

NIAGARA POWER COALITION, INC.
PROCUREMENT POLICY

A. Introduction

1. In accordance with the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, the Niagara Power Coalition, Inc. (the “Corporation”) desires to adopt a procurement policy which will apply to the procurement of goods and services that are not subject to the competitive bidding requirements of Section 103 of the General Municipal Law (“GML”) and that are paid for by the Corporation for its own use and account.
2. Purpose – Pursuant to Section 104-b of the GML, the primary objectives of this policy are to assure the prudent and economical use of public monies in the best interests of the taxpayers of a political subdivision or district, to facilitate the acquisition of goods and services of maximum quality at the lowest possible cost under the circumstances and to guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption.

B. Procurement Policy

1. Determination Required – Prior to commencing any procurement of goods and services, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation or an authorized designee shall prepare a written statement setting forth the basis for (1) the determination that competitive bidding is not required for such procurement and if applicable (2) the determination that such procurement is not subject to any requirements set forth in this policy. Such written statements shall be maintained by the Chief Executive Officer or such authorized designee in a specially designated procurement file.
2. Procedure for determining whether Procurements are subject to Competitive Bidding – The procedure for determining whether a procurement of goods and services is subject to competitive bidding shall be as follows:
 - a. The Chief Executive Officer or an authorized designee shall make the initial determination as to whether competitive bidding is required. This determination will be based on Section 103 of the GML which requires competitive bidding for expenditures of (1) more than \$20,000 for the performance of any public works contract (services, labor or construction), and (2) more than \$10,000 for any purchase contract (acquisition of commodities, materials, supplies or equipment).
 - b. The Chief Executive Officer or such authorized designee shall review the purchase request against prior years’ expenditures and a good faith effort will be made to determine whether it is known or can reasonably be expected that the aggregate purchases of a similar nature will exceed the above competitive bidding thresholds. If the bidding thresholds are exceeded, the competitive bidding procedures shall be followed for said expenditure.

- c. The Chief Executive Officer or such authorized designee shall present any legal issues regarding the applicability of the competitive bidding requirements stated herein to the Corporation's Counsel.
3. Methods of Competition to be used for Non-Bid Procurements and Procurements Exempt by Statute – Alternative proposals or quotations for goods and services shall be secured by use of written requests for proposals or written quotations, verbal quotations or any other method of procurement which furthers the purposes of this Section except for items excepted herein (see below) or procurements made pursuant to:
 - a. GML, Section 103 (3) (through county contracts), or
 - b. GML, Section 104 (through state contracts), or
 - c. State Finance Law, Section 175-b (from agencies for the blind or severely handicapped), or
 - d. Correction Law, Section 186 (articles manufactured in correctional institutions).
4. Procedures for the Purchase of Commodities, Equipment or Goods under \$10,000.
 - a. Up to \$500 The discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or authorized designee.
 - b. \$501 - \$3,000 Documented verbal quotations from at least three (3) vendors.
 - c. \$3,001 - \$10,000 Written/fax quotations from at least three (3) vendors.
5. Procedures for the Purchase of Public Works or Services under \$20,000.
 - a. Up to \$1000 The discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or authorized designee.
 - b. \$1,001 - \$5,000 Documented verbal quotations from at least three (3) vendors.
 - c. \$5,001 - \$20,000 Written/fax quotations from at least three (3) vendors.
6. Basis for the Award of Contracts – Contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsible vendor who meets the specifications outlined in the bidding documents.
7. Circumstances justifying an Award to other than the Lowest Cost quoted.
 - a. Delivery requirements.

- b. Quality requirements.
- c. Past vendor performance.
- d. The unavailability of three (3) or more vendors who are able to quote on a procurement.
- e. It may be in the best interests of the Corporation to consider only one (1) vendor who has previous expertise with respect to a particular procurement.

8. Documentation

- a. For each purchase made, the Chief Executive Officer or authorized designee shall set forth in writing the category of procurement that is being made and what method of procurement is specified.
- b. The basis for any determination that competitive bidding is not required shall be documented, in writing, by the Chief Executive Officer or such authorized designee, and filed with the purchase order or contract therefore.
- c. For those items not subject to competitive bidding such as professional services, emergencies, purchases under applicable municipal contracts or procurements from sole sources, documentation should include a memo to the procurement file which details why the procurement is not subject to competitive bidding and include, as applicable:
 - (1) a description of the facts giving rise to the emergency and that they meet the statutory criteria; or
 - (2) a description of the professional services; or
 - (3) written verification of applicable municipal contracts; or
 - (4) opinions of Counsel, if any; or
 - (5) a description of sole source items and how such determinations were made.
- d. Whenever an award is made to other than the lowest quote the reasons for doing so shall be set forth in writing and maintained in the procurement file.
- e. Whenever the specified number of quotations cannot or will not be secured, the reasons for this shall be indicated in writing and maintained in the procurement file.

9. Exceptions to Bidding

- a. Emergency Situation – An emergency exists if the delay caused by soliciting quotes would endanger the health, welfare or property of the Corporation, one or more of its member municipalities, or their citizens. With approval by the Chief Executive Officer such emergency shall not be subject to competitive bidding or the procedures outlined above.
 - b. Resolution Waiving Bidding Requirements – The Corporation may adopt a resolution waiving the competitive bidding requirements whenever it is determined to be impracticable.
 - c. Sole Source – When there is only one possible source from which to procure goods and/or services and it is shown that (1) the item needed has unique benefits, (2) the cost is reasonable for the product offered and (3) there is no competition available the Corporation may procure goods from a sole source subject to a resolution waiving bidding requirements, as described above.
 - d. True Lease – Prices will be obtained through quotations whenever possible. The award shall be made on the basis of goods and/or services to be provided, ability to meet the specifications desired and price.
 - e. Insurance – All insurance policies shall be procured in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (1) Annual premium less than \$10,000 – documented telephone quotations from at least three (3) agents (if available).
 - (2) Annual premium over \$10,001 – written quotations/fax or proposals from at least three (3) agents (if available).
 - f. Professional Services – This category includes services which require special education and/or training, license to practice or are creative in nature. Examples of professional services are: lawyers, doctors, accountants, engineers, artists, etc. The Corporation may procure professional services on a negotiated basis, and may request such information as the Chief Executive Officer deems appropriate to select the most qualified firm for a reasonable fee.
10. Minority and Women Business Enterprises – The Corporation shall comply with all applicable legal requirements relating to the hiring of such businesses.
 11. Input from members of the Corporation – Comments concerning the procurement policy shall be solicited from the members of the Corporation from time to time.
 12. Annual Review – The Corporation shall annually review this Policy.
 13. Unintentional Failure to Comply – The unintentional failure to comply with the provisions of Section 104-b of the GML shall not be grounds to void action taken or give rise to a cause of action against the Corporation or any officer thereof.