

Delaware River Basin Commission

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Executive Director

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQs) AND STATEMENT OF INTEREST

EVALUATION OF ADDITIONAL STORAGE OPTIONS FOR MEETING WATER DEMANDS AND MANAGING FLOWS IN THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) intends to procure a qualified consulting engineering firm (the Engineer) to provide planning, cost estimating and feasibility analysis and to evaluate options for additional storage to meet water supply needs and for flow management in the Delaware River Basin.
- 1.2. The additional storage shall be located within the Delaware River Basin and shall be provided for the purpose of meeting water supply needs as well as flow objectives and/or salinity control objectives in the Delaware River and Delaware River Estuary, during periods of low flow or drought. At times within this Request for Qualifications (RFQ), this general description shall be referred to as “the Project.” A more detailed outline scope of work for the Project is provided in Attachment A.
- 1.3. Any changes to this RFQ will be in the form of an addendum, which will be furnished to all RFQ holders.
- 1.4. The DRBC reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and to be the sole judge of the merits of the respective submittals received.
- 1.5. The Engineer will be selected using a two-step procurement method.

Step 1: RFQ to be issued by the DRBC. Respondents will submit Statements of Qualifications and Interest (SQI) for the project. Upon submittal of a SQI, the DRBC will review and select a short list of Engineers who will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Step 2: RFP will be issued (anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2019) by the DRBC to those Engineers identified in Step 1. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting held at the Commission headquarters.

The final selection will be based upon those compliant Proposals received during the procurement process.
- 1.6 Technical questions should be directed to Dr. SeungAh Byun; 609-883-9500 ext 237 or at SeungAh.Byun@drbc.gov.

2. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. Firms interested in providing engineering services must submit a brief SQI that addresses the following:
 - Relevant Company Experience regarding water supply storage
 - Relevant Team Experience
 - Project Understanding
 - Experience within the Delaware River Basin
 - Extensive knowledge of the Delaware River Basin
 - Engineering, analytical, regulatory, financial and geospatial expertise
 - Other relevant factors provided by those who submit an SQI.
- 2.2. The first two criteria will collectively provide the majority of the weight in meeting the RFQ requirements.
- 2.3. Information for a Point of Contact shall be provided.
- 2.4. There is no page minimum or page limit in responding to the RFQ; however, the SQI submittal should be efficient and brief. It is fully expected that additional information will be required during the RFP stage (Step 2).
- 2.5. Engineers who represent clients who are required to obtain approvals from the DRBC may be eligible to bid on this project and should consider submitting an SQI. However, any potential conflicts of interest must be identified in this RFQ stage.
- 2.6. If there are any terms, conditions or qualifications for submitting a proposal requested, they should be noted.
- 2.7. If there are any recommendations as to how the fees for these services should be structured to achieve the project objectives, they should be included in the submittal.

3. SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Interested parties shall submit three (3) paper copies of their proposal and one (1) electronic copy on a flash drive to:

Elba Deck, Director, Finance and Administration
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 Cosey Rd.
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Submittals must be received at the Commission's offices no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, September 13, 2019**. Proposals received after this time will not be considered. Delaware River Basin Commission reserves the right to reject any submittals.

4. ATTACHMENTS

- 4.1. Attachment A - Outline of Scope of Work for RFP
- 4.2. Attachment B - Previous Reservoir / Storage Studies

ATTACHMENT A
OUTLINE OF SCOPE OF WORK FOR RFP

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1.1. Identify and develop feasible options that could provide the following additional usable storage:

- A minimum of 1 billion gallons (BG)
- A minimum of 5 BG
- A minimum of 10 BG
- A minimum of 20 BG

The storage volumes can be met by a combination of projects/sources.

1.2. Compile an inventory of storage sources that would meet these volume requirements based upon:

- Projects previously identified by DRBC or others in prior plans (see Attachment B)
- “New” projects and project concepts identified by current DRBC staff (see Attachment B)
- “New” projects and project concepts identified by the Engineer.
- Existing storage that may be available for purchase and/or lease.

2. EVALUATION / SCREENING

2.1 Develop an evaluation matrix for all storage projects which would enable ranking and prioritization. Evaluation metrics for each project should include at a minimum:

2.1.1. Feasibility

- Costs. Land acquisition, capital, operation & maintenance, etc. Cost estimates must be indexed for use in future years. The expected cost estimating level according to the AACE Scale should be Level 4.
- Permitting. The full spectrum of regulatory approvals should be evaluated from local to federal, focused on the scope of the review and approvals from the agencies’ perspective.
- Stakeholder support and concerns.

2.1.2. Geographic Considerations

- Located within the Delaware River Basin.
- Considerations for mainstem flow management
 - Upstream of the Montague, NJ USGS gage (Coordination with the USGS Rivermaster)
 - Upstream of the Trenton, NJ USGS gage (Coordination with DRBC).
 - Located above River Mile 38 (Salt front management).
- Tributary sub-basin.

2.1.3. Source Characteristics

- Water sources should be surface water storage or aquifers, or other underground storage chambers or facilities available during low flow periods in the basin.
- Water source quality, raw or treated, should be able to meet applicable federal, state and Commission requirements regarding discharges to receiving streams in the basin.
- Sources can make releases/discharges either by gravity or by pumping.
- Sources can be filled either by gravity or by pumping.

2.1.4. Sub-basin/local/regional benefits

- Flood control
- Environmental flow augmentation
- Abandoned Mine Drainage/Discharge restoration
- Recreation

2.1.5. Temporal Considerations

- Amount of time before storage is usable
- Useful life

2.1.6. Volume

2.2. Provide recommendations for additional evaluation metrics.

2.3. Provide recommendations for weighting the evaluation metrics.

2.4. Provide recommendations/rankings of projects for the Commission to consider for each minimum storage volume scenario in Section 1.1.

2.5. Provide a Final Report that includes the final recommendations, storage option rankings, methods, criteria and weighting.

3. OTHER PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. The following Projects will not be considered as viable projects during this review.

- Tocks Island Reservoir or any other main stem Delaware River dam.
- Maiden Creek Reservoir (Maiden Creek upstream of Lake Ontelaunee, Berks County)
- Trexler Reservoir (Jordan Creek, Lehigh County)

3.2. Be aware that there are studies being considered by the Commission and other partners regarding storage options in F.E. Walter reservoir in the Lehigh River Basin.

3.3. In addition to a final report, the Project will also deliver a story board in ESRI format that identifies storage options and associated data.

ATTACHMENT B

PREVIOUS RESERVOIR / STORAGE STUDIES TO REVIEW

- **1960 Report on the Comprehensive Survey of the Water Resources of the Delaware River Basin. (House Document 522). Revised May 1961. United States Army Corps of Engineers.**
- [1961 DRBC Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [1975 URS/Madigan-Praeger, Inc. and Conklin & Rossant, A Comprehensive Study of the Tocks Island Lake Project and Alternatives](#)
- **Delaware River Basin Electric Utilities Group (DRBEUG) Studies**
 - [Water Resources Study for Power Systems – Delaware River Basin – March 1972, Tippetts – Abbott- McCarthy – Stratton Engineers and Architects, New York](#)
 - [Alternative Water Supply Reservoirs in the Delaware River Basin – Report of the Delaware River Basin Electric Utility Group – Reservoir Contingency Study Subcommittee – May 1975](#)
 - [Site Study for a Water Supply Reservoir – Delaware River Basin – Prepared for the Delaware River Basin Electric Utilities Group – August 1976, Tippetts – Abbott- McCarthy – Stratton Engineers and Architects, New York](#)
- [1983 The Delaware River Basin Comprehensive Level B Study](#)
- [2001 DRBC Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [2008 Enhancing Multi-Jurisdictional Use and Management of Water Resources for the Delaware River Basin: NY, NJ, PA and DE](#)

Other Items to Consider

- Public Water Supply Reservoirs taken offline in the 1990's after EPA's Surface Water Treatment Rules (<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/surface-water-treatment-rules>)
- [DRBC internal reservoir evaluation 2009](#)
- DiRenzo Coal / Blythe Township (<http://www.opportunityforblythe.com/>)