



City of Tacoma  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Dry Polymer for Biosolids Dewatering (Rebid)  
RFB Specification No. ES17-0195F

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing to Jessica Tonka by 3:00 p.m., Pacific Time, May 12, 2017. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at [www.TacomaPurchasing.org](http://www.TacomaPurchasing.org). This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

**Question 1:** On page 15 of the bid documents it states that the minimum capture is 90%, and total suspended solids in the filtrate shall not exceed 1000 mg/L. The question is what is the correct minimum capture performance standard? For example, if the feed solids are 1.7%, a filtrate TSS of 1400 mg/L would equate to 90% capture.

Answer 1: This has been addressed by Addendum No. 1.

**Question 2:** Also on page 15, the bid document states that the polymer dose shall not exceed 33 active lbs/ton. Is there a particular reason for this limit? For example, if polymer A uses 32 lbs/ton to achieve the minimum specifications at a unit price of \$2.00 per pound, then the total treatment cost used for evaluation would be \$64 per ton. If polymer B uses 38 lbs/ton and is \$1.50 per pound the cost would be \$57 per ton; a significant cost advantage to the city, even though the polymer dose was higher than 33 lbs/ton.

Answer 2: Per the Screw Press manufacturer O&M manual the press is not to exceed this polymer dose.

**Question 3:** Is the vendor allowed to change the dosage during the trial as needed to meet the minimum specifications?

Answer 3: Yes

**Question 4:** How and when will be able to adjust our polymer dose to ensure optimal performance?

Answer 4: The polymer dosage will be adjusted as per the Technical Requirements, Section G. POLYMER FEED AND CONDITIONING SYSTEM TO BE USED FOR TRIALS of the specification, by varying the target mg/L concentration. The vendor will have the first three hours of the trial day to make dosage adjustments (See Addendum No. 1).

**Question 5:** It is stated above that only the polymer concentration will be changed. Are we allowed to change the dosage using the polymer feed rate?

Answer 5: See answer to Question 4

**Question 6:** Also on page 18, it states that samples will be collected. How many official sample sets for evaluation will be collected?

Answer 6: This has been addressed by Addendum No. 1.

**Question 7:** Do all of the individual samples need to achieve the minimum cake and capture requirements to qualify to bid?

Answer 7: No. We will use your best sample.

**Question 8:** Is only one sample set achieving the minimum performance requirements sufficient to qualify, and submit a bid for evaluation and consideration for award?

Answer 8: Yes

**Question 9:** If multiple sample sets are collected, will they be evaluated individually or averaged?

Answer 9: Individually

**Question 10:** If multiple sample sets are collected, will they be composited, and then tested for performance.

Answer 10: No. They will be tested individually.

**Question 11:** Is the bench testing May 15-19th mandatory? Is presence at the trial tests mandatory?

Answer 11: This has been addressed by Addendum No. 1.