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NOTICE

Request for Information Program Administrator – New Jersey Clean Energy Program

Purpose

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board) is seeking information to assist it in developing requirements for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Program Administrator - New Jersey Clean Energy Program. The new RFP will solicit bid proposals from qualified bidders for the purpose of engaging a Program Administrator (Contractor) to manage New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP or Program), a suite of statewide clean energy and market transformation programs that are available to customers in each of New Jersey's investor-owned utilities' service territories.

Background

In June 2012, the Division of Purchase and Property (DPP) within the Department of the Treasury issued RFP 13-X-22546. The intent of this RFP was to award a contract to that responsible bidder whose bid proposal was most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered.

After the RFP was issued, there were several substantial developments related to the Program. These developments directly impact the scope of work contained in the RFP and proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. These developments include:

- Changes to the mix of financing to be used in NJCEP programs;
- Statutorily created programs, such as the Societal Benefits Charge Credit Program after the issuance of RFP 13-X-22546;
- Changes related to the establishment of an Energy Resilience Bank;
- Technological and programmatic changes in energy efficiency and renewable energy; and
- Heightened focus on data management and evaluation since the issuance of RFP 13-X-22546.

These developments resulted in significant changes to the regulatory and programmatic structure of the Program. Therefore, the DPP, in consideration of the public interest, determined to cancel the procurement conducted under the above-referenced RFP due to these cogent and compelling reasons. DPP, in consultation with the Board, will issue a new RFP in the future reflecting this new structure.

Next Steps

As a preliminary step in this process, the Board is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) for responses from potential bidders that perform such services on a state or similar scale and from other interested, relevant parties that may have information helpful to the anticipated procurement. This includes information on administering clean energy and market transformation programs and the structuring of pricing and/or payment methodologies.

The Board seeks feedback from potential bidders on the state-of-the-art in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. This information will serve to inform the new RFP for a NJCEP Program Administrator.

Respondents may be entities that provide some or all of the proposed services.

NJCEP Goals

The Program Administrator should be able to help the NJCEP achieve the strategic goals of the State's Energy Master Plan (EMP), the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), help facilitate the NJCEP's goal of transitioning its energy efficiency programs to alternate means of financing, and address the new developments outlined above. The State's EMP and the RPS are accessible at the following respective urls: EMP - <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/njcode/>; RPS – N.J.A.C. 14:8-2.1 et seq., <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/njcode/>.

Specific NJCEP goals include, but are not limited to:

- Increase energy savings achieved through NJCEP programs;
- Reduce non-incentive costs associated with program delivery and administration;
- Promote renewable energy installations that provide economic and environmental benefit;
- Streamline, automate and aggregate processes, in order to increase effectiveness and reduce program transaction costs;
- Enable the transition to long-term financing solutions in combination with direct consumer incentives (e.g. rebates) where appropriate;
- Continue to provide NJCEP programs and services to all customer classes; and
- Restore New Jersey as a national leader in support of new clean energy technologies and market transformation.

The BPU is looking specifically for comments and information on 1) how to best procure and structure the state-of-the-art in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs; and 2) recommendations to be considered in the development of the new RFP for Management Consulting: Program Administrator - New Jersey Clean Energy Program.

Important note: Information provided in response to this RFI is subject to the Open Public Records Act.

Please email responses with the heading Program Administrator - New Jersey Clean Energy Program RFI to: jonathan.wallace@treas.state.nj.us.

Responses are requested in Microsoft Word format by **August 7, 2014**.