

4/2/15




INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 23, 2015

TO: Kathy E. Viehe, Interim General Manager

CC: Debbie Daugherty, Protest Appeal Board Member
Steve Stagliano, Protest Appeal Board Member
Shayla McNeil, Utilities Attorney

FROM: David Richardson, Interim Chief Financial Officer and Chairperson of Bid Protest Appeal Board 

SUBJECT: Findings of the Bid Protest Appeal Board for Solicitation No. 2015-024

On January 7, 2015, GRU's Utilities Purchasing Department issued Solicitation Number 2015-024, a request for proposal (RFP) for the transportation and beneficial reuse or disposal of dewatered biosolids. (See Attachment 1). Watson C&D, LLC, (hereinafter "Watson") with offices located in Archer, Florida, submitted a timely response to the RFP (See Attachment 2). On March 9, 2015, GRU Utilities Purchasing provided all RFP respondents with notice of intent to award the contract to the most responsible responsive bidder for Solicitation No. 2015-024 (See Attachment 3). On March 16, 2015, Watson provided GRU's Utilities Purchasing Department, with timely written notice of intent to protest the contract award for Solicitation No. 2015-024 based on seven (7) potential bio-solids bid issues outlined in detail (See Attachment 4).

Upon review of Watson's notice of bid protest, the Utilities Purchasing Manager determined that a bid protest hearing was warranted. Pursuant to the Utilities Purchasing Procedures Manual, protests for solicitations which require City Commission approval prior to award shall be heard by a protest appeal board (hereinafter "the Board") consisting of three board (3) members (See Attachment 5). A public hearing was scheduled and noticed for March 20, 2015.

During the public hearing, which was recorded, the Board voted that I serve as the Chairperson and preside over the Board. During the public hearing, Watson was provided the opportunity to speak to the Board and present the basis for the bid protest in order to elaborate and clarify the written notice of protest. During the hearing, Watson further addressed each of the issues identified in the written bid protest. GRU purchasing staff and other GRU employees that were part of the bid evaluation process presented an overview of the bid process, including bid evaluation, and addressed all of the potential bio-solids bid issues identified by Watson. Watson was afforded an opportunity to make rebuttal comments. Comment was solicited from other interested parties, and no such interested parties opted to provide comment. After approximately two (2) hours of discussion and after Watson provided rebuttal comments to the Board, the Board closed the public hearing and started deliberations.

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During deliberations, each of the Board members provided comment, feedback, and voted unanimously to deny Watson's bid protest and uphold Utilities Purchasing's decision to award the contract to the most responsible responsive bidder for Solicitation No. 2015-024. The Board authorized me to prepare and send this memo to you, providing the Board decision. The Board recommends that the General Manager review and concur with the Board's findings and recommendation to deny the bid protest and uphold GRU Utilities Purchasing's decision to award the contract to the most responsible responsive bidder for Solicitation No. 2015-024.

Attachments:

1. Solicitation No. 2015-024, dated January 7, 2015 (39 pgs) with Addendum No. 1, dated January 28, 2015 (28 pgs)
2. Watson's response to the RFP, undated (54 pgs)
3. GRU's notice of intent to award Solicitation No. 2015-024, dated March 9, 2015(2 pgs)
4. Watson's notice of intent to protest Solicitation No. 2015-024, dated March 16, 2015 (3 pgs)
5. Utilities Purchasing Procedures Manual, dated April 1, 2011 (16 pgs)