



**SMGA Regional Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report RFQ
Q&A – 5/30/25**

Q. Are the 25 pages the number of sheets of paper allowed in the RFQ with both the front and back of the sheet printed on? Or are the 25 pages the total number of pages with print allowed?

A. The total number of sheets of paper allowed in the RFQ is 25. You're welcome to use the front and back of every sheet.

Q. Do all the 25 pages have to be 8.5" x 11" or can a certain number of 11" x 17" sheet be used? Does 11" x 17" count as 1 page or 2?

A. You're welcome to use 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17". Both count as one sheet of paper.

Q. Does the 25-page limit include attachments? Are resumes and related project experience able to be provided separately as attachments?

A. All requested information should be included within the 25 sheet limit.

Q. Has a selection committee been established? If so, are the members going to be made known?

A. SMGA will form a selection committee which will review and score submissions based upon the criteria outlined in the RFQ. The committee will be comprised of SMGA board members and business leaders from the Sioux Falls MSA. Once the committee is fully established, SMGA will share names of committee members with interested parties.

Q. What is the significance of the October 24, 2025, date for the "Conveyance Legal Structure" alternatives?

A. The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) should evaluate and ultimately recommend a legal structure to own and operate the conveyance system(s). SMGA requests this recommendation come before the final PER deliverable to allow SMGA sufficient time to initiate the process of selecting a legal partner who can assist stakeholders with implementation and keep with long-term project timelines.

Q. Does the funding source require that all communities must remain committed to the project, or will the remaining communities be able to move forward if a stakeholder “backs out”?

A. Based in part on the conclusions of the PER, it is possible some stakeholders may re-evaluate their participation in the proposed project. SMGA is committed to working with EPA to help ensure a feasible project that still improves the economic, social and environmental vitality of the region moves forward and that funds are reallocated towards that end.

Q. Is the funding contingent upon the removal of onsite septic systems within the Lyons community?

A. For purposes of this phase of the project (PER), that is not an expectation. This will need to be reviewed and determined prior to subsequent phases of the project (i.e. design, construction).

Q. If other entities and communities are identified during the study phase, would it be expected that those entities be included in this regionalization study or should we assume that the study is confined to the entities listed in the RFQ?

A. At present, our expectation is only those entities identified in the RFQ are included in the PER; however, SMGA is open to creative ideas or alternatives that will bring additional value to the region and existing stakeholders and would be open to discussing this in more detail with the selected firm(s).

Q. Is a copy of the grant agreement with EPA readily available for reference?

A. No. In the FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act, SMGA was identified to receive \$23,600,000 for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements. EPA will administer the award via their Community Grants program (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/fy24-community-grants-final-implementation-guidance.pdf>) SMGA has submitted a work plan including project timeline and preliminary project budget to EPA, which is currently under review. SMGA anticipates a grant agreement for planning activities will be approved in June 2025 in order to contract with the selected firm(s) for the PER in July 2025.



Q. Are the firm(s) selected to complete this wastewater regionalization study eligible to complete design and construction services as well?

A. Firm(s) selected to complete the PER will be eligible to submit qualifications/proposals for future design and construction related services so long as they do not draft or participate in drafting the RFQ/RFP for those future services.

Q. Will TetonRidge be serving as a member of the selection committee?

A. No. TetonRidge will serve as a facilitator and resource to the selection committee, but will not be a voting member of the selection committee.