



# United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

GL03768

Minutes of Preposal Conference for RFP 42-79 held on February 1, 1979 at 10:00 AM at the New Federal Bldg in Helena, Montana.

Question No. 1: In the RFP, it is indicated that there will be 1000 wells but only approximately 900 that would yield results. Is it correct that a fair amount of investigation by the contractor will be required on all 1,000 wells?

Answer: There probably will be some investigation required on all the 1000 wells. It is assumed that some of the wells (estimated 100) are going to be rejects. Either permission cannot be obtained, or some other factor.

Question No. 2: But the above investigation will be manhours expended by the contractor?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: Should the offer be based on 900 or 1,000 wells?

Answer: We're assuming at this point that there will not be a thousand that you will actually be paid for. You're only going to be paid for the ones that we get information from. So if you have extra travel time and extra manpower that is going to be expended in those other 100-200, I would suggest that you try to build in that factor. However, your line item here does list 1,000. So you're going to build in a factor to all those 1,000 for listing each well site. We're going to pay you for the individual line item, however many you're able to provide. There is no other provision for paying you for any wasted trips so it to be built into that 1,000 each.

Question No. 4: Does the RFP state that you're only going to be paid for forms completed?

Answer: Payment will be based upon the providing of the line item. That's actually going to be the basis for the contract.

Question No. 5: The basis for the contract is that you will be paid for the forms that you successfully complete?

Answer: Right, Forms are to be completed to the best of the contractor's ability and not always 100%.

Question No. 6: It's not a lump-sum contract for 1,000 wells? It's based on the number of wells you are able to complete whether it be 800, 900, or 1,000?

Answer: Right, Hopefully, we'll get 1,000, but it's doubtful at this point.

Question No. 7: In the proposal it also indicated that the USGS would provide some man-time for training for field technicians, is that right?

Answer: We will provide two man-days in the contract for training.

Question No. 8: Is that two man-days per field technician or just two man-days altogether?

Answer: If there are 10 field people and you bring them all in we're going to spend two man-days training those 10 people in the office. Hopefully, we'll do it all in a group. The field training will be done in the office for these people, going over equipment, how to use it, etc.

Question No. 9: Do you contemplate running any pumping tests as such?

Answer: Not in the technical definition of a pumping test. One of the things that we would like to get would be a static water level, a pumping rate, and a drawdown--a pumping water level.

Question No 10: That's not much use to you without time.

Answer: True, but it gives an indication of transmissivity of the aquifer if we have those three measurements. We don't plan to have the contractor run long pumping tests with all the problems involved in those. However, if someone would suggest that in getting the static water level, the pumping rate, and the drawdown, that he would throw in a couple of measurements in between the static water level and the pumping level after the well was turned on, it would certainly look better in the contract, because those kinds of information are useful. One of the problems that you will run into in inventorying wells is finding a flowing well that is flowing. We need to get a static pressure head so we would ask that the well be closed in and a certain amount of time elapsed before reading the "static pressure head." If we had some points in between the time the well was closed in and when the final measurement was made, it would give us some indication of the recovery of that well and would be extremely useful information. A hydrologist would understand that--someone who isn't wouldn't, so those are the kinds of things we would ask for in the proposal.

Question No. 11: What base maps are available?

Answer: We've got probably 7-1/2 minute topographic maps for the majority of the area. In the area we don't have those, we will have either 15-minute or, as a last resort, we will go with the AMS maps, 1:250,000 scale.

There are also some areas where we will have orthophoto quads that can be used. We'll have map coverage of the entire area, but the AMS scale leaves a little to be desired. I have an example of each map, if you're not familiar with the rate of scales, that you can look at later. You will have a map of some sort, the best we can provide.

Question No. 12: That will be provided by the U.S.G.S.

Answer: Right.

Question No. 13: Two copies, field and office?

Answer: No, we're planning right now on just one copy. We do expect the maps back with all locations on them.

Question No. 14: Can we purchase another set if we do desire?

Answer: Sure, there's no problem purchasing maps except if you purchased a 7-1/2 minute quad for the whole study area, it would be very expensive.

Question No. 15: But if we have one that is worn or destroyed?

Answer: Maps are available for purchase.

Question No. 16: Will enough equipment be provided for each crew?

Answer: We will provide everything needed for each crew. We will give you one set of maps and you will divide them up so many per crew.

Question No. 17: On providing this equipment, would you be able to provide for back-up?

Answer: We have some back-up here. We didn't send much out but will have some available or could get it within a reasonable amount of time (like a week's notice). We will provide the supervisor with some extra equipment.

Question No. 18: Will you provide any tape repair kits?

Answer: We haven't in the past.

Question No. 19: Any water levels greater than 500 feet.

Answer: We expect not.

Question No. 20: What constitutes a well inventory?

Answer: We know that the most difficult part of this is finding the well, Once you have found the well what do you do with it? If the valves are so corroded or other things are wrong, does that mean that now I'm here the Government is not going to pay us for it? If you can find the well in the field you should have enough information from the driller's log, the landowner, from physically looking at the well, to give us some valuable information. From the driller's report you should know what the depth is our GWSI form allows for. The important thing is that you actually found the well and that this well belongs to this piece of real estate. That is probably the most important thing you can do for us. We want, need, accurate waterlevel measurements, accurate conditions, accurate well depths to get the maximum use out of that well. We're not going to punish you if you can't get that information. We will have some people out field checking. If we find out that the well could have been measured if someone had taken a little time and they didn't do it, we would be a little upset. The important thing is we want to be fair with you if you want to be fair with us. If you visit the well and record the information from the driller's report, and accurately plot, we're going to consider that you inventoried the well.

Question No. 21: It is easier to get access from the farmer or rancher if you tell him you'll give him information that you might get? Is this information available to the public?

Answer: All information we collect is public information and we have an obligation to release it to anyone who wants it. The well belongs to the owner and we provide him with the information that we collect. This probably isn't as important as last year when we collected water-quality data.

Question No. 22: Are you going to attempt to get a conductivity and temperature for wells without pumps?

Answer: I don't know if we would be interested in a well that has been sitting. We're more interested in aquifer information. If, after you have inventoried, we decide we need some information we would go and do it ourselves.

Question No. 23: Can the U.S.G.S give the geographical location of a portion of the wells, preferably all sites, and one or two other geographical areas up to a maximum of 300?

Answer: We have put together a map showing location of the well sites that we have selected so far. We have not selected the full 1,000 wells yet-- we're up to about 860. Unfortunately, this map was put together over an overlay so it wouldn't do anybody any good to run prints of it. We'll set it out here so that everybody can look at it. Gary has made a copy of all of the wells that we have selected so far and we'll provide that information to you which will give you some idea of the distribution that we're looking at. I'm not sure it would serve anyone's purpose to construct a reproducible map of the well distribution; hopefully, you can get what you need from the list of wells and the roughly plotted distribution we have here.

Question No. 24: Will the USGS provide sufficient listed equipment for multiple crews--we anticipate using 3 to 4 field crews?

Answer: Yes, we have right now enough equipment for five field crews and, depending upon the successful offeror, we'll have enough equipment to supply all of your field crews.

Question No. 25: Will Indian reservations be included within the study?

Answer: No.

Question No. 26: Estimated travel required. Will the USGS have more information available by the pre-proposal conference as to general distribution of wells so as to assist in estimating number of trips, including origin and destination, for each trip required?

Answer: Yes and No. You can get an idea of the general distribution of wells from the map and from the list that he has provided you; as far as telling you how many trips it's going to take, what the origin and destination is, no. That's going to be for you to decide whether you're going to have field crews centered at one location in eastern Montana and send people out every morning from that location, or whether you're going to have a local field headquarters.

Question No. 27: In the USGS's opinion, how many wells can be visited per day, per person?

Answer: You've got to make that estimate on your own. We can give you a little bit of background information there but, basically, that's something you've got to decide from your own expertise, from the amount of people that you intend to put on the job. The inventory that was done last year figured out about 1.8 wells per man day. They were doing some additional water-quality sampling that you won't be doing, so I would guess that might have taken 30-45 minutes or an hour. You won't be involved with that additional sampling, but their's figured out about 1.8 wells per man day.

Question No. 28: What were the additional parameters that were investigated last year?

Answer: They were collecting a sample for us (4-5 bottles of water) and getting ph, which you will not be doing. The main thing about the sampling--you're not going to reduce the time that much if you get a representative sampling of the water because you're still going to have to let it run for a while. They had to filter in the field and label bottles and that kind of thing so it did take some additional time.

Question No. 29: That man-time estimate--is that just for field personnel? Or does that include any type of supervisory or management?

Answer: That was just field personnel, based on the amount of time I could determine they spent in the field and the number of wells they inventoried. But don't forget. You may come up with a different estimate. You may feel your people are more efficient or less efficient. You'll have to gage your

your own estimate of hours accordingly.

Question No. 30: Could one use tape instead of cards--or, say diskette?

Answer: I would guess that we would have to determine whether or not it would be acceptable for the card punchers. The three of us aren't computer experts--we have someone who does that kind of thing and has a Data-point 100 that he plays with. The key punching that we do in-house is done on diskettes. However, we do have ways of getting information from tape onto our computer, but whoever is going to be doing punching for you should --punching these forms is a puncher's nightmare. We would like the successful offeror to bring their key puncher or key-punching supervisor into our office to talk to the people who process this form. They can answer the questions at that time, whether the information has to be on cards or on diskettes. A lot of things on a contract are subject to negotiation, so if you were to make your proposal now on the basis of submitting key-punch cards and you were awarded the contract, and you wanted after the contract had been awarded to make an offer to us to change to a tape system, perhaps at a cost saving to both of us, you could make that offer. It could either be accepted or rejected at a later date, but you could always make that offer. So, if you wanted to come in and talk to the technical people and myself about some change in that matter later, it's perfectly permissible.

Question No. 31: Do you have any idea what the percentage--different types of ownership and classes of wells are? Are they mostly stock wells or are they mostly irrigation wells, BLM, private owners, what type?

Answer: Most of them are privately owned. There will be a few BLM, most are just small stock or domestic wells. I doubt if there will be more than just a very few irrigation wells. Most have a small-diameter casting, 6-inch or less.

Question No. 32: Are they located in towns?

Answer: It's possible. I think last year we did pick up a few that were supply wells (town wells), maybe for a church or a school. Right off hand, I don't know, because I just went through looking for other criteria to select.

Question No. 33: What were your criteria on well selection?

Answer: Primarily, specific depth range, areal distribution to fill in some of the gaps we had, how much information was available on the well--whether it had a driller's log or not. One of the important criteria was: what was the construction of the well? We're looking at specific aquifers only, so we tried to pick wells that had a definite perforated interval rather than one that was perforated from top to bottom.

Question No. 34: Getting back to the key-punching on computer cards. Do you have a standard format on your lines on your computer cards of what specific information you want on each line or what to omit?

Answer: This thing is a free-field format which means you can punch it in any form you want. There's not a formatted data entry.

Question No. 35: There are some things you have to do and then what system is used?

Answer: You take this and it's got what is called a repeating group, generally separated by one of these dark green lines. Those are separate so you have to punch everything on this repeating group on cards continuous. Then you come to another repeating group and have to start on another card there. Columns 5-20 have to be the site I.D. From there on you can either punch continuously or leave spaces or do whatever you want. The firm that did the key punch for us last year estimated about 35 minutes per site schedule to key punch and verify. Most of the schedules were fairly complete, at least 70-80 percent.

Question No. 36: What would the USGS field training encompass?

Answer: I don't foresee any field training.

Question No. 37: What training will be conducted in the office?

Answer: The training will consist of a two-day seminar, basically, where we will go over in detail this form, how to fill this form out, the equipment will be discussed, how to read a conductivity bridge, how to get into wells. My main concern is filling out this form. Initially, I will spend a lot of time. I thought it was a pretty straight-forward form, but after they started sending them back I found out you can interpret things many, many ways. I have lots of notes I made that will help to answer a lot of questions before we get out in the field. I'll spend a lot of time on the cards. The rest of it--the conductivity meter--we'll have to spend some time and actually run some conductivities as we had some problems with that last year.

Question No. 38: You should calibrate the meter every now and then as they change. Do you provide case field reference on the conductivity bridge?

Answer: That's one of the problems we had in last year's inventory. We didn't do that, the contractor didn't do it, and we ended up with some poor data, but we will be doing that this year. We will be sending our reference samples to the field. Another thing that there will be a little training on will be map reading. How do you read a topographic map to pick up land-surface elevation? Hopefully, the people that are going to be doing the work have some background in map reading.

Question No. 39: It was indicated that part of the training might be to provide a possible list of fittings which would be useful in obtaining information at the wells, including tapes?

Answer: We'll go through use of the tapes, care of them, what our standards are.

Question No. 40: Can mileage and per diem be billed with Government voucher?

Answer: No. Those things will be part of the contract price.

Question No. 41: You indicated that payment would be made on the number of forms completed?

Answer: Payment will be made on fixed price per well. Payment as job is completed.

Question No. 42: Will USGS discuss details of well form?

Answer: We would prefer not to today. We would prefer to wait until we have selected a contractor to do the job. Basically, we want the location, the driller, depth of water, production level if you can measure conductivity of water, temperature of water, physical information about the well. Those are the kinds of things we are looking for.

Question No. 43: Do you have any idea of the lag time there will be between time you get people in the field and the time the money might be coming in? Seems like it might be awhile for reimbursement?

Answer: Could you give me an idea of how long it will take until key-punching is complete? There will be some lag time, but we will do what we can to make it as fast as we can because we know you contractors work week-to-week. Generally it takes about 3 weeks from the time that USGS sends it in to finance. We will look at the well inventory forms as soon as they come in so that they won't be laying around here.

Question No. 44: Will USGS expect standard well fittings?

Answer: No, but we can describe some of the types of fittings, and at the time of training we will go into that in more depth.

Question No. 45: What procedure do we follow if well is inaccessible?

Answer: Physical inaccessibility to the site because of weather: Hopefully, during the course of this project if weather improved road conditions would improve and you can go back. Inaccessibility due to owner problems: Generally, we have found that in the area we are looking at, owners are pretty agreeable to letting us get information from their wells. Occasionally you'll run across one who doesn't want you anywhere near the site, but if you will explain the project, the benefits, the data to be gained, they will give their permission. If they still deny you, write it off. We estimate about 10% of the time you will run into wells that may be destroyed or can't be located.

Question No. 46: How long would you consider being reasonable looking for a well that has been mis-plotted or destroyed before you wrote it off?

Answer: We want to be fair with you if you are fair with us. If you spend the average amount of time to look for one that you would spend to



inventory, I would say that you have met reasonable criteria. The same is true for obtaining a water-level measurement. Generally, it shouldn't take long to get a water level, but sometimes an hour is not unreasonable. Last year's experience showed that most wells weren't that far off--most of the time if they couldn't get access, it was because the owner wouldn't let them or else the well was sealed up.

Question No. 47: What happens if you end up at the wrong well?

Answer: I hope that doesn't happen. If it's not the one that we're asking for, then that's just another well.

Question No. 48: Does USGS provide computer cards?

Answer: No. You will supply your own cards.

Question No. 49: Approximately how many cards are required to punch up one well? (Average)

Answer: Last year 9,000 cards were used for 480 wells.

Question No. 50: Will USGS issue state-wide press release to aid access?

Answer: We hadn't planned to, but we think it's a good idea. We do provide you with a letter of introduction to the landowner and it would be no problem for us to dress that up a little and hand it out to the newspapers. We have done that on other occasions, such as BLM.

Question No. 51: Will USGS have State map of well distribution?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 52: Will the electric tape be longer than 100 feet?

Answer: Yes. It's 500 feet long now and, hopefully, will be the same length when you're through.

Question No. 53: Any past problems with landowners?

Answer: Of course. It's one of the things you have to anticipate and expect. With a little psychology and a professional explanation, you can solve most of the problems.

Question No. 54: Will additional merits be given for prior USGS well experience?

Answer: I'm not quite sure what the purpose of that question was. If you mean are we loaded to pick a specific contractor--no. However, if your field people or your supervisors have USGS field experience, obviously they know more about our needs. I would have to say that that gives them a +, not enough so that one would get the contract. In fact, at least one firm had a past employee listed as one of the supervisory personnel, and their proposal was nowhere near acceptable. Several of us even knew the guy personally. It

may be a plus, but it may not be enough of a plus.

Question No. 54: Will all wells be within one mile of a road?

Answer: What do you define as a road? Obviously, a well drilled by a piece of equipment mounted on tires may be the only road to the well. These wells are spread all over the real estate, many drilled for stock-water purposes. It's likely that some have never been driven back to after drilling. As far as 1 mile from main road, no way.

Question No 56: Who is liable for breakage?

Answer: Depends on how it occurs. If it is negligence, it's your fault. If it's wear and tear, we'll assure that. One of the things that we will stress is care of equipment. For example, the pressure gage cost \$240, and we would prefer it not be thrown in a pickup. The conductivity bridge has to be properly cared for and cleaned. There is a clause on Government-furnished property which says that liability is the responsibility of the contractor. There is a more serious question of liability for damage to landowner, to his property, or for turning cows loose. Your liability, too.

Question No 57: Is insurance required?

Answer: That's not required.

Question No. 58: What about liability? Say you run a pump test on a well and say it hasn't been pumped. He goes back and claims you ruined his well in pumping?

Answer: We've run into those problems ourselves. There are legal implications. Basically, we would expect you to handle this just as for any commercial firm--you're always liable. The Government is not assuming liability for anything you have done.

Question No. 59: I can't find any mention as to when the contract is proposed to be let. Do you have any idea?

Answer: I would say that we would meet the June 15th date. An award is possible within 60-75 days from now. In the RFP we give two dates, one for completion of field work, (1 October), and December 1 is the other date.

Question No. 60: Is there something critical about the Oct. 1 date?

Answer: It would be critical, but anything is negotiable. We would expect you to offer some consideration for going beyond that date. There was nothing magic about that date other than our experience of field weather at that time of year and availability of personnel. We decided that would be a good cut-off date for everyone. We hope to have an award date by May 1.

Question No. 61: In determining manpower needed, if you go by RFP you would think you have 3-1/2 calendar months to complete the work. In preparing the proposal should one assume that he will have just the 3-1/2 calendar months?

Answer: You can assume that the award will be May 1; or we'll try to get it done as soon as possible to give you that much more time to plan your operation.

Question No. 62: I'm still struggling with the time frame involved. You say that if the contractor considered after an October 1 date, he would be penalized. Is there some program under which you have to have this information by October 1?

Answer: It could have been Sept. 1 or Nov. 1--we're dealing with two programs, the NGPRP and Coal Hydrology with tight deadlines. We need this information into our system as soon as possible.