



## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**Professional Engineering Services for:**

### ***LAKE MURRAY WTP PFAS REMOVAL FACILITIES PILOT STUDY AND DESIGN***

**Due: Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, @ 2:00 PM**

#### **MAIL OR DELIVER RESPONSE TO:**

**Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority  
Attn: Donald Stockman, Assistant Manager  
13903 CR Koon Highway  
Newberry, SC 29108**

## **A. Introduction**

Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority (NCWSA) is seeking qualified, licensed Firm to provide engineering services. The purpose of this RFQ is to select a firm to provide design services for a new granular activated carbon (GAC) system as well as a GAC product selection pilot to run concurrently with design.

## **B. Method of Procurement**

This is a qualifications-based procurement. An award will be made to the most responsible, responsive, and highly qualified firm as ranked by the selection committee. Procedures for this procurement are identified in Section F- Instructions for Firm. Cost is NOT a factor in the ranking of Firms. Therefore, do not reference the Firm's cost in the RFQ response. Any RFQ response with any discussion of cost will be disqualified.

NCWSA will be issuing a *Cost Not to Exceed Contract for PFAS Removal Facilities (GAC) design, permitting, and bidding services* and the procurement, operation and sampling of temporary GAC pilot columns for the purpose of selecting the GAC media that will be installed as part of construction.

The funding source for this project is South Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund SRF Project 3620002-04 in the amount of \$1,200,000.

## **C. PFAS Background, Project Description and Scope of Services**

### *PFAS Background.*

NCWSA's 2 MGD Lake Murray Water Treatment Plant (WTP) utilizes South Carolina's Lake Murray as its raw water source to serve approximately 10,000 drinking water customers in Newberry County, South Carolina. UCMR5 data for water utilities using Lake Murray as their raw water source indicate the presence of PFOA, PFOS, and HFPO-DA (GenX) at levels approaching or exceeding the MCL. Upon finalization of the 2024 USEPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS compounds, NCWSA embarked upon an emerging contaminants compliance study (attached) to identify the most viable option for treating water to remove regulated PFAS compounds as well as handle additional water quality challenges such as taste and odor.

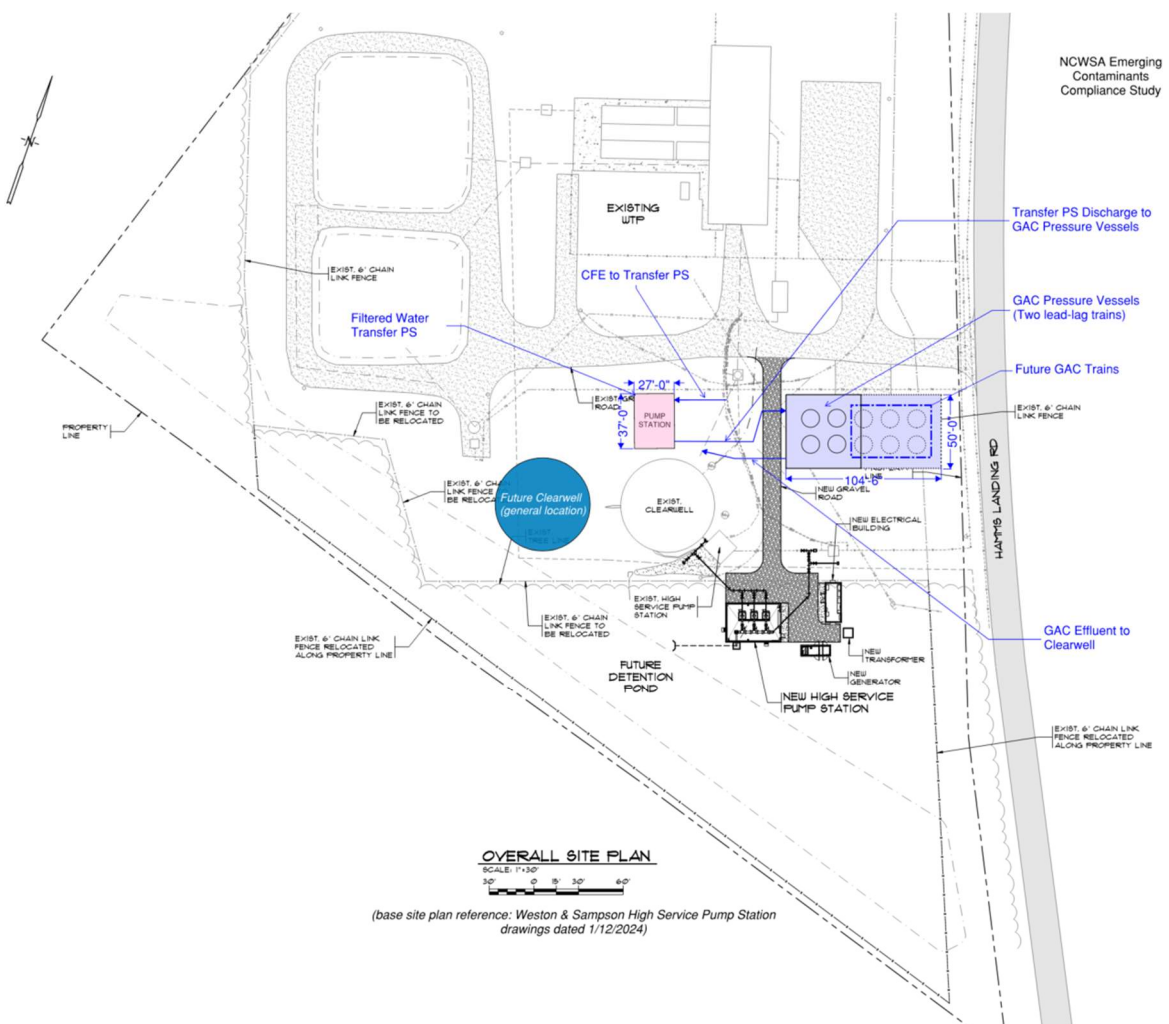
### *Project Description.*

The PFAS Removal Facilities Design will include layout and design of a 2 MGD lead-lag GAC pressure vessel system, expandable to 6 MGD. Preliminary design criteria and conceptual layout are as described in the attached Emerging

Contaminants Compliance Preliminary Engineering Report for NCWSA's Lake Murray Water Treatment Plant and as follow:

## GAC Pressure Vessel Design Summary

	2 Train GAC	3 Train GAC	5 Train GAC
Design Flow Rate, mgd	2	4	6
Vessel Diameter (ft)	12	12	12
Number of Trains	2	3	5
Media per Vessel (lb GAC)	40,000	40,000	40,000
Treatment Footprint required (square ft)	50' x 50'	50' x 68'	50' x 105'
Pump Station Footprint required (square ft)	37' x 27'	37' x 27'	37' x 27'



The Firm will prepare complete plans, specifications, and contract documents needed for the design and construction of PFAS removal facilities. As a general description, the design will detail the piping, valves, pumps, pressure vessels, GAC media, and buildings to transfer filtered water from the NCWSA's combined filter effluent line through a filtered water transfer pump station to boost the water pressure for filtered water treatment through two (2) trains of two (2) GAC pressure vessels in series and back to the clearwell influent line. The transfer pump station will be housed in a building, and the GAC pressure vessels will be designed under a protective canopy that may be enclosed in the future, with a full building enclosure offered as a bid alternate. Pressure vessels will be designed to accept GAC media from multiple vendors, and contractual obligations of the media supplier such as the provision of swing loads for media change-out and regeneration will be specified. Two (2) trains of pressure vessels in series will be provided in this project with the capability of expansion to five (5) trains in the future. Operational flexibility of changing the lead pressure vessel to the lag vessel and vice versa is required.

Deliverables will be bid-ready, sealed, and permitted drawings and specifications. The Firm will also be responsible for obtaining a South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) Construction Permit.

The GAC Product Selection Pilot will include the procurement of a temporary (rented) GAC column pilot unit on a skid to be set up and run inside NCWSA's filter gallery for the purpose of comparing GAC media products over varying water quality conditions. The GAC pilot should begin as soon as possible following the notice to proceed and run for a period of nine (9) to twelve (12) months. The study will include GAC pilot protocol development, sampling, pilot monitoring, analytical costs for a commercial laboratory, and technical memorandum of findings and product recommendations.

#### *Scope of Services.*

NCWSA is seeking proposals from qualified firms to perform engineering services associated with PFAS treatment and, ultimately, compliance with EPA's final PFAS MCL.

The Scope of Services is anticipated to include but not set on or limited to, the following:

- Project Management
- PFAS Treatment option comparison and recommendation (pilot study)
  - GAC Media Comparison of up to four (4) granular activated carbon media selections.
  - Estimated media life span & renewal/regeneration frequency.
- Design
  - 2 MGD GAC PFAS treatment system (2 trains of 2 lead-lag pressure vessels each), expandable to 6 MGD. For the RFQ, assume GAC media replacement

- in the lead vessel when effluent reaches the MCL. Specify that the GAC vendor provide a swing load of media.
  - Transfer pumping station in a pre-engineered metal building: three (3) variable frequency drive vertical turbine pumps (2 duty, 1 standby) in steel cans with space for a fourth pump in the future. Each pump rated for 2 mgd at 55 feet total design head.
  - 30%, 60%, 90% Permit and 100% designs.
  - Construction cost estimate to be provided at 30%, 60%, and 90% designs.
- Permitting

The Firm is encouraged to propose modifications to the Scope of Services tasks listed or the entire scope of services if the Consultant can demonstrate innovative, advanced and well-thought-out methodologies that NCWSA may not have specifically identified in the tasks. The Firm is required to verify preliminary design criteria.

NCWSA anticipates providing program oversight and project management-level coordination and direction to the efforts and will rely on the Firm to provide technical expertise and project management resources to assist in delivery of the work. It is intended that the Firm will work closely with NCWSA engineering and operations staff.

## **D. Submittal Format and Delivery**

To be considered for this project, each Firm must provide one (1) original and two (2) copies of its proposal. Proposals should be hand delivered. NCWSA assumes no liability for mailed proposals that fail to arrive prior to the submission deadline. Proposals received after the submission deadline will be returned unopened. The proposal shall be addressed and delivered as follows:

Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority  
 Attn: Donald Stockman, Assistant Manager  
 13903 CR Koon Highway  
 Newberry, SC 29108

### General

- The proposal shall not be more than 12 single-sided pages (excluding the covers and certification forms) in length, including cover letter and resumes of persons to be assigned to the project.
- All body text shall be 11-point font size or larger and lines shall be single spaced or greater.

## Organization

### 1. Cover Letter

- Introduction – signed by an authorized agent of your firm.

### 2. Project Understanding and Approach

- Proposer shall indicate its overall understanding of the intent of the project and specific issues that are considered to be important for the work contemplated. The project understanding and project approach shall address scope and schedule for this effort.

### 3. Firm's Experience

- Firm's capabilities & resources, descriptions of related projects.
- Firm's previous work with NCWSA.

### 4. Key Staff Experience & Qualifications

- Project manager, key staff member's experience & capabilities.

### 5. Workload

- Provide a chart indicating the recent, current, and projected workload of all key personnel. Indicate availability for this contract.

### 6. References

- List contact name, title, agency, phone number, email address, and mailing address.

### 7. Required Forms

- Include all required forms at the end of the submitted proposals as specified in the last section of this RFQ.

## **E. Evaluation of Proposals**

The NCWSA selection committee will evaluate each proposal based on the stated selection criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Maximum Score</u>
Understanding and Approach	30
Firm's Experience	25
Key Staff Experience & Qualifications	25
Recent, Current, and Projected Workload	10
References	10
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Total	100

Any Firm may withdraw its proposal, either personally or by written request, at any time prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of the proposal.

NCWSA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received, to waive any informality or irregularity in the proposal, to request additional information from any proposer, or to accept any proposal that it deems to be the most favorable to its interests.

NCWSA shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the proposer in preparing, submitting or presenting its response to the RFQ.

A committee of NCWSA personnel will rank each submittal and **may** interview the highest rated firms.

The committee reserves the right to select the most qualified firm based solely on the information provided as part of this submittal.

Thank you in advance for taking your time to prepare a proposal for this project. If you have any questions, please email Donald Stockman at [dstockman@newberrycountywsa.com](mailto:dstockman@newberrycountywsa.com).

## **F. Instructions to Firm**

1. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** NCWSA reserves the right to request or obtain additional information regarding all responses to the RFQ.
2. **CERTIFICATION FORMS:** Submission forms located in the document must be completed, signed, and submitted with the RFQ response. Failure to submit these forms may result in the RFQ response being deemed nonresponsive.
3. **CLARIFICATIONS:** NCWSA, at its discretion, shall have the right to seek clarifications from any Firm to fully understand information contained in their RFQ responses.
4. **DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION:** NCWSA requires certification by prospective Firms as to current history regarding debarment, eligibility, indictments, convictions, or civil judgements. All Firms are required to submit the Debarment certification form with its RFQ response. Any individual, business, organization, corporation, partnership, joint venture, or any other entity currently debarred or suspended is ineligible to participate as a candidate for this process. Any entity ineligible to conduct business in the State of South Carolina for any reason is ineligible to respond to the RFQ. A CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, and OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS is included in the Appendix to this RFQ.
5. **DRUG FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION:** By submitting an RFQ response, the

Firm certifies that, if awarded a contract, the Firm will comply with all applicable provisions of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, Title 44, and Chapter 107 of the South Carolina Code of laws, as amended.

6. ETHICS CERTIFICATION: By submitting this RFQ, the Firm certifies that the Firm has and will comply with South Carolina's Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991, as amended.
7. INSURANCE: Firm is responsible for obtaining all required statutory and contractual insurance, including but not limited to Professional liability insurance. Insurance certificates shall be submitted to NCWSA prior to execution of this contract. The Firm shall maintain all forms of insurance required by law in the State of South Carolina. The Firm shall also maintain insurance coverage for comprehensive, general liability, automobile liability, and employer liability. Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority will be named as an "additional insured" party. This policy shall remain in effect for the duration of any Contract. Minimum insurance coverage limits can be seen below:
  - Professional Liability Insurance – Min. \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence.
  - Comprehensive, General Liability, Automobile Liability, Employer Liability – Min. \$1,000,000.00.
8. LAWS AND REGULATIONS: It is the responsibility of the Firm to know and understand state and federal contracting and project regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Firms shall conform to all state and federal requirements.
9. OWNERSHIP: All materials and written qualifications submitted pursuant to this RFQ shall become the property of NCWSA and will not be returned. All responders must visibly mark as "CONFIDENTIAL" each part of their submission that they consider containing proprietary information. All unmarked pages will be subject to release in accordance with the law. Proposer should be prepared, upon request, to provide justification of why such materials should not be disclosed under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code Section 30-4-10, et seq.
10. RFQ PREPARATION COSTS: NCWSA assumes no liability and will not reimburse costs incurred by firms (whether selected or not) in developing responses to this RFQ.



11. RIGHT TO MODIFY and AMEND RFQ: NCWSA reserves the right to modify or amend any provision of this RFQ, including the determination of its intent to award a contract pursuant to this RFQ.
12. RIGHT TO REJECT: NCWSA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any and all RFQ responses if it determines that such rejection is in the best interest of NCWSA.
13. RIGHT TO CANCEL: NCWSA reserves the right to cancel the advertisement, negotiations, or contract at any time in the best interest of NCWSA.
14. VALIDITY OF INFORMATION: The Firm shall be held responsible for the validity of all information supplied in its RFQ. Should subsequent investigation disclose that the facts and conditions were not as stated, the RFQ may be rejected or contract terminated for default if after award, in addition to any other remedy available under the contract or by law.

## **G. Required Forms**

The following completed forms are required to be returned with each RFQ:

- Firm's Submittal Form
- Certification of Primary Participant Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters
- Certification of Firm
- Drug-Free Workplace Certification
- Equal Employment Opportunity Certification
- Certificate of Insurance



## **RFQ: FIRM'S SUBMITTAL FORM**

In compliance with the RFQ: the undersigned hereby proposes to provide professional engineering and design services for Newberry County Water & Sewer in accordance with the instructions, terms, conditions and requirements incorporated in the Request for Qualifications.

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Name of Firm

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Address

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Federal Tax Identification Number

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Principal's Name and Title (type or print)

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Email Address

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Principal's Signature

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State of Incorporation

**THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED AS PART OF YOUR PROPOSAL**



**RFQ: CERTIFICATION OF PRIMARY PARTICIPANT REGARDING DEBARMENT,  
SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS**

The Firm of, \_\_\_\_\_ certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

- 1) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
- 2) Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgement rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or Local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- 3) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (2) of this certification; and
- 4) Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or Local) terminated for cause or default.

If the Firm is unable to certify to any of the statements in the certification, the Firm shall attach an explanation to this certification.

The Firm of, \_\_\_\_\_ certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of the contents of the statements submitted on or with this certification and understands that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. Sections 3801 et seq, are applicable thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official/Title

SAM's No. \_\_\_\_\_

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## RFQ: CERTIFICATION OF FIRM

I hereby certify that I am the duly authorized representative of FIRM and that neither I nor the FIRM I here represent has:

- a) Employed or retained for a commission, percentage, brokerage, contingent fee, or other consideration, any firm or person (other than a bona fide employee working solely for me or the FIRM) to solicit or secure this contract;
- b) Agreed, as an express or implied condition for obtaining this contract, to employ or retain the services of any firm or person in connection with carrying out the contract, or
- c) Paid, or agreed to pay, to any firm, organization or person (other than a bona fide employee working solely for me or the above FIRM) any fee, contribution, donation, or consideration of any kind for, or in connection with, procuring or carrying out the contract except as here expressly stated (if any);
- d) Either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action, in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the submitted proposal.

By execution of this Agreement, FIRM certifies FIRM and all sub-firms, contractors, employees and agents will comply with South Carolina's Ethics, Governmental Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991, as amended. The following statutes require special attention: (a) Offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving anything of value to influence action of public employee - §8-13-790, 8-13-705, 8-13-720; (b) Recovery of kickbacks - §8-13-790, (c) Offering, soliciting, or receiving money for advice or assistance of public official - §8-13-720, (d) Use or disclosure of confidential information - §8-13-725, € Persons hired to assist in the preparation of specifications or evaluation of bids - §8-13-1150, (f) Solicitation of state employees - §8-13-755, §8-13-760 and §8-13-725. The state may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision.

I acknowledge that this certificate is subject to applicable State and Federal laws, both criminal and civil.

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Firm

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Authorized Official/Title

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Signature

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## **RFQ: DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION**

This certification is required by the Drug-free Workplace Act, Section 44-107-10 et seq South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended). The regulations require certification by Contractors/Vendors prior to award, that they will maintain a drug-free workplace as defined below the certification set out below if a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when determining the award of a contract. False certification or violation of the certification shall be grounds for suspension of payments, suspension or termination of contract, or suspension or debarment from the right to submit bids or proposals for NCWSA projects.

For purposes of this Certification, "Drug-free Workplace" is defined as set forth in Section 44-107019 (1), South Carolina Code of Laws (1976, as amended). The aforesaid Section defines workplace to include any site where work is performed to carry out the Contractor's/Vendor's duties under the contract. Contractor's/Vendor's employees shall be prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance in accordance with the requirements of the Drug-free Workplace Act.

By signing this document, the Firm hereby certifies that it will provide a drug-free workplace by:

- (1) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the Contractor's/Vendor's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of the prohibition;
- (2) Establishing a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
  - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
  - b. The Contractor's/Vendor's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
  - c. Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
  - d. The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug violations;
- (3) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the contract be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (1) above;
- (4) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (1) that, as a condition of employment under the contract, the employee will:
  - a. Abide by the terms of the statement; and
  - b. Notify the employer of any criminal drug statue conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after the conviction

- (5) Notifying the using agency within ten (10) days after receiving notice under subparagraph (4) (b) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of the conviction;
- (6) Taking one of the following actions, within thirty (30) days of receiving notice under subparagraph (4) (b) with respect to any employee who is convicted;
- a. Taking appropriate personnel action against the employee, up to and including termination; and
  - b. Requiring the employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
- (7) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) above.

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Firm

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Address

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Authorized Representative Name/Title

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Email Address

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Signature

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Date

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Witness Name (Print)

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Signature of Witness

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## **RFQ: EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CERTIFICATION**

Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority requires compliance with State and Federal regulations governing Equal Employment Opportunity, External Equal Opportunities (EO), External On-the-Job Training (OJT), Title VI, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) programs.

Sub-receipts of federal-aid contracts must include notifications in all solicitations for bids of work or material and agreements subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination authorities. Sub-recipients, contractors and subcontractors may not discriminate in their employment practices or in the selection and retention of any subcontractor.

By signing this document, the Firm hereby certifies that their commitment to assure nondiscrimination in its programs and activities to the effect that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or income status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any federally or non-federally funded program or activity administered by the sub-recipient and/or its contractors.

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Firm

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Address

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Authorized Representative Name/Title

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Email Address

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Signature

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Date

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