



**City of Tacoma
Environmental Services
Dry Polymer for Biosolids Dewatering
RFB Specification No. ES19-0183F**

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Samol Hefley by May 30, 2019. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org: Navigate to *Current Contracting Opportunities / Services*, and then click *Questions and Answers* for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

Question 1: Is the entire first three hours of optimization required during formal trial?

Answer 1: No. The first three hour period is for vendor to optimize their dosage. Once the vendor is satisfied with their dosage the trial may begin at any time during that period.

Question 2: Will polymer adjustments be acceptable after the first three hours of optimization in the formal trial?

Answer 2: The active concentration of the polymer cannot be adjusted, but the dosage rate may be adjusted. It is assumed that we will be drawing samples from the process at three different polymer dosage rates. The time it takes to run the sludge through the press is approximately 3 hours.

Question 3: Will it be acceptable to make adjustments to the screw press during the three hour optimization period and/or during the remainder of the formal trial?

Answer 3: No. We will run the press in Constant Flow Mode at 100 gpm. The only adjustments acceptable will be polymer dosage. Additionally, if we see that we are losing the plug in the screw press we will intervene by increasing the polymer dosage.

Question 4: The City requires up to three sets of samples. Will it be acceptable to submit less than three sets of samples for analysis? If so, does the City or the vendor specify how many samples are collected?

Answer 4: Yes. The maximum number of sets of samples will be three. Fewer sets of samples are acceptable if requested by the vendor.

Question 5: How soon will the first sample be collected after the vendor's optimization period is completed?

Answer 5: The sample will be taken approximately 3 hours after the optimization period is completed and three hours after every polymer dosage adjustment

Question 6: What is specific time interval the City will be collecting filtrate, cake, and feed samples?

Answer 6: 3-hour time intervals

Question 7: What specific location will the cake and filtrate samples be collected? Will they be composite samples?

Answer 8: Cake and filtrate grab samples will be taken at the press. No composite samples.

Question 9: Will the vendor be required to meet the specified solids capture rate of 90%, and a minimum cake solids of 22% in only one of the samples? Or will the City require the average of all collected samples to meet the minimum performance standards?

Answer 9: Only one sample is required to meet these specifications. Averages will not be used.

Question 10: How will the total amount of polymer solution used, and the total amount of feed gallons be measured during the formal trial period?

Answer 10: These will be measured by flow meters already in place for the screw press to be used.

Question 11: Considering how physical characteristics will vary in each vendor's dry polymer, how will the City accurately measure the specific solution concentration the vendor requests?

Answer 11: The polyblend unit will be calibrated using each vendor's polymer to ensure that it provides the requested active concentration. This will be verified with a total solids test.

Question 12: Per the bid specs, the trial percent feed solids is given a range between 1.1 and 1.9 percent feed solids. Will the city narrow the window of percent feed solids to ensure a level playing field is provided for each participant to be fairly evaluated on?

Answer 12: The screw press feed is drawn from a completely mixed digester. Variations in digester concentration are minimal on a day to day basis. The city will do everything within its ability to ensure that all vendors are treated fairly and with equity.

Question 13: The Polymer Trial and Evaluation Form requires the % cake dry solids and the % solids capture rate be filled in and the form signed by Scott Long and the vendor. Will these values be determined using the industry standard for testing samples analyses for a trail, which is the ASTM testing within 24 hours from the date of sample collection?

Answer 13: Solids testing will be performed per Standard Methods procedures using an accredited lab as is our current practice.

Question 14: Will they City verify references? If yes, will they need to be US references?

Answer 14: Yes. The references need not be US references, but we will need to communicate with them using English