SIOUX METRO
GROWTH ALLIANCE

# Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
# Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Wastewater Regionalization Project
# Lincoln County, South Dakota

**Release Date: November 2, 2026**

**Submittal Due Date: December 18, 2026**

## Purpose

Sioux Metro Growth Alliance ("SMGA") invites qualified engineering firms to submit their qualifications to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for a long-term regional wastewater solution that may include a new treatment facility, conveyance, and collection system(s) linking the South Dakota communities of Canton, Worthing, Beresford, Tea, and Lennox. SMGA endeavors to finalize a contract with a qualified engineering firm in February 2027, with an anticipated PER completion date before the end of CY 2027.

## Project Overview

Due in part to the strong growth of the Sioux Falls MSA, the surrounding communities of Canton, Worthing, Beresford, Tea, and Lennox are anticipating more significant residential, commercial and industrial growth in the coming decades, which will eventually outstrip their current infrastructure capabilities. To realize administrative and operational efficiencies, cost savings, and in an effort to reduce environmental impacts within the water shed, the communities endeavor to explore a long-term wastewater solution for their region.

Canton's wastewater treatment facility, which received some improvements in 2010, consists of wastewater lagoons.

Lennox currently operates a Class III Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) at their wastewater treatment facility, and has recently studied and prepared preliminary improvement plans. Beresford and Worthing leverage new Submerged Attached Growth Reactor (SAGR) systems which were completed in 2025 at their wastewater treatment facilities.

Tea currently has an agreement in place with the City of Sioux Falls to treat wastewater.

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**Project Area**

Depicted below is a map of the general project area. **While a conveyance route is depicted in red, this is only for demonstration purposes.** The ideal route(s), including possible outfall area(s), would be a recommendation determined by the PER.



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**PER Project Scope**

The PER should include all of the following:

**Existing Facilities Review & Local Improvements**

*Canton, Worthing, Beresford, Tea, Lennox*

The condition, capacity, planned improvements and financial status (including public surcharges) of existing wastewater facilities should be reviewed and documented for each participating community. The intent would be to understand wastewater improvements of existing facilities (and associated costs) which may be required based upon flow projections and anticipated effluent limits over the next 20+ years. The PER should also identify what improvements (and associated costs) will be required locally to connect to a shared wastewater treatment solution which may include a new or expanded wastewater treatment facility and conveyance system(s). Example improvements may include lift station improvements, lagoon repurposing, metering improvements, etc. All participating communities will provide the selected PER engineering partner with all existing studies or analysis previously completed and relevant to this task.

**Alternative Analysis - Improvements**

The PER should evaluate multiple, economical long-term wastewater solutions which may include a new or expanded wastewater treatment facility and associated conveyance options within the *Project Area*. Alternatives should be identified and reviewed before a recommended alternative is proposed. Each alternative should include, at minimum, the following:

- Description
- Design Criteria (including design flows and loadings)
- Map/Route
- Environmental Considerations
- Potential Construction Challenges (including permitting)
- Sustainability Considerations
- Mechanical Treatment Technology Review
- Life Cycle Cost Analysis
- Non-Monetary Factors Review (e.g. operational control, community preferences)

**Alternative Analysis – Structure/Operating Agreement**

The PER should evaluate, at minimum, three alternatives for governance, management and operational structures for shared wastewater facilities. This may include new entit(ies) or leveraging existing (e.g. Lincoln Regional Wastewater System.) The analysis should also take into consideration a phased project where member communities join at future project phases.

**Recommended Alternative**

The recommended alternative should include, at minimum, all of the following:

- Recommended wastewater solution(s)
- Recommended governance structure and draft operating agreements
- Map/Route for all wastewater facilities within the *Project Area*
- Environmental report (anticipated environmental impacts) as defined in 7 CFR 1970 (USDA Rural Development)
- Federal, State and Local Permitting Requirements including process and schedule
- Easement Requirements
- Preliminary design and construction schedule for recommended wastewater solution(s)
- Design assumptions including flow projections for residential, commercial and industrial growth within the *Project Area*.
- Preliminary Project Design
- Comprehensive Life Cycle Cost Analysis
- Estimated Annual Operating Budget
- Rate Impact Study including system development charges for member communities, capital support fees for member communities who may not receive service when the initial phase(s) of the project are complete, systems development charges for non-community members such as rural industrial, commercial and residential entities, and funding alternatives for different grant and local contribution levels based on different loan terms. Ultimately a rate schedule will be created including a minimum charge and a volumetric rate based on flow and load to meet projected revenue requirements of the system. The rate schedules will encompass rates for participating communities and rural residential, commercial and industrial connections. This information must be presented in a way that is relatable to members of the general public.

**Final Deliverable**

A final report encompassing the findings from the existing facilities and improvements review, alternative analyses, and the recommended alternative shall be provided electronically (PDF) to SMGA for review and approval. All financial analysis shall be provided in Excel format for additional analysis by the evaluation team.

## Qualifications Requirements

Engineering firms responding to this RFQ are expected to comprise licensed Professional Engineers who possess proven experience and expertise with regional wastewater planning, wastewater governance structures and operating agreements, wastewater design, municipal engineering, environmental permitting, and financial modeling including life cycle cost analysis, and rate studies.

## Submission Guidelines

SMGA has retained TetonRidge Consulting ("TetonRidge") to facilitate the RFQ process and serve as a resource for other components of the project. Engineering firms are invited to submit their qualifications electronically to steve@tetonridgellc.com no later than 5pm Central Time, December 18, 2026. *TetonRidge kindly requests engineering firms indicate their intentions of submitting qualifications by November 20, 2026.*

Amendments and addendums to this RFQ may be issued as needed, and must be acknowledged on any submissions.

**RFQ submissions should include, and are scored based upon the following weighted evaluation factors:**

- Firm profile highlighting relevant experience, specialized expertise, technical competence and portfolio of past relatable projects, including references (see *qualification requirements*.) (25%)
- List of key team members (with resumes and professional qualifications) and their respective roles in support of the project. Include any sub-consultants who may be assigned to the project. (25%)
- General description of the firm's proposed approach, and resources available to perform the requested deliverables within the timeframes specified. (25%)
- Record of past performance, including price and cost data from previous related projects, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules. Include information on construction estimate accuracy for similar projects over the last 3 years. (10%)

- Availability to and familiarity with the project locale. (5%)
- Proposed project management techniques. (5%)
- Ability and proven history in handling special project constraints. (5%)

The length of the submission shall not exceed 25 pages. Electronic submissions are acceptable.

**Selection Process**

Upon receipt of the submissions, an evaluation team will determine the firm(s) most qualified based upon the *Submission Guidelines* and associated scoring criteria shown. SMGA may short list and interview firms it deems most qualified. Upon completion of the interviews (if applicable), SMGA may ask the most qualified Firm to enter into negotiations to mutually discuss and refine the scope of services for the project and shall negotiate terms, including compensation and a performance schedule. If an agreement cannot be reached, SMGA may move to the next most qualified Firm. The same process will be repeated with the other Firms if no such agreement can be reached. SMGA reserves the right to not select a Firm as part of this process if an agreement cannot be reached, or for any other reason.

**Other Considerations**

SMGA encourages submitting firms to review the following requirements which may influence design, project costs, timelines, contracting and sub-contracting (including the PER engineer's intentions to sub-contract for services.) The considerations below are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Other provisions may apply.

**Funding & Contract Period**

SMGA will utilize funding from EDA's Local Technical Assistance Grant Program to cost-share the cost of the PER. An award of contract will comply with SMGA's federal procurement policies.

The resulting contract will be for up to 1 year. SMGA has the option to amend, or to extend the contract beyond the initial 1 year to accommodate the terms and conditions of the Lincoln County Regional Wastewater & Industry Analysis project.

**Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act and American Iron and Steel (AIS)**

The Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) apply to federally funded infrastructure projects. Future federal funding subject to BABA may not be used for a project of infrastructure unless all iron and steel,

manufactured products, and construction materials that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project are produced in the United States. ***Domestic sourcing requirements may impact design or estimated project costs/timelines.***

**Non-Discrimination**

SMGA will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 40 CFR Part 33 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin. Any awardees, sub-awardees, contractors or anyone in connection with this award is expected to comply with this non-discrimination requirement.

**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)**

Good faith efforts to solicit quotes from Disadvantage Business Enterprises as required by 40 CFR Part 33 will be expected for any contracts or subcontracts that receive EDA funding.

**RFQ Questions/Contact Information**

For inquiries and submission of qualifications, please contact:

Steve Watson
Managing Partner
TetonRidge Consulting
steve@tetonridgellc.com

**All questions are due in writing no later than 5pm Central Time, December 4, 2026.** Answers will be posted on SMGA's website (www.siouxmetro.com) every 7-10 business days and will remain posted until a firm has been selected.