

OSE Tip of the Day

Prequalification

January 27, 2020

Two News items! First, OSE has posted an Architect position to work in the Columbia office? It's true! If you're interested, or you know a registered architect that should be interested, go to governmentjobs.com/careers/sc and search for posting 60018584. Second, there are requirements in the Manual and new procurement law that do not match our 1997 AIA A701 SCOSE edition. These deal with the number of days to send out Addenda and protest rights. To correct the problem, we have created a document, "Clauses to be Added to the SCOSE AIA A701 1997 Edition" that provides wording to be inserted into Section 9.9 of the A701. The problem will be alleviated when we roll out the 2017 AIA SCOSE editions in about a month or so. Meanwhile, I will be happy to email anyone the actual wording in the "Clauses..." document so that you can cut and paste it into the 1997 A701.

And now, your Tip of the Day.... Sorry last week's TOD was so wordy. The subject matter made me go on and on. I'll try to keep them more brief in the future.

One of the new sections in the Procurement Law from last June was § 11-35-3023, Prequalification. Not really new, but revised to delete the old requirements that every firm that meets the minimum prequalification is listed, it could only be used for construction unique in nature, or for construction over ten million dollars, or special circumstances as determined by the State Engineer.

The revised law, and Section 3.5 of the Manual, requires an agency to provide a written determination to the State Engineer indicating the use of Prequalification will be the most advantageous to the State for a specific project. The determination could be for the prime contractor, or particular subcontractor(s), and the agency may determine the maximum number of contractors/subcontractors they will prequalify. However, if at least two contractors or two subcontractors per license classification are not prequalified, the process must be cancelled.

Analysis: Prequalification allows an agency the opportunity to obtain bids in a design-bid-build procurement from contractors or subcontractors that are qualified to perform the work.

As Chairman of the Selection Committee for the Prequalification, your OSE project manager will assist you in the Prequalification process.