

DETERMINATION DECISION MEMO

SCI Mercer – Medium Voltage Upgrades

Project Number: C-1572-0017 Phase 001

Location: Mercer County

Est. Construction Duration: 730 Calendar Days

DETERMINATION REGARDING THE USE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) METHOD OF PROCUREMENT

SCI Mercer is a medium-security correctional institution for male inmates. The use of the standard competitive sealed bid process for the Electrical Contractor's scope of work for the replacement of medium voltage cabling, transformers, medium voltage switchgear, and sectionalizing cabinets and medium voltage switchgear controls upgrades throughout the facility due to aging infrastructure is not practical or advantageous to the Commonwealth. Specifically:

- SCI Mercer is a critical facility that must remain operational and occupied during construction, which adds complexity to the project. The Commonwealth will benefit from evaluating the contractor's past experience with similar facilities.
- The existing medium voltage electrical system is combined in a single duct bank and manhole system. It would be advantageous to the Commonwealth to evaluate the contractor's experience regarding removal and replacement of medium voltage cables in underground ductbank systems serving occupied buildings.
- The transformers, switches and sectionalizing cabinets at each building will be replaced, requiring multiple shutdowns, close coordination with the facility, and a complex sequence of work. It would be advantageous to the Commonwealth to evaluate the contractor's experience regarding sequencing electrical shutdowns, close coordination with facilities, and complex sequences of work in an occupied prison facility with similar complexity.
- The work will need to be performed with a limited laydown area. It would be advantageous to the Commonwealth to evaluate the contractor's experience on projects with limited laydown areas in occupied prison facilities.
- The cabling replacement should be performed by contractors with medium voltage electrical system experience. The Commonwealth will benefit from evaluating the contractor's past experience with similar systems.

The above factors demonstrate unique construction considerations on this project, which requires specific contractor knowledge, skill, and experience to safely and successfully complete the renovations to the SCI Mercer. Consequently, it is not practical or advantageous to use the competitive sealed bidding process for the Electrical Contractor because the low bid approach does not allow the Commonwealth to consider the specific factors presented herein, along with the cost, in the award process.

Deputy Secretary for Capital Programs

Date