

# Equitrans, L.P. Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project

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2200 Energy Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** **Environmental Impact Statement**

FERC Docket No. CP22-\_\_\_\_\_

RFP Issue Date: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Key Dates	
Bidder Question Deadline:	Monday, December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 by 12:00 PM Eastern Time
Bid Responses Due:	Thursday, January, 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 by 12:00 PM Eastern Time

Primary Contact:	
Supply Chain:	Craig Devinney
E-mail Address:	CDevinney@equitransmidstream.com
Communication Method:	Email your question in Appendix I: Q&A Form. Answers will be distributed to all bidders.

## DISCLAIMER

### ***THIS IS NOT A FEDERAL PROCUREMENT***

THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) WILL RESULT IN A PRIVATE CONTRACT BETWEEN **EQUITRANS, L.P.** AND A CONTRACTOR, AND WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. NEITHER THE PROCUREMENT NOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESULTING CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL PROCUREMENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR PROTEST PROCEDURES. ANY DISPUTES NOT SETTLED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES MUST BE RESOLVED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, OR THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PARTIES AND DESCRIBED IN THE CONTRACT.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROCUREMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO **EQUITRANS, L.P.** AND MUST PROVIDE INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OFFEROR TO ALL OFFERORS SUBMITTING A LETTER OF INTENT TO RESPOND TO THE RFP.

THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AND WILL NOT RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS.

### HOLD HARMLESS

The parties agree that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and its employees are not liable for any costs or judgments arising from the conduct of this procurement, and administration or supervision of the contract for the environmental services described herein.

*VIA E-MAIL*

**EQUITRANS, L.P.**

**TO:** Prospective Bidder

**FROM:** Craig Devinney, Equitrans, L.P.

**DATE:** Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**SUBJECT: Ohio Valley Connector Expansion  
Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for Preparation of Third Party  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**BIDDER QUESTION DEADLINE:** Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by 12:00 pm Eastern Time

**PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** Thursday, January, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by 12:00 pm Eastern Time

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND, OVERVIEW, AND SCOPE**

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### **1.1 Background**

Equitrans, L.P. (“Equitrans”) is filing an Application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“Commission” or “FERC”) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to develop, construct, and own, and operate the proposed Ohio Valley Connector Expansion Project (“OVCX or Project”) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (“NGA”), as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 717f(c), and Parts 157 and 284 of the Commission’s regulations, 18 C.F.R. Parts 157 and 284. As proposed, OVCX will consist of approximately 5.6-miles of natural gas pipeline, 60,900 horsepower (“HP”) increase with four new compressors at three different locations in West Virginia (“WV”), Pennsylvania (“PA”), and Ohio (“OH”). OVCX is to supply an increased volume of natural gas to the Ohio Valley Connector (“OVC”) market through which gas is transported to expanding mid-continent and Gulf Coast markets.

Equitrans is soliciting proposals for the consultation and coordination of the development of an environmental impact statement (“EIS”) and alternatives, identification and resolution of issues, and preparation of related documents to address the proposed Project as more specifically described in Section 1.2. The EIS will be prepared under a third-party contractor arrangement with Equitrans as the Applicant and the FERC as the lead Federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process. Equitrans intends to file its Section 7(c) application with FERC in early 2022 to conduct a full review of the Project under its regulations in compliance with NGA and NEPA.

The FERC’s Office of Energy Projects (“OEP”) will be responsible for providing technical direction to the third-party contractor throughout the NEPA review process. A contract will be executed pursuant to the third-party contracting procedures set forth in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”) 1506.5 (c) and as referenced in the FERC third-party contracting program announced on February 4 and 9, 1994 and in accordance with FERC’s Handbook for Using Third-Party Contractors to Prepare Environmental Documents, as revised in August 2016.

As the Applicant, Equitrans is soliciting proposals through this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for a third-party contractor to provide the services described in Section 1.3 and 1.4. Equitrans has widely disseminated this RFP by posting it publicly on the OVCX website and providing it to numerous environmental consultants known to Equitrans as having the capability to provide third-party environmental support of a FERC EIS.

The technical and cost proposals will be initially reviewed and evaluated by Equitrans who will then submit all the proposals to the OEP staff and file the proposals in the FERC docket as privileged. The OEP staff will make the final selection of the third-party contractor, based on its independent review of the technical, managerial, personnel, and Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) aspects of each proposal. Upon selection, the third-party contractor, Equitrans, and the Director of OEP will sign a Memorandum of

Understanding (“MOU”) that details the roles and responsibilities of each party (A sample MOU is provided in Attachment 5). Equitrans will finalize a contract with and fund the successful contractor for the scoped activities. Equitrans will be responsible for answering any questions from non-selected bidders. Bidders who are not selected are not permitted to solicit an explanation from the FERC staff.

Once a third-party contractor is selected, the OEP staff will direct the activities of the contractor in the consultation, reviews, and preparation and processing of documents within the scope identified herein. Equitrans will have no control over nor direct the activities of the contractor. Other federal agencies participating in the NEPA process may include: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”); U.S. Department of Transportation (“USDOT”); and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”). Appropriate regulatory agencies in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio will also be encouraged to participate in the NEPA process and may be cooperating agencies, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1501.6.

Equitrans has selected a preliminary Project route and compressor station location and has secured the services of GAI Consultants to assist in the development and preparation of the Environmental Resource Reports (“RRs”) required for the application to be filed with the FERC. It is Equitrans intent to work diligently to identify and resolve all Project issues and concerns in an expeditious manner in an effort to maintain the schedule for this Project as set forth in Section 3.0. To that end, the third-party contractor selected must demonstrate a willingness to meet this schedule and must commit to making a sufficient number of qualified personnel available to work closely with FERC staff.

## **1.2 Overview of the Project**

Equitrans is seeking authorization to construct a new 24-inch diameter pipeline, 16-inch diameter pipeline, 12-inch diameter pipeline and appurtenant facilities, with a capacity of 610,000 dekatherms per day (“Dth/d”). The proposed Project is designed to add firm transportation capacity to allow natural gas to move from the central Appalachian Basin into the interstate pipeline grid. Equitrans’ existing natural gas pipeline system is uniquely positioned in the central Appalachian region to accommodate increased gas production, as its pipelines overlay areas of production in northern WV and southwestern PA. The Project is designed to enhance producers’ market diversity by increasing their capacity into OH to provide timely, cost-effective access to expanding mid-continent and Gulf Coast markets. The proposed Project will transport natural gas from Equitrans’ Mainline and Sunrise Transmission Systems and other gathering receipt points to interconnections with interstate pipelines operated by Rockies Express Pipeline (“REX”) and Rover Pipeline LLC (“Rover”).

### Location and Description of Facilities

#### H-327 Pipeline

The proposed H-327 Pipeline in Greene County, PA is approximately 0.5 miles of 16-inch pipeline and is the suction line for the proposed Cygrymus Compressor Station. The proposed H-327 pipeline will deliver gas from the Equitrans' H-111 (mainline maximum allowable operating pressure ("MAOP") 655 per square inch gauge ("psig")) to the inlet of Cygrymus Compressor Station. The pipeline, at its northern terminus, will have a valve yard designated as the Shough Creek Valve Yard which will include a pig launcher with a hot tap valve and a below grade 16-inch spur pipeline off the hot tap to the pig receiver. The new aboveground facility will utilize vegetated geoweb with a chain link fence around the launcher and receiver and a cattle guard barrier at the hot tap location

#### H-328 Pipeline

The proposed H-328 Pipeline in Greene County, PA is approximately 0.5 miles of 12-inch pipeline and is the discharge line for the proposed Cygrymus Compressor Station. The proposed H-328 Pipeline will deliver gas from the outlet of Cygrymus Compressor Station to the Sunrise H-302 mainline (MAOP 1,200 psig). The pipeline, at its northern terminus, will have a valve yard designated as the Shough Creek Valve Yard which will include a pig receiver with a hot tap valve and a below grade 12-inch spur pipeline off the hot tap to the pig receiver. The new aboveground facility will utilize vegetated geoweb with a chain link fence around the launcher and receiver and a cattle guard barrier at the hot tap location

#### H-326 Pipeline

The proposed H-326 Pipeline in Wetzel County, WV will interconnect with and receive gas from the Corona Compressor Station and deliver gas to the H-111 transmission pipeline OVC Interconnect. The proposed H-326 Pipeline is approximately 3.8 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline. The H-326 Pipeline will be designed and tested for a 1,440 psig MAOP but will be limited to a 1,200 psig system MAOP due to the connection with Equitrans' existing H-302 and H-310 Pipelines and will not currently operate above 1,200 psig. The H-326 Pipeline will function as a discharge line from the Corona Compressor Station. The pipeline will have measurement, a pig launcher, and MLV located within the existing Corona Compressor Station located at the pipeline's southeastern terminus. The facility at the H-326 Pipeline's northwestern terminus will be expanded and designated as the OVC Interconnect. The OVC Interconnect will contain a pig receiver for the H-326 Pipeline and ties into the existing H-310 launcher future valve connection. Additionally, the OVC Interconnect will consist of ancillary facilities associated with the proposed H-330 Pipeline further discussed below.

#### H-330 Pipeline

The proposed H-330 Pipeline in Wetzel County, WV will operate as a mainline loop and deliver gas from the points on Equitrans' existing H-302 Pipeline to the H-306 Pipeline. The H-330 Pipeline is approximately 0.73 miles of 16-inch diameter pipeline extending from H-302 Pipeline southwest to the H-306 Pipeline. The H-330 Pipeline will be designed with a 1,440 psig MAOP but will be limited to a 1,200 psig system MAOP due to the connection with Equitrans' existing H-302 Pipeline. The H-306 Pipeline would operate as

a suction line to the Corona Compressor Station and would require a separate supply loop (the H-330 Pipeline) due to the proposed operating pressure. The pipeline, at its southeastern terminus, will have a valve yard designated as the Liberty Valve Yard which will include a pig receiver and ball valve at the tie-in to H-306 Pipeline. The new aboveground facility will utilize vegetated geoweb with a chain link fence around the receiver and a cattle guard barrier at the hot tap location. The facility at the H-330 Pipeline's northeastern terminus will be expanded and designated as the OVC Interconnect. In addition to ancillary facilities discussed for the H-326 Pipeline, the OVC Interconnect will contain a pig launcher for the H-330 Pipeline. A 16-inch diameter spur line is proposed and will connect to a ball valve at tap tie-in to the existing H-302 Pipeline inside the fence of the existing Mobley Run Tap Site.

### H-329 Pipeline

The proposed H-329 Pipeline in Wetzel County, WV is a lateral off the H-326 pipeline and will feed the existing PickenPaw interconnect. It is approximately 128 feet of 8-inch diameter pipeline with a 1,200 psig MAOP. The existing supply for PickenPaw will operate at a reduced pressure less than the downstream Columbia Gas Pipeline, and thus a higher pressure supply from the H-326 pipeline is needed to preserve operations.

### Logansport

The proposed Logansport Spur in Wetzel County, WV is approximately 0.03 miles of 12-inch diameter pipeline extending from H-515 Pipeline to the H-306 Pipeline. The Logansport Spur will be designed with a 1,200 psig MAOP but will be limited to 655 psig system MAOP due to the connection with the H-515 Pipeline. The Logansport Spur will operate as a suction line to the H-306 Pipeline to Corona Compressor Station.

### Above Ground Facilities

#### Plasma Compressor Station

The Plasma Compressor Station Uprate is proposed to be constructed in Monroe County, OH and will transport gas from the H-310 Pipeline origin point in WV to REX, Rover and Texas Eastern Transmission, LP interconnects. The existing compressor station is Two (2) Taurus T70 turbine centrifugal compressors driven by gas turbine engines with approximately 21,000 nominal HP in total. The proposed compression expansion includes a Titan T130\* centrifugal compressor with approximately 23,000 nominal HP. The compressor station's proposed expanded capacity is approximately 1100 MMcfd based on suction and discharge pressure design conditions. All work should be confined to the existing station limits.

#### Corona Compressor Station Uprate

The Corona Compressor Station Uprate is proposed to be constructed in Wetzel County, WV and will transport gas from the proposed H-306 Pipeline, along with the existing GSF-962 Pipeline, to the proposed H-326 Pipeline, which will tie into the existing H 310



Pipeline. The existing Corona Compressor Station has nominal HP of 15,900 and consists of one Mars M100 centrifugal compressor driven by a gas turbine engine. The proposed expansion unit includes another Mars M100 centrifugal compressor driven by a gas turbine engine (15,900 HP). The compressor station capacity is currently estimated to be 250 MMcfd based on suction and discharge pressure design conditions and will expand to 500 MMscfd given identical conditions. All work should be confined to the existing station limits.

### Cygrymus Compressor Station Uprate

The Cygrymus Compressor Station Uprate is proposed to be constructed in Greene County, PA on an existing gathering compressor station site and will relay up to 250 MMscfd from the Equitrans H-111 intermediate pressure pipeline to the H-302 Pipeline for ultimate delivery to Equitrans' OVC and the Clarington, OH markets. In addition, there is an existing Interconnect which provides another outlet for the Cygrymus Compressor Station to Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage and is located southwest of the station. The existing CAT 3606 gathering unit compressor will be removed to make space for the proposed two (2) Taurus T70 centrifugal compressors with approximately 22,000 nominal HP. The compressor station's proposed design capacity is approximately 250 MMcfd based on suction and discharge pressure design conditions.

## 1.3 Scope

### 1.3.1 Post-Filing Activities

Equitrans plans on filing its Application in early 2022 with FERC. It is Equitrans intention to hire a third-party contractor, under the direction of the OEP staff. The selected third-party contractor will:

1. Review Resource Reports;
2. Attend the OVCX open houses/public meetings, as required by OEP staff;
3. Prepare a draft Notice of Intent ("NOI");
4. Coordinate and attend scoping sessions and other meetings and perform site visits, as required by the OEP staff;
5. Identify and summarize concerns raised by regulatory agencies and other stakeholders;
6. Verify, update, and maintain electronic mailing lists;
7. Maintain a database of comments filed and assist OEP staff in preparing responses to public comments;
8. Prepare and submit a Preliminary Administrative Draft EIS ("PADEIS") to the OEP staff;
9. Incorporate/resolve PADEIS comments from OEP staff;
10. Prepare a draft Notice of Schedule;
11. Prepare and submit an Administrative Draft EIS ("ADEIS") to the OEP staff and Cooperating Agencies;
12. Incorporate/resolve ADEIS comments from OEP and Cooperating Agency staff;

13. Prepare and submit a draft EIS (DEIS) to OEP staff;
14. Assuming data is available and as necessary, complete agency consultations, prepare the final version of the Biological Assessment (BA) document with input from FERC staff for inclusion in the environmental document;
15. Coordinate and participate in public comment sessions on the draft DEIS and organize comments for review, as applicable;
16. Assist the OEP staff in preparing responses to public comments on the DEIS;
17. Prepare and submit an administrative final EIS (“FEIS”) to OEP staff and the cooperating agencies;
18. Prepare and submit a FEIS to OEP staff;
19. Prepare periodic draft project update tri-folds, as necessary;
20. Assist OEP staff, as necessary, with project-related tasks between the issuance of the NEPA document and the Commission Order. Examples of such tasks include support in responding to comments on the EIS; and
21. Prepare and submit environmental information requests (“EIRs”), as required.

## **2.0 SERVICES REQUIRED**

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The selected third-party contractor will be responsible for working along OEP staff and the various stakeholders while the NEPA Document is being developed. The selected third-party contractor will keep the OEP staff apprised of issues as they arise, and when appropriate, participate in stakeholder meetings and site visits to identify and possibly help resolve issues.

The selected third-party contractor will be responsible for assisting the OEP staff in conducting the NEPA review, preparing an EIS, and completing related work within the OEP schedule and approved budget. It will be the contractor's responsibility to notify Equitrans if the work effort ultimately required by the OEP staff exceeds the work effort on which the bid was based, or the approved budget, prior to exceeding the budget.

If requested by OEP staff, due to the work load within OEP, the third-party contractor should prepare to independently perform the tasks below under OEP staff direction, to achieve the OEP staff developed schedule.

The third-party contractor may be required to attend meetings with OEP staff (e.g., kick-off meeting, several Project-specific meetings), and be present in FERC’s offices, as needed by OEP staff, during the final stages of the preparation of the production-ready copies of the NEPA Documents to verify that all comments from OEP staff and other cooperating agencies are adequately addressed.

The third-party contractor will be responsible for satisfactory completion of the following tasks:

- 1) Task 1 – Preparation of EIS Documents  
Preparation of all Project-related documents, reports, and notices or correspondences required by OEP staff. In addition to paper copies (if required), all

materials must be provided to the OEP staff electronically in a format agreed to by the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Any required databases (such as mailing lists) must be Excel or Microsoft Access compatible. The camera-ready EIS will be provided as specified by the OEP staff.

2) Task 2 – Preparation of Meeting Materials

Prepare notices, agendas, itineraries, presentation materials, and summaries for conference calls, agency meetings, public scoping sessions, public comment sessions on the DEIS, and any other applicable meeting. This task will require close coordination with the OEP Environmental Project Manager. Required work will include arranging for meeting places, preparing draft notices, developing materials for sessions, participating in sessions, and preparing reports summarizing the results of the scoping sessions/process. Prepare a summary of agency scoping comments/issues for subsequent agency review and concurrence. Assume two scoping sessions and two comment sessions will be conducted. The potential locations for these sessions will be determined at a later date.

3) Task 3 – Preparation/Maintenance of Mailing List

Prepare and maintain a computerized (sortable database) mailing list of agencies, officials, community/environmental groups, concerned citizens, affected property owners and other interested parties. Equitrans will provide initial agency and affected property owner lists and will update the mailing lists as necessary and notify OEP staff of any changes.

4) Task 4 – Characterization of Existing Environment

Characterize existing environmental conditions, incorporate issues identified during scoping, assess potential environmental effects and significance associated with implementation of the Project, identify potential site, route, and facility location alternatives (both locally and regionally), and determine necessary mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts to acceptable levels for the environmental topics. Studies shall take into account both direct and indirect effects of project facilities construction, operation and maintenance, and upset conditions, for all proposed and alternative project facilities. The Environmental Resource Reports contained in other major applications, if any, and other already available technical data shall be used to the maximum extent practicable.

5) Task 5 – Preparation of EIS

Prepare the EIS to meet the requirements of the current Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (e.g., the July 16, 2020 Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act or any subsequently issued regulations), the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, other applicable laws and regulations, and additional requirements of the OEP staff, and respond to comments raised during scoping and public meetings.

The EIS shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following sections: <sup>1</sup>

1. Cover Sheet
2. Executive Summary (including Impact Summary Table)
3. Introduction
4. Description of Proposed Project and Alternatives
5. Affected Environment
6. Environmental Consequences (including Cumulative Impacts, as applicable)
7. Comparison of Alternatives
8. Conclusions (including summary of unavoidable significant adverse effect) and Recommendations (mitigation measures, including mitigation monitoring plan)
9. Agencies and Sources Consulted
10. Submitted alternatives, information, and analysis
11. List of Preparers and Contributors
12. References
13. EIS Distribution List
14. Index
15. Scoping and EIS Comments and Responses (Final EIS only)
16. Appendices and Technical Reports (including a Biological Assessment, if appropriate)

In conjunction with the OEP staff, the third-party contractor will be responsible for identifying and assessing potential alternatives to the proposed project that are capable of meeting the project's goals and are sufficient to meet the requirements of NEPA, including reducing potentially significant effects associated with the proposed project and fostering informed decision-making. Potential alternatives to the Project will be identified by Equitrans in Resource Report 10. Any project alternatives identified by the OEP staff will also be addressed.

The Description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives should include, at a minimum, the following subsections:

1. Purpose and Need for the Project
2. Approvals to be Sought through Use of the EIS
3. Pipeline Route Description
4. Aboveground Facilities
5. Ancillary Facilities
6. Design Parameters
7. Construction Methods (including Applicant-Proposed Mitigation Measures)
8. Construction Schedule and Work Force
9. Operation and Maintenance Procedures
10. Abandonments Procedures (if applicable)

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<sup>1</sup> See 18 CFR 380.7 and 40 CFR 1502.10 for additional guidance.

11. Interrelationships with Other Planned Projects and Non-Jurisdictional Facilities
12. Alternatives (including No Action)

The majority of this information will be available in the Environmental Resource Reports. The third-party contractor shall review Environmental Resource Reports for accuracy and adequacy to meet the needs of NEPA for the preparation of an EIS and prepare a data request(s) to Equitrans, routed through the OEP staff, requesting any other data that may be needed. The EIS shall fully address the following resource topics (as applicable):

1. Geology (including mineral resources and geologic hazards)
2. Soils (including erosion control and restoration/revegetation)
3. Water Resources (surface water and groundwater hydrology and quality)
4. Biological Resources (including wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, aquatic biology, essential fish habitat, and threatened and endangered species)
5. Land Ownership. Land Use (including agricultural lands), and recreation
6. Socioeconomics (including Environmental Justice)
7. Visual Resources/Aesthetics
8. Air Quality
9. Noise
10. Cultural and Paleontological Resources
11. Public Safety
12. Reliability and Safety
13. Cumulative Impacts

6) Task 6 – Request for Supporting Maps

Request and prepare supporting maps showing the location of all project facilities and related areas of disturbance, and pertinent resource data. Equitrans will be responsible for developing most maps requested by the third-party contractor. Map scale will range from 1:24,000 to 1:3,600, depending on the complexity/sensitivity of the resources potentially affected and project specifics.

7) Task 7 – Ongoing Review

Maintain ongoing review of potential environmental issues and assessment of adequacy of overall scope of the environmental analysis. The OEP staff shall be advised immediately of any potential data gaps or analysis shortcomings.

8) Task 8 – Site Visits

Arrange with Equitrans to participate in site inspections of the proposed facility locations (including overflight, as appropriate) with the OEP staff. (The FERC will reimburse Equitrans for all costs associated with OEP staff participation in overflights.)

- 9) Task 9 - Preparation of Comments Responses  
Analyze comments and prepare draft responses to comments on the PADEIS, ADEIS, DEIS, and FEIS, and related documents and maintain a tracking system to ensure all comments are addressed.
- 10) Task 10 - Prepare Camera-Ready Copies of the DEIS and FEIS and any Required Notices for Submission to the FERC Staff for Printing and Mailing  
Prepare camera-ready copies of the DEIS and FEIS and any required notices for submission to the FERC staff for printing and mailing. For purposes of proposal preparation, assume that the contractor will print and distribute at least 10 copies of the preliminary documents (ADEIS, etc.) to cooperating agencies. (The actual number of preliminary documents needed will be determined based on consideration of cooperating agencies' needs.)
- 11) Task 11 – Project Management System  
Develop and maintain a formal project management system to allow for weekly or bi-weekly, as mutually agreed, tracking of schedule and budget status for the prime contractor and any subcontractors.
- 12) Task 12 - Preparation of Biological Assessment  
Prepare a Biological Assessment, if appropriate.
- 13) Task 13 – Preparation of Essential Fish Habitat Assessment  
Prepare an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment, if appropriate.
- 14) Task 14 – Preparation of General Conformity Determination  
Prepare a General Conformity Determination, if appropriate.
- 15) Task 15 – Assist OEP Staff in the Preparation of Order Language  
Assist OEP Staff in the preparation of Order language.

### **3.0 PROJECT TIMELINE**

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Proposals submitted in response to this RFP should identify any perceived need for specific supplemental studies to fully comply with NEPA and the FERC's implementing regulations.

Adherence to the proposed schedule is essential. Equitrans plans to file its Application with the Commission at the earliest date it is deemed complete by OEP staff. Assuming that Equitrans is able to successfully identify and resolve all Project issues in an expeditious manner, and responds expeditiously to data requests, the major milestones of the project schedule, as summarized below in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, will be utilized: However, the actual project schedule for preparation of the EIS will be determined in coordination with OEP staff, not the applicant.

### **3.1 Third-Party Contractor Selection**

- 1) Equitrans sends out RFP to prospective contractors: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- 2) Email questions due to CDevinney@equitransmidstream.com: Monday, December, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 PM EST
- 3) Equitrans provides responses to questions: Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021
- 4) Submit proposals to Equitrans by 12:00 pm EST: Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- 5) File proposals to OEP staff in the Section 7(c) Application: Early 2022
- 6) OEP selects third-party contractor: To be determined
- 7) Complete contract negotiations with Equitrans: To be determined
- 8) Third-party contractor begins work: Upon execution of the contract

### **3.2 Equitrans' Application**

- 1) Conduct open houses/public meetings: Early 2022
- 2) Complete civil/environmental field surveys: September 2021
- 3) Submission of FERC Application: Early 2022
- 4) Receive FERC Certificate: February 2023
- 5) Receive FERC Notice to Proceed: March 2023

### **3.3 Project Schedule Milestones**

The following EIS review tasks will be conducted by the third-party contractor and/or OEP staff:

#### **3.3.1 Post-Filing Schedule (Set by FERC Staff)**

1. Contractor prepares draft Notice of Intent and Schedule
2. Contractor delivers PADEIS to OEP staff (if necessary).
3. Comments on PADEIS returned to contractor (if necessary).
4. Contractor delivers ADEIS to OEP staff and Cooperating Agencies.
5. Comments on ADEIS returned to contractor.
6. Contractor delivers camera-ready DEIS to OEP staff
7. FERC issues DEIS.
8. Hold public sessions to receive comments.
9. Contractor delivers preliminary FEIS and responses to comments to OEP staff and Cooperating Agencies.
10. Comments on preliminary FEIS returned to contractor.
11. Contractor delivers camera-ready FEIS to OEP staff.
12. FERC issues FEIS.
13. Contractor assists FERC staff in addressing comments on the FEIS.

## 4.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

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### 4.1 Letter of Intent

Prospective third-party contractors shall submit a Letter of Intent to the Equitrans Supply Chain contact listed on the cover page of this RFP, Equitrans before Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 PM Eastern Time. Email submission of this correspondence is required, and the respective emails are provided in section 4.3.12. Those submitting a Letter of Intent will receive answers to questions discussed in section 4.2 and (ii) amendments to this RFP, if any. This letter will facilitate the distribution of written information but does not obligate the contractor to submit a proposal.

### 4.2 Emailed Questions

All questions related to this RFP are to be emailed and are due to Equitrans by **Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 PM Eastern Time**. Questions will be answered by Equitrans and distributed to all prospective bidders by Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 COB. Prospective bidders must provide an email address along with their notice of intent to receive a copy of the answers.

The purpose of the questions is to:

- answer prospective bidders' questions about the RFP;
- discuss any other information to be used in the submissions of a proposal;
- entertain requests for other background documents, which may be available for use during the preparation of the proposal but were not sent to prospective contractors.

All prospective third-party contractors are strongly encouraged to submit questions, since this is the only opportunity to receive responses to questions. Individual telephone calls are not permitted; no questions related to this RFP will be answered in any forum other than through email. All questions must be submitted before the Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 deadline so that all participants have equal access to the responses.

### 4.3 Proposal Requirements

If a prospective bidder provides a Letter of Intent to bid on the RFP, and subsequently does not intend to submit a proposal, please notify Equitrans as soon as possible, but in any event no later than one (1) business day prior to the proposal due date.

The Equitrans method to receive proposals is to have the prospective contractors email their proposals, pricing, and other required documents to the Equitrans Supply Chain contact listed on the cover page of this RFP. Equitrans will coordinate distribution, and ultimately provide the OEP staff with an electronic copy of the proposals. Cost estimates must be submitted separately from the body of the technical proposals. The proposal is limited to fifty (50) pages (single-sided, space and a half). All materials should be easily



readable. The proposal should be concise, well organized and contain the following information in the order presented below:

#### **4.3.1 Introduction**

Explain the contractor's understanding of the project and a summary of the contractor's qualifications for this project in one or two pages. Because the project is located in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, qualifications for assessing impacts to the environment of this region of the country should be highlighted.

#### **4.3.2 Technical Approach**

Present both an overall technical approach for the preparation of the EIS and the approach proposed for individual technical areas and tasks. Include any recommendations to improve the scope (including rationale) and also reflect those recommendations in the cost proposal.

#### **4.3.3 Project Organization and Management Approach**

Describe the proposed project organization, with an organization chart including positions, responsibilities and reporting relationships. The senior specialist and/or subcontractor(s) with responsibility for each resource area must be identified. These key personnel shall not be reassigned within the project or to other projects without prior written approval from the OEP staff.

Describe the proposed management scheme for the project, with a discussion of where the work will be done and where each key person and subcontractor presently resides. Provide the proposed mechanisms for communication, reporting, technical direction and control, cost control, schedule control, quality control, quality assurance and control of subcontractors.

If requested by OEP staff, due to the work load within OEP, the third-party contractor should prepare to independently perform the tasks below under OEP staff direction, to achieve the OEP staff developed schedule. Describe the proposed plan to meet this request and if additional staff would be required.

#### **4.3.4 Qualifications and Experience**

Describe qualifications and prior experience in completing a similar NEPA project, particularly pipeline construction projects or other linear facility projects. Emphasize prior work experience with FERC, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio state agencies, construction projects, and the geographical areas of study. Discuss your understanding of the FERC environmental requirements as reflected in its regulations and current policies. Note the contractor's capacity for GIS mapping, air dispersion modeling, comment tracking, and other relevant software. Describe the contractor's past record in meeting performance and delivery requirements for similar projects.

Statements of education, qualifications and prior experience should be provided not only for the prospective bidder but also for the key personnel and any subcontractors that will be assigned to the project, along with their **specific experience with the type of project under consideration**.

The past, current, and proposed use of small and small disadvantaged owned business enterprises by the contractor should be described.

#### **4.3.5 Project Schedule**

Submit a proposed schedule delineating dates for completion of the major work tasks specified in Section 3 of this RFP. The selected contractor must adhere to the completion dates as specified in Section 3 of this RFP. Any suggested modifications to the schedule must be presented with reasons for the changes. **Note, however, that the ultimate schedule will be determined by the OEP staff, not the Applicant.**

It is important that prospective contractors demonstrate to Equitrans and the OEP staff that ample resources exist to meet the project schedule. If a contractor has multiple EIS obligations underway concurrently, it must clearly show separate resources or provide convincing evidence that it can meet the schedule.

#### **4.3.6 References**

List and describe three successfully completed or in-progress projects of a similar nature with the name and phone number of your client's project manager. Additionally, list three client references specifically for your proposed project manager.

#### **4.3.7 Conflicts of Interest and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information**

Identify possible conflicts of interest that may require investigation by the FERC staff. Include a discussion of all work completed by the prospective contractor for similar work on natural gas-related projects within the last 3 years. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), contractor selection is based on ability and absence of conflict of interest. The contractor must also submit a Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) Non-Disclosure Agreement for itself and each subcontractor used.

All proposals must include the following items:

- 1) Either FERC's (a) Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) representation statement, or (b) OCI Disclosure Statement, prepared by a responsible official attesting the prospective contractor and its subcontractor(s) have no financial or other conflicting interest in the outcome of the project, or proposing a mitigation plan if an actual or potential OCI exists. (See **Appendix C.**)

- 2) The FERC's OCI Questionnaire. (See **Appendix D.**)
- 3) A Contractor CEII Non-Disclosure Agreement. (See **Appendix E.**)
- 4) Sample Memorandum of Understanding Agreement. (See **Appendix F.**)
- 5) Equitrans will complete an OCI Certification. (See **Appendix G.**)
- 6) Confirmation of compliance of the terms and requirements contained within Equitrans' FERC Master Consulting/Professional Services Agreement (See **Appendix H**). If the bidder does not accept all terms within this agreement, the bidder must identify any requested revisions to the form of the agreement and describe with specificity the reason for such request.

#### **4.3.8 Resumes**

Resumes for the Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager (if applicable), and key environmental staff must be submitted as an attachment to the proposal or as a separate volume. All resumes should be limited to two pages and must include the institution and date of graduation for all academic degrees as well as a summary of relevant work experience and the specific dates of performance.

#### **4.3.9 Cost Proposal**

Equitrans anticipates awarding and issuing a time-and-materials, not-to-exceed Purchase Order with the selected contractor. Contractor's proposal must include a rate sheet for labor and identify mark-ups on expenses, if any; standard rates of indirect expenses (*e.g.* reproduction, per diems, mileage, etc.); and other applicable costs/charges. The contractor's time-and-material, not-to-exceed cost proposal must present costs for labor and expenses for each of the tasks identified in Section 2. The cost proposal should be completed and submitted using Appendix B-1 – Bid Pricing Form in native excel format.

Any limiting assumptions used to prepare the cost proposal should be clearly specified in the proposal using the "Assumptions" tab of the bid pricing form. Equitrans will keep the OEP environmental project manager apprised of its efforts to negotiate an acceptable contract with the contractor. Equitrans understands that there may be out-of-scope requirements for the completion of this project and expects to be informed promptly of any such requirements. Any resultant costs will be handled between the contractor and Equitrans under the provisions of the contract. The contractor is required to promptly advise Equitrans of any anticipated budget changes for out-of-scope work requested by the OEP and included in the monthly project invoices.

Equitrans will provide the successful contractor copies of all environmental information filed with FERC, including base maps, air photos, and computerized mailing lists of agencies, officials, community/environmental groups, concerned citizens, affected property owners and known interested parties at the time that contract negotiations are completed. If necessary, Equitrans will provide aerial overflights for key contractor and

OEP staff, either prior to or in conjunction with the open house/public meetings, as desired. (However, the FERC will reimburse Equitrans for all costs associated with OEP staff participation in aerial overflights.)

#### **4.3.10 Available Materials**

Documents available from Equitrans that should assist contractors in preparation of their proposals are provided as Appendices to this RFP. Note that Equitrans will only entertain questions about this RFP through written questions submitted via email to the Supply Chain contact listed on the cover page of this RFP.

Responses to questions will be emailed to Respondents. If a contractor considers its question to be confidential, particularly because the question reveals an innovative approach, it must mark the question as confidential when it is submitted. If Equitrans, in its sole discretion, agrees the question should be treated as confidential, it will respond to the request on a confidential basis. If Equitrans concludes, in its sole discretion, that it is unable to respond to the question on a confidential basis, it will notify the contractor of its decision and the contractor will have the opportunity to withdraw the question. If the contractor does not wish to withdraw the question, then the question and Equitrans response will be available to all contractors.

Each Respondent must submit its proposal and other related documentation as required in this RFP via email.

#### **4.3.11 Sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Appendix F to this RFP presents a sample MOU with key provisions that must be included in the awarded contract. Contractors are asked to review this sample MOU and point out any difficulties with its language in their proposal. The proposal must indicate the contractor's review of the sample MOU and identify issues that require resolution during contract negotiations. Issues raised after submittal of the proposal will not be subject to negotiation. The person(s) authorized to negotiate on behalf of the contractor should be identified.

Please note the OEP staff cannot be contacted on any contract negotiations between Equitrans and the contractor.

#### **4.3.12 Addresses**

Submit via email Letters of Intent, Technical Proposals, Costs Proposals, along with any bidders questions during the process, to the following contact via email:

Craig Devinney  
Sourcing Agent II  
Equitrans Midstream  
Mobile: 412-855-7968  
[CDevinney@equitransmidstream.com](mailto:CDevinney@equitransmidstream.com)

Electronic copies of the Technical Proposals and Cost Proposals must be submitted to Equitrans by **12:00 PM EST Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

## **5.0 SELECTION CRITERIA**

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Only those proposals submitted by contractors prior to the deadline stated herein will be evaluated. The proposals will be initially reviewed by Equitrans, and then all proposals will be submitted to the OEP staff. Proposals will also be filed on the FERC project docket in accordance with the Commission's instructions for filing of privileged material.

Equitrans will provide the OEP staff with an electronic copy of the third-party contractors' proposals, along with the third-party contractors' OCI statements, CEII non-disclosure agreements, and Equitrans' OCI certification regarding each contractor. Lack of an OCI Statement, or the existence of an identifiable OCI (relative to the contractor, its key personnel, or any proposed subcontractors) that cannot be mitigated to the satisfaction of the OEP staff, will be sufficient grounds for proposal rejection.

The Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Officials, Office of General Counsel (GAL) will perform an OCI review of the proposals by reviewing any relationships between the contractor and any business entity that could be affected by the work done under the contract. OEP staff will then conduct an independent review of the contracts cleared by GAL and the Director of OEP will make the final selection of the contractor.

Once the OEP staff has notified Equitrans of its selection and the MOU is signed, Equitrans will negotiate and fund a contract with the contractor. Equitrans will keep the OEP staff apprised of the negotiations with the contractor. Once the contract has been executed, the contractor will proceed to work solely under the direction and guidance of the OEP staff. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), the responsible official (i.e., the OEP staff) "shall furnish guidance and participate in the preparation and shall independently evaluate the EIS prior to its approval and take responsibility for its scope and contents."

### **5.1 Qualifications Appraisal**

#### **Technical Approach (40 percent)**

The proposal must show:

- 1) familiarity with environmental regulations and procedures for satisfying NEPA and related requirements;
- 2) Experience as a third-party contractor for OEP staff in the preparation of NEPA documents;
- 3) Ability to prepare NEPA documentation for compressor stations and natural gas pipeline construction projects in Virginia and North Carolina;

- 4) familiarity with how to proceed in the environmental evaluation of the proposed project, understanding of the available data, identification of possible issues and a description of any needed supplemental analyses;
- 5) ability to prepare a complete Work Plan that thoroughly addresses the various parts of the RFP, recognizes any pitfalls or shortcomings, and presents innovative approaches for the tasks presented; and
- 6) that the contractor's proposed technical and procedural approach to the preparation of the identified tasks will result in compliance with NEPA and other environmental documentation requirements.

**Organization Qualifications and Experience (20 percent)**

The proposal must show:

- 1) Experience in managing major NEPA reviews for large projects. Highlight experience with projects which used the FERC staff's NEPA Pre-Filing Process that involved the successful completion of an EIS or EA.
- 2) Past record of the contractor's organization in performance and delivery requirements for similar contracts.
- 3) Resources and facilities available to the organization to fulfill contract requirements, including those of any subcontractor(s) proposed for use.
- 4) Experience in working with multiple Federal and state agencies on large construction projects.

**Project Management and Personnel (20 percent)**

The proposal must show:

- 1) adequacy of contractor's approach for OEP staff interface, and for planning and scheduling task activities as presented in the RFP;
- 2) ability to assign and commit key personnel to the project, and use of appropriate personnel to accomplish specific tasks;
- 3) ability to satisfy logistical requirements such as materials, transportation, office location(s), document production, computer services and so forth to ensure an effectively managed program;
- 4) experience, education, and location of the Project Manager/s;
- 5) experience, education, and location of various key environmental specialists, and any subcontractors proposed for use;
- 6) qualifications and experience of the administrative support personnel.

**Schedule and Work Plan (20 percent)**

The proposal must show:

- 1) demonstrated ability to meet schedule requirements using staff and resources separate from (or not conflicting with) other EIS efforts underway or scheduled for the same time frame;
- 2) presentation of a detailed Schedule and Work Plan to perform the tasks as presented in the RFP; and
- 3) adequate support for any schedule changes.

## **5.2 Selection of the Third-Party Contractor**

Equitrans will provide the OEP staff with the ranking, its rationale for the ranking, and two copies of all contractors' proposals, along with the contractors' OCI statements, CEII non-disclosure agreements, and Equitrans OCI certification of each contractor.

The FERC staff will then conduct an independent review of the proposals and make a selection. Once the OEP staff has notified Equitrans of its selection, Equitrans will negotiate and fund a contract with the contractor. Equitrans will keep the OEP staff apprised of the negotiations with the contractor. Once the contract has been executed, the contractor will proceed to work solely under the direction and guidance of the OEP staff. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.5(c), the responsible official (i.e., the OEP staff) “shall furnish guidance and participate in the preparation and shall independently evaluate the statement prior to its approval and take responsibility for its scope and contents.”