

GREAT DAM REMOVAL FEASIBILITY & IMPACT ANALYSIS - Exeter, NH

QUESTIONS ASKED DURING PRE PROPOSAL MEETING & THE SITE REVIEW:

- 1) Relative to the RFP footnote noted on page 7 (Add alternative is an optional item either due to the discretion of consultant, due to regulatory process, or based on subsequent information gathered), is it necessary for the consultant to put \$0 or address and put price in?

The consultant should be prepared to explain how and why they addressed all Add Alternatives contained in the RFP. If \$0, how you came to that conclusion. It was also noted that there are additional lines in the Cost Proposal Schedule for additional items deemed appropriate by the consulting firm for this RFP which are not noted as a Task or Additional Item.

- 2) Testing will be difficult to determine, because the next phase of testing will be dependant upon the results of previous testing and next level of testing cannot be determined until results of previous tests are known.

The consultant will need to explain in the proposal their assumptions and give justification for the dollar figure presented for a particular Task or Add Alternative.

- 3) Is tax map information adequate?

For properties near the dam, we need detailed information. For properties upstream, tax map information is adequate

- 4) What are the conditions in the area around the dam during floods?

During the extensive floods that have occurred in the last several years, the water overtops the right river bank at the dam. It flows around the penstock and scours behind the dam. We have not witnessed water flowing over the Great Bridge but the Great Bridge does hold back water. The water was against the side of the bridge. The presence of exposed utilities under the bridge was also noted. There are photos available on the town website in the "River Study" Section which can be found at:

<http://town.exeter.nh.us/exeterriver.cfm>

- 5) Will the previous water modeling be available?

Yes, see answer to question 12.

6) What is meant by Add Alternative 3.2.2 – Reference Guidance document – community assessment related to sediment.

This is specific to the sediment quality analysis for dam removal projects. It is the third step in the sediment quality triad approach as outlined in, “The Evaluation of Sediment Quality Guidance Document”. This guidance document can be found on the NH Department of Environmental Services webpage at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-04-9.pdf>. The need to complete the community assessment is dependent on the results and findings of previous analyses noted in the triad approach. It requires a field analysis which evaluates the sediment biological community at the sampling site.

7) Elaborate on the detail required for the wetland boundary Task 2.1 specifically “...This should include property lines, wetland boundaries, floodplain boundaries...”.

Consultants must use their expertise to explain how they will address this Task.

8) What is the schedule timeframe to complete the work outlined in the RFP?

Consultants must explain their schedule and approach to complete the work outlined in the RFP. It is anticipated it will take twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months to complete the work outlined in the RFP. The Town of Exeter will eventually vote on a selected alternative for the dam which will include dam modification or dam removal.

9) Sediment quality is a potential concern, and as a result, where is the gas plant located and where are other potential current or historic industrial facilities located?

The site of the previously existing gas plant was located at the corner of Water Street and Green Street. The discharge was downstream of the dam near an outfall to Squamscott River closer to Park Street. There are no other issues or facilities that we are aware of downstream or upstream.

Statement after the Pre Proposal Meeting – Research upstream and downstream at <http://des.nh.gov/onestop/index.htm>

10) Who are the funding agencies?

The Town of Exeter and grants from the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) in partnership with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and EPA 319 through a partnership with the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

11) Is the current hydraulic analysis sufficient or do you want another one completed?

It is up to the consultant to review the current information and determine if there is sufficient information or if additional information/analysis is needed. The determination and justification should be explained in the proposal.

12) Statement regarding question #11: That is hard without having the model in hand. Will the previous water modeling be available?

There are several reports, studies and documents that are available and can be found at <http://town.exeter.nh.us/exeterriver.cfm> unless otherwise noted on pages 6 and 7 in the RFP. The HEC-RAS model is available on disk at the Public Works Office. Consultants desiring a copy will need to bring their own equipment to make a copy. The original disk will not leave the office. A Wright-Pierce and Stantec disclaimer will need to be signed. Appointments to copy the disk will need to be arranged by contacting: Phyllis Duffy, Exeter DPW, (603)773-6157 or pduffy@town.exeter.nh.us.

13) Should a title search be done?

A title search is not needed for the entire impoundment. Some areas especially around the dam are critical and where the information is not as clear. Other areas upstream are not as critical. The consultant will provide an explanation and justification for this Task. If possible the town desires that this activity be performed early in the project.

14) Who will be completing the Request for Project Review (RPR) form for the cultural resource review?

The town is working on the RPR with assistance from the NH Department of Environmental Service. Once it is complete it will be posted on the town website at: <http://town.exeter.nh.us/exeterriver.cfm>.

15) Who is the Dam Safety Inspector for this dam?

Steve Doyon is the Dam Safety Inspector for this dam. Mr. Doyon can be contacted at tel: (603) 271-1966 or email: Steve.Doyon@des.nh.gov.

16) Are the plans available for the Great Bridge?

Yes. Please contact: Phyllis Duffy, Exeter DPW, (603)773-6157 or pduffy@town.exeter.nh.us.

17) Would NHDOT have the bridge inspection reports for Great Bridge and String Bridge?

Yes. You may contact the NH Department of Transportation, Bureau of Bridge Design at (603) 271-2731.

18) Should consultants consider removal of the lower weir as well?

Yes.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS:

19) What is the existing contour interval for the bathymetric mapping?

Research the Wright Pierce reference material for this answer.

20) Is the bathymetric map available in GIS format?

The bathymetric map will be made available the selected consultant in AutoCAD format.

21) What is the specific physical location(s) of the datum used for bathymetric survey?

Wright-Pierce stated that the datum used for the survey is located on the Exeter Town Hall steps.

22) In Weston and Sampson's Water Supply Alternative study it states that "Town personnel also measured water levels in two wetlands and two observation wells near the intake". Could you show on a map where the level recorders were located in the two wetlands and observation wells?

See the Weston and Sampson letter dated 3/2/2010, entitled "Exeter River Drawdown Letter Report Test WSE – 03-02-10" that was added to the town website report section.

23) Can the water level data for the two wetlands and observation wells be provided to us in advance of completing this proposal?

See the Weston and Sampson letter dated 3/2/2010, entitled "Exeter River Drawdown Letter Report Test WSE – 03-02-10" that was added to the town website report section.

24) Beside the 2005 Exeter River Study Interim Report, Is there any other survey data available for the dam structure, Great Bridge and/or String Bridge?

The Town has construction plans for the Great Bridge. The Town is not aware of any other plans.

25) Was plan and cross-section survey of the dam, Great Bridge & String Bridge collected as part of the original survey conducted by Wright Pierce in November 2005?

Only the information shown as plan DWG C-1 of the Wright-Pierce 2005 report was gathered. See question #28 on how to obtain a copy of the AutoCAD file.

26) Are there any survey drawings of the weir below the Great Dam?

The Town is not aware of any other drawings

27) When was the historic district nomination completed?

The "Exeter Waterfront Commercial Historic District" was added 1980 #80000299. Boundary Increase in 1986 - #86003516 to include Chestnut Street.

28) Was the dam itself included in this district nomination?

The dam has not been evaluated as a contributing or individual resource.

29) Does the town have any knowledge as to whether any of the adjacent building structures are founded on steel or timber piles?

According to the Town Building Inspector, several adjacent structures do not have piles and are supported by concrete foundations and footings. The Building Inspector does not have data for all structures.

30) The RFP states one of the deliverables is to determine what is "In the best interest of the people of Exeter" - Will the consultant develop these criteria? Or does the town have this criteria in place?

The Town has attempted to identify issues to be addressed. If the consultant, through their experience with similar projects believes that other issues need to be explored, then certainly explain those items in the proposal.

31) Is moving existing infrastructure, such as sport fields, houses, and/or roads a possibility? If dam removal were to impact residences in the densely inhabited upstream portion of town, would the town still consider removing it?

The Town would look to minimize work such as those referenced in this question, outside the immediate area of the dam.

32) Do surveys of the reservoir exist through time? Is the 2008 scour report the most recent documentation of the underwater topography?

We are not currently aware of additional reservoir survey other than those referenced in reports listed in the existing data collection and review section.

- 33) How does the State of New Hampshire weight the needs of the below dam endangered species, versus the needs of those that live upstream in habitat created since the dam was constructed.

If this answer is needed, it is up to the consultant to research this issue with appropriate agencies.

- 34) Is there the possibility of including removal of smaller dams upstream in the removal?

The focus of this RFP is on the Great Dam.

- 35) Can we assume that a cover letter and Table of Contents for the proposal are not counted as part of the page limits described in items 1a through 1e on page 3 of the RFP?

Yes

- 36) Can we assume that the Timeline to be provided in GANTT format is not part of the page limits described in the sections outlined in items 1a through 1d?

Yes

- 37) Please confirm that the only information required in the Cost Proposal is the single page "Cost Proposal Schedule" as shown on the RFP page immediately following page 11 of the RFP, and that no other data breakdown is required.

The "Cost Proposal Schedule" should be used in conjunction with a written portion.