



State of West Virginia  
Office of the Attorney General

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## **Request for Proposal for Legal Services**

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (hereinafter "WVDA") is in need of legal representation to assist with potential litigation involving certain pipeline work that was performed in 2018 on, or under, State lands in Terra Alta, West Virginia.

Qualified law firms or attorneys are invited to submit a proposal on or before Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., to assist the WVAGO in this matter. Selection of a winning proposal, if any, will be made as soon as possible after that date with representation to commence forthwith upon selection. Please be advised that attorney's fees for this proposed representation will not exceed 14% of any recovery for the first \$20 million and then will be paid in accordance with the fee schedule set forth in the WVAGO's Outside Counsel Policy for any recovery in excess of \$20 million.

### **Background**

The WVDA is in need of legal assistance with potential litigation involving certain pipeline work that was performed in 2018 on, or under, State lands in Terra Alta, West Virginia. More specifically, the WVDA is in need of a qualified attorney, or firm, to represent it in ongoing efforts to resolve a dispute regarding the laying of one or more pipelines on State owned land.

Accordingly, the WVAGO seeks particular experience as follows:

- Substantial experience and expertise in property law, including, right of ways, easements, mineral rights, and trespass.

### **Scope of Representation**

The client is the WVDA. The attorney or firm, if any, that is selected as a result of this process will work in close coordination with WVAGO staff and attorneys to assist with the legal services in question.

### **Conflict of Interest Information**

The attorney or firm should disclose any prior or current representations of (1) the WVDA, (2) Columbia Gas Transmission LLC; (3) TC Energy; and any of their affiliates or subsidiaries.

The final selection of counsel, if any, is contingent upon the successful completion of a conflicts of interest analysis.

### **Your Proposal**

No specific form is required of your proposal, but it should address those factors identified in the Attorney General's Outside Counsel Policy,<sup>1</sup> and should also address your experience and demonstrated skill (via references, example documents, and/or a descriptive narrative) in the following practice areas:

1. Substantial experience and expertise in property law, including, right of ways, easements, mineral rights, and trespass.

In addition, your proposal should disclose any prior legal work you have performed for the WVDA; Columbia Gas Transmission LLC; TC Energy; and any of their affiliates or subsidiaries. well as any experiences that may particularly qualify you for the legal matter in question.

Fees for this proposed representation will not exceed 14% of any recovery for the first \$20 million and then will be paid in accordance with the fee schedule set forth in the WVAGO's Outside Counsel Policy for any recovery in excess of \$20 million. If you propose to bill hourly rates, please state them separately for each attorney or paralegal to be assigned to this representation and indicate the approximate proportion of total time that will be billed at each rate. Computerized legal research tools, such as WESTLAW or LEXIS, may not be billed as an expense. Please state your per-unit costs (if any) for expenses such as copying; whether you will bill for travel expenses and at what rate; and whether and how you bill for any additional attorney-time while traveling. Representations made in your proposal will supersede any conflicting terms that are less favorable to the client appearing in any written contract or invoice.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the Outside Counsel Policy, the Attorney General shall consider the following factors when determining the most competitive proposal for legal services:

- Whether the private attorneys possess the requisite skills and expertise needed to handle the legal matters in question;
- Whether the private attorneys possess requisite staffing and support to handle the scope of the litigation or matter;
- Whether the private attorneys, or any members of the private attorneys' law firm, have been subject to reprimand by the West Virginia State Bar, or other entities, for unethical conduct;
- Whether the private attorneys have been peer rated, and if so, what peer ratings they have received, along with any other recognitions or awards for legal services;
- The estimated fees, costs and expenses of the private attorneys to perform the legal services requested;
- The willingness of the private attorneys to enter into alternative billing arrangements;
- Whether the private attorneys are in compliance with all applicable laws of the State of West Virginia;
- Any potential conflicts of interest between the private attorneys and the State;
- Any relevant input from the state entity client, if applicable, regarding the needed legal services; and
- Any such other relevant factors as may be identified by the Attorney General.

## **Evaluation and Acceptance**

Your proposal will be evaluated by the WVAGO. Any and all proposals may be rejected. Your proposal should be addressed to the Office of the Attorney General and emailed to [rfpresponse@wvago.gov](mailto:rfpresponse@wvago.gov). This Request for Proposal shall be known as RFP # 101, and any and all correspondences relating to this Request for Proposal should reference RFP # 101. All proposals must be received by email no later than Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Any questions regarding this request for proposal should likewise be emailed to [rfpresponse@wvago.gov](mailto:rfpresponse@wvago.gov).

Retention of the selected attorney or firm, if any, is conditioned upon the execution of a written contract approved by the Attorney General. In no event will any such contract preclude the termination of the representation at any time by official action of the WVAGO.

Thank you for considering this Request for Proposal.