

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Rutherford County/Municipalities Joint Sewer Study



Rutherford County
Town of Rutherfordton
Town of Spindale

PURPOSE

Rutherford County is requesting statements of qualifications from qualified engineering firms for services associated with the updating of a study conducted in 2014 to evaluate the consolidation of multiple sewer collection and treatment systems throughout the county.

Firms interested in being considered for this work should submit their statement of qualifications to:

Rutherford County
Planning Department
Danny Searcy, Director
289 N. Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

For consideration, seven copies of the response to this request for qualifications must be submitted to County Planning by **12:00pm, Wednesday, October 19, 2022**. Any questions regarding this RFQ should be directed via email to danny.searcy@rutherfordcountync.gov.

BACKGROUND

Rutherford County has eight Towns within its boundaries. Four of these Towns own and operate Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) and another owns and operates two WWTPs (there is an additional WWTP not currently in operation that was formerly owned by an industry). Two of the other Towns have a sanitary collection system and pump flow to a sister Town's collection system and WWTP. There is also the Cliffside Sanitary District (CSD) that was taken over by the North Carolina Local Government Commission in 2019 that is currently operating and managing CSD's WWTP.

The dramatic reduction in the textile industry that occurred in Rutherford County, beginning in the 1990's and continuing until the last few years resulted in a dramatic reduction in sewer flows to the various WWTP's. Many of the WWTP's need extensive upgrades to meet current treatment requirements. Rutherford County joined with several municipalities in 2014 to fund a Joint Sewer Study to evaluate the best long-term strategies for providing sewer service within the County and Towns. The County and Towns of Rutherfordton and Spindale are interested in working with an engineering firm to revisit this study and to update the data and findings as this study is now eight years old and conditions at both treatment facilities have changed significantly. For example, Spindale completed a \$9 M rehabilitation of its treatment facility in 2019.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CONTENT

The statement of qualifications should not exceed 15 pages, excluding the cover and two pages allotted for a cover letter. At a minimum, the statement of qualifications should include the following information:

1. Qualifications of the staff that will be assigned to the project. The project manager and other key team members should be clearly identified. If subcontractors are to be used for any portion of the work, they should be identified, and their qualifications included.

2. Experience with merger and regionalization feasibility studies, wastewater master planning, rate studies and financial modeling, particularly projects involving multiple government entities wishing to explore pathways to improve financial performance and overall operating efficiency. The statement should include contact information for projects that were similar in size and scope.
3. A brief description of the project approach to be used by the firm.
4. A list of five client references.

PROPOSED DELIVERABLES FOR RUTHERFORD COUNTY/MUNICIPALITIES JOINT SEWER STUDY

1. Develop a composite GIS map of each sewer system including all sewer lines, force mains, pump stations and Wastewater Treatment Plants.
2. Develop a summary of average daily flows, peak daily flows and peak hour flows for each sewer collection system for the past 24 months.
3. Identify sewer flows for drainage basins within each sewer system with flows to each pump station.
4. Using existing studies and data, determine the volume of Inflow & Infiltration in each system. Identify projects to reduce Inflow & Infiltration, particularly where future system interconnects may occur. The existing studies will be provided to the consultant by Rutherford County Planning and will include some or all of the reports previously funded by the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center and NCDEQ shown on the following page.
5. Evaluate the possible consolidation of sewer treatment systems and abandonment of inefficient Wastewater Treatment Plants. This evaluation should describe all improvements necessary for consolidation (including necessary upgrades to the receiving system) along with cost estimates. It should also include cost estimates and associated with plant abandonment and how best to handle NPDES permits. The following alternatives should be explored:
 - a. Rutherfordton to Spindale
 - b. Spindale to Rutherfordton
6. Evaluate the consolidation of collection system operations where possible with shared resources. Identify the most practical management system for the consolidation of the various sewer collection systems including but not limited to inter-local agreements, independent authority, consolidation into one of the current systems. This evaluation should consider current and proposed legislation regarding utility management systems.
7. Analyze areas within the County needing domestic sewer service that could be served by the Town of Rutherfordton and/or Spindale or a consolidated standalone system, extending public wastewater infrastructure to provide regional service. This analysis will utilize input from the municipalities, the County, and Foothills Regional Commission.

8. Analyze areas within the County needing sewer service for economic development service that could be served by the Town of Rutherfordton and/or Spindale or a consolidated standalone system. This analysis should be completed in close consultation with the Rutherford County Economic Development Association.
9. Build a utility financial model for all proposed projects. Specifically this should address the phased interconnection and consolidation of sewer treatment systems. This model will show expected capital project costs, operating costs, revenues and debt financing. The model will be used to determine and demonstrate the financial feasibility of consolidation and to show multi-year cash flows as municipal systems are interconnected in phases. The model should also provide the likely impacts on sewer rates.
10. Analyze the current utility rates for Spindale and Rutherfordton and provide recommendations for full cost recovery and financial sustainability based on current operations and customer base, and the potential impact on rates and overall financial health of any potential merger/regionalization projects that may be identified through this process.

Grantee	Project Title	Year	Grant Amount	Sewer Customers
Isothermal Planning Development Commission	Fallston, Kingstown, and Lattimore Wastewater Systems Projects	1997	\$14,250.00	0
Rutherford County	Cliffside Sanitary District Infrastructure Improvements	2012	\$25,926.00	84
Rutherford County	Rutherford County Land Use Plan Update	2001	\$27,000.00	0
Rutherford County	Cliffside Sewer Plan	2011	\$32,900.00	0
Rutherford County	Wastewater System Improvements to Serve Tracker Marine	2005	\$289,500.00	0
Town of Forest City	Infiltration and Inflow Study	2011	\$33,333.00	0
Town of Forest City	Water and Sewer Management	2003	\$40,000.00	0
Town of Forest City	Town of Forest City Wastewater System Mapping	2006	\$40,000.00	0
Town of Forest City	Edgewood Nursing Home Water and Sewer Project	1998	\$50,000.00	0
Town of Forest City	Brackett Creek Sewer Line Replacement	2012	\$500,000.00	3,524
Town of Forest City	Project Chrysalis Water, Sewer & Drainage Construction	2015	\$1,000,000.00	0
Town of Lake Lure	Asset Management Plan	2013	\$10,500.00	0
Town of Lake Lure	201 Facilities Plan Revision	2007	\$40,000.00	0
Town of Lake Lure	Water and Sewer System Regionalization Assessment	2004	\$40,000.00	0
Town of Lake Lure	Pipe Wrapping Program	2011	\$853,196.00	527
Town of Rutherfordton	Financial Planning and Rate Study	2011	\$13,006.50	0
Town of Rutherfordton	Town of Rutherfordton Infiltration and Inflow Study and Wastewater System Mapping	2006	\$39,000.00	0
Town of Rutherfordton	Rutherfordton Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion	2003	\$75,000.00	0
Town of Rutherfordton	Town of Rutherfordton Sewer Line Rehab	2008	\$99,999.95	0
Town of Rutherfordton	Sewer System Manhole Rehab 2008	2008	\$119,900.00	1,568
Town of Rutherfordton	Waterworks Road Pump Station Replacement and Gravity Sewer Improvements Plan	2011	\$139,032.64	277
Town of Spindale	Ameridial Fiber Infrastructure	2014	\$10,809.00	0
Town of Spindale	Spindale Sewer System Capital Improvement Plan	2007	\$40,000.00	0
Town of Spindale	Town of Spindale Inflow & Infiltration Study	2005	\$40,000.00	0
Town of Spindale	Town of Spindale Sewer Force Main Study	2008	\$100,000.00	0
Town of Spindale	Replace Force Main and Gravity Sewer Line	2012	\$220,782.22	0
Town of Spindale	Spindale Sanitary Sewer Flow Monitoring Study	2018	\$150,000.00	0
Town of Spindale	Spindale Pipe Condition Assessment	2022	\$150.00.00	0