements of the RESPONDER receiving the biosolids. GRU intends to consider RESPONDERS that can receive the partially digested biosolids as well as RESPONDERS that require digested Class B biosolids.

3.) FURTHER GRU BIOSOLID AND WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY INFORMATION

The following GRU biosolids documentation is available to RESPONDERS by contacting the GRU Purchasing Representative (Ms. Dana Gauthier) via e-mail, by phone or by visiting

the GRU website http://www.gru.com/ourCommunity/content/biosolidsrecycling.aspx

1. GRU Biosolids Management Plan (February 2008)
2. GRU Biosolid Management Plan Update (November 2010)
3. GRU 2013 Biosolids Summary Report (February 2014)

For more information on the GRU Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility (KWRF) and Main Street Water Reclamation Facility (MWRF) visit GRU's website.
http://www.gru.com/MyHome/ProductsServices/Wastewater.aspx

B. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION INSTRUCTIONS

1) GENERAL INFORMATION

a. This RFI process will not result in a recommendation of or selection of any RESPONDER, or the issuance of a purchase order or agreement of any type.

b. Confidential or proprietary information should not be included in the response.

c. Questions and communications should be directed to the Purchasing Representative, Ms. Dana Gauthier, via email at gauthierdl@gru.com with RFI 2014-095 in the subject line or by phone (352) 393-1250. Unauthorized contact regarding this RFI with other City/GRU employees is not allowed. Any oral communications will be considered unofficial and non-binding on GRU.

d. If this RFI is obtained other than through direct communication with GRU Purchasing, interested parties must notify Ms. Gauthier in order to receive any addenda to this RFI (if issued).

e. RESPONDERS are responsible for any and all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.

f. Any procurement by GRU as a result of this RFI will be subject to a separate solicitation process and subject to budget approval.

2) INTENT TO HOLD DISCOVERY SESSIONS

a. Intent:

RESPONDERS that believe they meet the minimum qualifications of the RFI will be offered an opportunity to consult with GRU's Water/ Wastewater Engineering Department staff. The purpose of the consultation ("Discovery Session") is to afford RESPONDERS the opportunity to ask questions about GRU's operation and gain a better understanding of the business issues and circumstances driving this project, thereby assisting the RESPONDERS in preparing a well-designed informative response which offers the best product solution for this project. RESPONDERS are not required to participate in this process.

b. Discovery Session Dates and Contact Information:

To participate in a "Discovery Session," RESPONDERS must contact Ms. Dana Gauthier, Senior Buyer, Utilities Purchasing at (352) 393-1250 by August 18, 2013 to schedule a meeting time. Preset time slots will be scheduled on a first come, first selection basis. (Tentative dates are August 20, 21, 25, and 26)

c. Discovery Session Purpose:

The RESPONDER's representatives participating in the "Discovery Session" are responsible for asking questions about GRU's business operations only. Discovery Sessions are not for marketing and giving presentations. The meetings during the "Discovery Session" will be held individually between the RESPONDER and GRU staff. The questions and answers will not be documented or provided in an addendum to other parties unless GRU deems the information to be material to the RFI. In this case, an Addendum will be issued to all RESPONDERS on record as received a copy of this RFI.

d. Use of Information:

It is the sole responsibility of the RESPONDER's staff to ascertain and interpret information gained from their session for use in developing their reply in response to the RFI. Documented information contained in the RFI and addenda will take precedence if any conflict arises between the RFI and addenda and information the RESPONDER's representatives glean from the discovery meeting.

e. Meeting Logistics and Specifics:

The RESPONDER's staff may meet with GRU's staff in person or via phone conference. There will be a specific timeframe during which these meetings will be offered based on **30 minute** time slots per meeting. On-site meetings will be held at the GRU Administration Building located at 301 S.E. 4th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. For a phone conference, GRU will provide a phone number to the business contact person prior to the Discovery Session meeting date. Participants in the Discovery Session are solely responsible for any and all costs associated with their participation.

3) RESPONSE SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

a. Submittal Response Date and Location:

Submittals must be received by Gainesville Regional Utilities Purchasing Department at 301 S. E. 4th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 no later than 2:00 p.m. EST on September 9, 2014. All submittals and accompanying documentation will become the property of GRU and will not be returned. Faxed submittals will not be accepted.

b. INFORMATION Documents:

INFORMATION documents shall be printed in ink clearly and legibly on standard 8.5" x 11" paper and in a format corresponding to these instructions. Any oversized documents must be folded to standard size and secured with the other documents.

The RESPONDER shall submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of its INFORMATION and supporting documents. In addition, RESPONDER shall provide a digital version on CD, DVD or USB flash drive in PDF format. All submittals shall be in a sealed envelope plainly marked on the outside, **"2014-095 RFI for Transporting and Beneficial Use or Disposal of Digested or Partially Digested Dewatered Biosolids".**

The emphasis of the INFORMATION should be on responding to the requirements set forth in this Request for Information.

c. INFORMATION Format:

The INFORMATION shall be submitted in the following format with all the necessary information and documentation to demonstrate RESPONDER's ability to perform this service and must follow the question by question format as shown and sequenced as ordered in Section C. GRU QUESTIONNAIRE (simply list the number and question and provide an answer below each question).

Additional supplemental information may be submitted in the form of brochures, PowerPoint presentations, case studies, reports, and digital media etc.

C. GRU QUESTIONNAIRE

Respondents must answer the following questions:

1. Describe the proposed process for biosolids transportation and beneficial reuse or disposal.

2. Does the process receive partially digested biosolids or does it receive digested Class B biosolids as described in Section A.2) 1. & 2.?

3. Does RESPONDER currently use this process to receive and reuse or dispose of biosolids from other municipalities?

a. If so, provide a listing of existing locations where the RESPONDER is utilizing this process and how long each location has been in operation.
b. Provide a listing of current contracts with municipalities for which the RESPONDER is using this process.
c. What is the typical duration of these contracts?
d. If the RESPONDER does not have existing facilities that use this process, cite other facilities at which this process is being used successfully to receive and reuse or dispose of municipal biosolids.

4. Describe how this process is environmentally beneficial or responsible.

5. Describe why the RESPONDER believes this process would be the best alternative for GRU's biosolids.

6. Company Background and Experience

a. Provide RESPONDER's general background information including a summary of previous experience in biosolids processing with similar types of biosolids and how long RESPONDER's company has been in business.
b. Describe the organizational structure of the RESPONDER, location of headquarters, number of facilities and offices, and number of employees.

7. Permitting / Regulatory

a. Does RESPONDER have permits to handle biosolids?
b. If not, explain how permitting would be obtained.
c. Does RESPONDER have a history of compliance with applicable regulations? If so, provide details and history.

8. What is a typical schedule for transportation and acceptance of biosolids?

9. How are holidays, storms, WRF maintenance activities, and other events handled in scheduling transportation and acceptance of biosolids?

10. In the event RESPONDER's is unable to handle biosolids for a period of time due to mechanical failure, process upset, weather, or other events, what are the contingency plans to ensure that continuous operations?

11. For budgetary purposes, provide an estimated average cost or range of cost per dry ton for the process.

END OF DOCUMENT

ATTACHMENT A (GRU Biosolids Generation Estimates Table)

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See next page for ATTACHMENT A

GRU Biosolids Generation Estimates

Biosolids Generation estimates are based on digestion level and will vary depending on the contractor/process selected
Actual material to be hauled is estimated to be between the no digestion * and full digestion ** quantities
Centrifuge dewatering efficiency may also vary the amount of material hauled daily
Annual Averages are shown as well as hauling estimates for typical 5-day week operations (Wet Tons/Day)

Year	No Digestion (DT/Yr)	Full Digestion (DT/Yr)	No Digestion (WT/Yr)	Full Digestion (WT/Yr)	No Digestion (WT/Day) ~ 20% TS Annual Ave	Full Digestion (WT/Day) ~ 20% TS Annual Ave	No Digestion (WT/Day) ~ 20% TS Hauling 5 day/Wk	Full Digestion (WT/Day) ~ 20% TS Hauling 5 day/Wk
2013	4656	3572	23282	17860	64	49	89	69
2014	4724	3344	23621	16722	65	46	91	64
2015	4791	3384	23957	16918	66	46	92	65
2016	4867	3423	24335	17114	67	47	93	66
2017	4942	3462	24711	17310	68	47	95	66
2018	5017	3501	25085	17505	69	48	96	67
2019	5091	3540	25456	17701	70	48	98	68
2020	5165	3579	25826	17897	71	49	99	69
2021	5238	3619	26190	18093	72	50	100	69
2022	5310	3658	26552	18289	73	50	102	70
2023	5382	3697	26912	18485	74	51	103	71
2024	5454	3736	27272	18681	75	51	105	72
2025	5526	3775	27629	18876	76	52	106	72
2026	5595	3814	27975	19072	77	52	107	73
2027	5664	3854	28320	19268	78	53	109	74
2028	5733	3893	28663	19464	79	53	110	75
2029	5801	3932	29007	19660	79	54	111	75
2030	5870	3971	29349	19856	80	54	113	76
2031	5938	4010	29691	20052	81	55	114	77

* No Digestion Biosolids Estimates perfomed by CH2MHILL based on historical flow data & WAS production

** Full Digestion Biosolids Estimates based on linear regression analysis from GRU Biosolids Summary Reports 1994 to 2031

KWRF $y = 46.466X + 1555.1$ $R^2 = 0.6849$

MSWRF $y = -7.2946X + 1240.8$ $R^2 = 0.1294$

Total System $y = 39.171X + 2796$ $R^2 = 0.4481$