



VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY

PR-02-25

Lead Service Line Inventory

Date: 11-8-2024

ADDENDUM II

Question and Answers

1. What is the estimated quantity of records that will be available for review to complete the initial service line inventory?

All records requested and available will be provided for review. Without specific requests, the quantity of records cannot be estimated.

2. What is the specific lead-ban date for the US Virgin Islands? a. What % of service lines are estimated to have been installed after this date?

The US Virgin Islands is subject to EPA region 2 regulations; which are no different from other US jurisdictions as it relates to lead restrictions. The current percentage of service lines with components that have lead content above the current EPA action threshold is unknown.

3. Have there been lead and copper exceedances in the last five years?

There have not been any exceedances in VIWAPA water distribution system of lead and copper above the EPA action level in the last five years.

4. What is the budget (not to exceed) for this scope of work?

No specific budget will be disclosed.

5. Will someone from VIWAPA be available to mark utility locations/meter boxes before the contractor goes to pothole or will utility locating services be needed?

VIWAPA can provide general guidance, however, we do not have the resources to mark utility locations/meter boxes.

6. What is the reason behind requiring all three service line material tests (scratch, magnet, and swab) for every service line that is investigated? Is VIWAPA open to reducing the number of tests required, especially given that 3M has suspended the production and sale of the 3M Lead Check Swabs since October 2023.

Multiple material tests are required to provide confirmation of presence or absence of lead. There are other reliable lead swab test kits available outside of the 3M brand.

7. Section 2.0 - General RFP Questions:

Worker Requirements:

- We understand that this is a federally funded project? If affirmative, please clarify how the requisite of local workers hiring goes against 3.7 (Employment of U.S.V.I. Residents) first paragraph "excluding those contracts that use federal funds".

These requirements are statutory; and VIWAPA cannot give legal advice on this matter. Please refer to the statute for guidance.

8. Section 3.0 - Regulatory Requirements:

Federal Funding: Which Davis-Bacon wage rates apply to USVI projects?

Please contact the Virgin Islands Department of Labor. These wage rates are classified by listed construction type for each State.

9. Local Regulations:

- Can VIWAPA provide the applicable USVI regulations and codes for water distribution systems?

The contractor shall ensure that the equipment and material furnished are, at a minimum, in strict compliance with any and/or all applicable codes and standards listed below:

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

NEC - National Electric Code

NEMA - National Electric Manufacturers Association

RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

TSCA - Toxic Substance and Control Act

DOT - Department of Transportation

ASTM - American Society of Testing Materials

AGMA - American Generator Manufacturer's Association

NESC - National Electric Safety Code

AWWA - American Water Works Association

NSI - National Sanitation Foundation

9. What local permits will be required for the investigation work?

Earth change permit, building permit and road excavation permits are known permits for road and driveway excavation work. Bidder is encouraged to research permit requirements with the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works and Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

10. Section 4.0 - Technical Requirements:
Field Operations:

- o What is the procedure if meter replacement is needed during investigation?

If a meter is discovered to contain lead and/or copper above the current EPA action level, findings must be documented per this scope of work; and VIWAPA must be notified immediately in writing.

11. Will VIWAPA provide replacement meters if needed?

Yes, VIWAPA will provide and install replacement meters if needed.

12. Are there specific work hours or shift requirements?

Normal working hours for WAPA personnel are 7:30am to 4pm.

13. Contractor Qualifications:
Is the RFP restricted to USVI local companies?

No, this RFP is not restricted to only USVI local companies. However, a Virgin Islands (VI) business license is required to perform work in the territory.

14. Are licenses from other jurisdictions acceptable as evidence of experience?

Other licenses are useful submittals to demonstrate experience, but it is not a substitute for the local VI business license. References and past projects referrals should be submitted as well. The VI business license is required before contract execution and not necessarily for the proposal response.

15. Does the 10-year experience requirement apply to USVI-specific work or can experience from other jurisdictions be considered?

The 10- year overall experience is applicable regardless of jurisdiction.

16. Section 5.0 - Scope Clarification:
Desktop Review:

- o Please confirm if Desktop Review is part of the Scope of Work,

The scope of work is not limited to a desktop review. Site inspection, physical inspection and onsite discovery are required. VIWAPA will make historical data available as much as possible. However, historical documents and asbuilt records are limited. As such, this survey should be driven by onsite physical discovery much more than mere desktop review which can provide valuable information if verified.

17. What are the specific requirements and deliverables for the desktop review phase?

We have not identified a specific template for the deliverables. Please present the information in a format that is easy to follow. Simple tables with associated maps for orientation, pictures and with supporting narrative and appendixes are helpful.

18. Will VIWAPA provide access to historical records?

Yes, VIWAPA can provide historical records if available. Historical documents and as-built records are limited.

19. What format is required for desktop review findings?

We have not identified a specific template for the deliverables. Please present the information in a format that is easy to follow. Simple tables with associated maps for orientation, pictures and with supporting narrative and appendixes are helpful.

20. **Field Investigation:**
Please confirm the scope includes inventory and investigation (potholing) but not replacement/heavy construction.

This is a survey/investigation; no replacement or heavy construction is required. Contractor should provide immediate notification to VIWAPA for leaks, lead and/or copper exceedances and illegal tampering discovered. Document as required in this scope of work.

21. What is the procedure if significant repairs are needed during the investigation?

If findings reveal material containing copper or lead exceedances, notified VIWAPA and the Authority will handle any replacement or repairs.

22. When referring to "surveying," does this specifically mean documenting potholing and desktop review findings?

Surveying refers to all of the scope of work stated.

23. Testing and Documentation: Given 3M Lead Check Swabs are unavailable, what alternative testing methods are acceptable?

There are other reliable lead swab test kits available in the market outside of the 3M brand. Please propose a reliable effective alternative.

24. What specific GIS data requirements exist for documentation?

GPS coordinates for underground utilities are very limited.

25. Regarding customer notification photos, how should customer privacy concerns be addressed?

As photos will be presented to VIWAPA, customer privacy should be considered. VIWAPA will work with the contractor so that no identifying or confidential information is supplied.

PLEASE NOTE***

Section 5.2 of the RFP (Revision): The RFP indicated 10,000 service lines to be investigated by May 30, 2025. The correct amount to be investigated is **2000 service line**.