

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES #03
PROCUREMENT NUMBER: 112025-1001
TITLE: West Sitcum Main Substations Replacement
CONTACT: Michelle Walker, Procurement Analyst
EMAIL: procurement@portoftacoma.com
PHONE NUMBER: 253-888-4744
QUESTIONS DUE DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 @ 2:00 PM (PST)
Q&A ISSUE DATE: 12/31/2025

#	Question	Answer	Question #
1	For the bolted steel bollards, is hot-dipped galv and the epoxy coating required?	Yes, both are required.	Q-003521
2	Is USL&H insurance required for this project?	All employees working on the project are required be covered by the appropriate form workers' compensation coverage for the entire duration of the project. It is up to the contractor to determine the appropriate types of coverage for the project's scope and ensure the coverage is in place.	Q-003522
3	During the site walk, it was mentioned that the drive aisle between existing Substation #1 and the new substation must remain open to vehicle traffic on Wednesdays and Fridays. These were referred to as "Black Out Days." During our discussions, it was stated that using steel plates would not be acceptable for opening the roadway to traffic. However, after reviewing the specifications, it appears that the use of roadway plates as temporary trench covers that can support HS-25 truck loading is acceptable. Can the Engineer please confirm whether trench plates are allowed as temporary trench covers according to Specification Section 31.23.33 – 3.01(A)? If plates are not acceptable, please provide the minimum requirements for temporary trench covers.	Neither road plates nor temporary gravel backfill will be allowed. All trench work must be completed and paved within the work window (Saturday through Tuesday).	Q-003523
4	Detail A on Plan Sheet E5.1 shows a sectional view of a typical 600V power duct bank, specifying free-flowing, coarse-grade sand as backfill. To minimize soil export and maximize reuse of excavated material, please confirm whether native backfill that meets the requirements of 33.71.19 (2.08-A-2) is acceptable.	Conduits are typically sand bedded in the Port of Tacoma. Native material can be reviewed during construction to verify if reuse would be acceptable.	Q-003523
5	Please clarify whether the owner or the contractor is responsible for paying the Tacoma Public Utilities fees associated with installing the new 13.8 kV/480 V 1500 kVA and 13.8 kV/480 V 2500 kVA vault-mounted transformers.	TPU fees for new services and relocation of equipment will be part of the Letter or Agreement with the Port of Tacoma, not the contractor.	Q-003523
6	Both existing Substations #1 and #2 appear to serve various loads throughout the port. Please clarify whether any of the loads shown on Plan Sheets E4.0 and E4.1 must be provided with temporary power during the cutover outages. Additionally, please confirm whether there are any time constraints or specified allowable durations for performing the substation cutovers.	The Port will provide temporary power during the cutover process.	Q-003523
7	Please confirm that all equipment shown on Sheet E3.0—including the 3000A switchboard, 350 kVAR capacitor, panelboards 4P1 and 2P1, and transformer T1—is new.	Yes, all equipment is new within the new substations.	Q-003523
8	Please confirm that all equipment shown on Sheet E3.1—including the 2500A switchboard, 250 kVAR capacitor, panelboards 4P2 and 2P2-2, and transformer T2 is new.	Yes, all equipment is new within the new substations.	Q-003523
9	We respectfully request a bid day extension of 2 weeks in order to provide a responsible bid.	The bid opening will be extended per Addendum 01.	Q-003524
10	We would like to confirm that we are listed on the plan holders list for this project.	Yes	Q-003525
11	**Responsibility for TPU Equipment Removal** Please confirm which party is responsible for removing the TPU equipment. Plan Sheet E2.1 indicates the presence of two (2) TPU 15 kV switches and two (2) 480 V TPU transformers; however, Flag Note #5 only instructs coordination with TPU and does not define the contractor's required scope for removal and disposal of this equipment.	Equipment is owned by TPU and coordination with TPU will be required for removal off site. TPU will remove equipment off site.	Q-003527
12	**Vault Size Information for TPU Equipment** Please provide the dimensions of the vaults associated with the two (2) 15 kV switches and the two (2) 480 V TPU transformers. Flag Note #5 states that the contractor is to remove the vault lids, backfill the vaults with sand, and pave over them. Accurate vault dimensions are necessary to determine the required sand quantity.	These are TPU standard vaults. Contractor will be required to review TPU standards and provide TPU approved vaults.	Q-003527
13	**Clarification of Vault Demolition Scope** Plan Sheet C2.0 specifies demolition of the TPU switch vaults and the 480 V transformer vault, while Flag Note #5 on Plan Sheet E2.1 directs the contractor only to remove vault lids and backfill with sand. Please clarify whether the vaults are to be fully demolished or if removal of the lids and sand backfilling is acceptable.	Vaults should be abandoned and filled with sand. The lids should be removed and the walls of the vault should be cut down to 2'-0" below finish grade. The bottom of the vault should be broken to allow water to drain through.	Q-003527
14	**Conduit RP8 Conductor and Fill Requirements** Conduit RP8 is shown in the conduit and conductor schedule as two (2) 2" conduits containing 4-350 kcmil XHHW and 1-1/0 XHHW conductors. This conductor configuration appears to exceed NEC conduit fill limits. Please confirm whether the listed conduit and conductor sizes are correct or if revisions are required.	The conduits should be (2)4" conduits in lieu of (2)2" conduits.	Q-003527
15	I received the notification regarding the construction of two new substations, demolition of two existing substations, testing and commissioning of new electrical equipment for the West Sitcum Main Substations Replacement, and am wondering if there will be any need for construction materials testing and special inspection services for this project, and if so, are you accepting estimates for that scope as well in this request?	The Port contracts with special inspection agencies via a recurring IDIQ procurement. I stand-alone contract for special inspection services related to this project individually is not being procured.	Q-003529
16	Is the Pre-bid Mandatory?	No	Q-003530
17	During Wednesday and Friday drive lanes zero access, please advise if gravel to meet grade will be allowed for the temp backfill ahead of final paving operations.	See question #3	Q-003528
18	If needed to allow for a second set of 2-day drive lane access, confirming Saturday work is allowed.	Saturday and Sunday work will be allowed	Q-003528

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19	Spec 26.24.13.2.03 says, in essence, that length and depth of switchboard shall not exceed dimensions as scaled or noted in plans and notice needs to be provided if it exceeds. Both Eaton and Siemens have notified me that due to the project 316 stainless steel specification, a third party has to build these custom units and the dimensions are unknown until receipt of a PO and engineering design is completed. Question: Would the port allow for use of 304 stainless steel? Their factories can build in-house. Otherwise, please be on notice the dimensions of these units may or may not meet scaled drawings.	Port standard is 316 stainless steel and all standard manufacturers have provided equipment in the Port on past projects so they are all aware of the requirement for 316 stainless. Square D footprints were utilized for a previous constructed project in the Port of Tacoma. If manufacturers listed as approved have equipment that will exceed the height and space requirements they need to provide that info prior to bid so review of equipment layouts can be reviewed	Q-003531
20	I respectfully request a two-week extension to the bid deadline. Additional time is needed to source a switchboard that fully complies with Section 26.24.13, Paragraph 2.03 of the project specifications. Our current gear lineup exceeds the allowable space by 29 inches for Substation 2, and we are evaluating compliant alternatives.	See response to question # 9	Q-003534
21	Was a specific manufacturer used as a basis-of-design for the switchboard requirements? The switchboard lineup for Substation 2, as shown on Sheets E3.1 and E4.1 and specified in Section 26.24.13 paragraph 2.01 exceeds the allowable space by approximately 29 inches. Per Paragraph 2.03 these manufacturers are not allowed in Contractor's Bid. Please confirm the basis-of-design manufacturer and advise whether alternative manufacturers may be considered to meet the space constraints.	Square D footprints were utilized for a previous constructed project in the Port of Tacoma. If manufacturers listed as approved have equipment that will exceed the height and space requirements they need to provide that info prior to bid so review of equipment layouts can be reviewed.	Q-003535
22	Schneider/Square D does not produce 316 SS enclosures and therefore cannot meet the requirements of Specification 26.24.13, paragraph 2.02 regarding enclosure material. Would 304 SS be considered an approved substitute?	Port standard is 316 stainless steel and all standard manufacturers have provided equipment in the Port on past projects so they are all aware of the requirement for 316 stainless.	Q-003536
23	I have been trying for some time to get a better plan holders list on your procurements. It needs to have company name, email and sub or prime status. You really would get better coverage. As a prime bidder it is hard to get sub quotes without a category for subs and primes. Please again try and modernize your procurements with a better plan holders list.	Posted 11/30/25	Q-003539
24	Will the payment for procurement and installation of vaults be paid for under Electrical pay items associated with Substation #1 & 3 or will it be paid for under the Civil pay items?	Civil	Q-003541
25	Sheet C2.0 calls for the demolition of 3 existing electrical vaults. Can information be provided on the size of each of these vaults to determine disposal volumes and backfill volumes?	Existing vaults are anticipated to be 577 vaults, but contractor will need to verify.	Q-003542
26	Could the bid date be extended? Several suppliers and subcontractors have reached out saying that they were not able to get pricing prepped the week of the 17th and due to pre-planned vacations during the holiday week, they will struggle to get out pricing so soon after the long holiday weekend. Even two days would help.	See response to question # 9	Q-003543
27	Regarding removable bollards, C3.0 and C3.1 callouts differ from E3.0 and E3.1. Which layout takes precedence?	Layouts on C3.0 and C3.1 take precedence.	Q-003544
28	Will you guys update the planholder list? Thanks!	Posted 11/30/25	Q-003545
29	Please provide a copy of Tacoma Power one-line and As-Builts for the primary power running to Substation 1.	This information is not available at this time	Q-003546
30	Are the existing 5kV TPU transformers that remain in place on a pad or vault(s)? The drawings imply a pad.	They are believed to be on vaults and are remaining in place.	Q-003547
31	Has plan review been submitted? If so, does POT have approved set back you could share?	The plans posted for bidding are the most recent documents available	Q-003548
32	Specs read to coordinate with Tacoma Power for scheduling. Please confirm the POT will pay any and all fees generated by Tacoma Power for their labor, OT labor and materials, etc. It is understood that the electrical contractor will be responsible for the electrical permit.	The Port will interface directly with TPU to pay fees associated with TPU's involvement in this project	Q-003550
33	Please provide an updated version of the planholders list.	Posted 11/30/25	Q-003551
34	Sorry, I asked a question previously about Saturdays, but working on the CPM schedule Sundays will have to be available as well. Please confirm that drive lanes will be available to work Saturday thru Tuesday on every week of this project? (Q-003528) Also, would a reduction of drive lane width be allowed in order to increase available work zone days and reduce overall impact to the tenant, even if it is just the path NE of the existing substation?	See answer to question #18	Q-003553
35	Regarding spec section 01 71 23 - Field Engineering. I sent this spec section off to three different companies and two responded asking me to submit an RFI. "These specs blend Field Engineering and Survey making it hard to understand. We do not see the merit of field engineering on this project and wonder if it is a boiler plate or catchall spec. Survey is a must, but Field Engineering is a question mark. Please ask the owner if it their intent for you to provide third party field engineering."	It is not anticipated that the contractor would need to provide third party field engineering. The Port has retained consultant engineering services to support the construction of this project.	Q-003555
36	We are hoping to submit a sub bid for the fencing/bollards/bolted guardrail. I do not see the spacing for the bollards, or the lengths of the horizontal sections of the bolted guard rail. Prefabrication will be necessary for this application. Please advise.	Maximum spacing is 8'-6" with the typical spacing between bollards at 6'-0" center to center. Contractor to field verify all other spacing geometry prior to fabrication. Contractor to submit shop drawings per spec section 05 50 00 Section 1.05.	Q-003554
37	Can the geotechnical report be provided for review?	No geotech report is available.	Q-003556

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38	Is there an official bidder's checklist? If not, please provide a list of documents that are required at the time of bid.	Refer to the Instructions for Bidders section of the specifications	Q-003557
39	Please clarify the chain link security fence specs. - Page C4.2 note 11 states terminal posts (end, corner and pulling posts) should be 4" OD and line posts should be 2.875" OD. However, Section 32 31 13 Chain Link Fences and Gates B. 2 and 3 state that line posts should be 2.375" OD and end corner and pull posts should be 2.875" OD.	Fence posts shall be as shown on Drawing C4.2.	Q-003562
40	- Also, Section 32 31 13 2.01 A 4. says 'polymer coat in accordance with ASTM F 668 Class 2a coating. Color gray in accordance with ASTOM F 934.' This is for PVC coated chain link wire, usually black. Is the fence galvanized or black?	Black Polymer coat is acceptable. In addition all framework (posts, rails, gate framework, etc) shall be polymer coated with a minimum thickness of 0.01 inch fused and adhered to the exterior coating of the posts and rails in accordance with ASTM F1043; color to match fabric in accordance with ASTM F934	Q-003562
41	Please clarify the size of the end, corner and pull posts and the line posts.	Fence posts shall be as shown on Drawing C4.2.	Q-003562
42	Spec section 26-22 -13 [2.0-3 {1} } Dry Type Transformers Sound Level Acceptance of 36 DB, we have found no major Manufacturer will and cannot meet the specified levels. Being this is an outdoor installation , can this requirement be changed to a realistic common DB rating?	Black polymer coat is acceptable.	Q-003563
43	Section 26-05-33 3.01 E. Requires all bends greater than 45 degrees be made of PVRSC. Can we use Thick wall fiberglass elbows rather than the PVRSC elbows ,due to the limited availability of these special ordered materials as specified. PVSRC a spec requirement rarely required due to the availability and lead time.	The use of fiberglass elbows is acceptable.	Q-003564
44	Has the Port submitted the electrical design to TPU for plan review and approved and paid ?	See question 31	Q-003565
45	Has the utility charges been paid by the port, with the exception of the actual electrical permit fees to TPU?	See question #4	Q-003565
46	Are materials on this project to comply with BABA/Buy America/Buy American?	No	Q-003568
47	Spec 55000 states 2.03 Coatings and 3.03 Protective Coatings. In regards to the bollard system on plan sheet C4.4 can you confirm that this material receives both galvanizing and paint or paint only? 2A. If galvanizing is required the horizontal 6" sch 40 pipes will need vent and drainage holes. Are the holes ok to be left open or should plugs be welded back in after galvanizing?	See question #1	Q-003568
48	Plan Sheet C4.4 calls out pipe to be A53. Is A500 structural pipe also acceptable?	A500 structural pipe is acceptable	Q-003568
49	Plan Sheet C3.0: to the left of the Legend in the HMA Paving shaded area there is approx 61ft of bollard shown. Is this new and to be included in the bid? Note that the legend refers to "Bollard with Intermediate Rail" and details 1,2/C4.2 . C4.2 is for chainlink. Should the plan sheet callout be C4.4? C4.4 only shows a single rail but the Legend mentions an Intermediate rail, please clarify.	Yes, the approx. 61 ft of bollard is new and should be included in the bid. The intermediate rail refers to the single pipe/rail between the bollards as shown on C4.4. The detail reference in the legend on C3.0 will be updated to reference the bollard details on C4.4	Q-003568
50	I see that Commissioning is included in the project scope - will this require 3rd Party Commissioning?	Yes	Q-003569
51	Specification 00 73 16 - 1.04 Builders Risk states that the Port will obtain a Builder's Risk policy when the project is less than \$25,000,000 and does not include construction of any dam, road or bridge. Please confirm that the Port will obtain a Builder's Risk Policy.	Port confirms that the project does not include construction of any dam, road or bridge and is estimated at under \$3 million.	Q-003572
52	Please provide an updated plan holders list.	Posted 12/30/25	Q-003576
53	Q & A #43 question was specifically asking to use THICK wall fiberglass for 24"R bends 45deg or greater spec'd as PVC coated RGS. Your response was "The use of fiberglass elbows is acceptable." Fiberglass manufacturers have responded that thick wall bends are only fabricated in 4in thru 6in diameter conduit. New question: Is STANDARD wall thickness fiberglass elbows allowed in lieu of PVC coated RGS.	Thick wall fiberglass elbows are acceptable for 4" to 6" conduit sizes. If Thick wall fiberglass is not available for conduit sizes under 4" than PV coated RGS shall be used per the specification.	Q-003572