Asking for Efficiency: How to Specify Energy Performance at Water Treatment Facilities

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Agenda

- The Consortium for Energy Efficiency
- Why RFP Guidance?
- What is in the RFP Guidance
- Discussion
The Consortium for Energy Efficiency

- CEE represents 142 member efficiency programs in 40 US states and 7 Canadian provinces.

- “Simple” Mission: Accelerate the market for energy efficient technologies by increasing program effectiveness.
Efficiency Program Offerings

- Incentives to offset cost of high efficiency equipment & design
- Funding for audits and process studies
- Energy expertise

Efficiency programs are giving away money, expertise, audits, project assistance…
Any NSTAR customers in the room?

The New York Times

Obscure Fee Pays for Efficient-Energy Projects

*PART OF WHAT WE COLLECT IN THE TRANSITION CHARGE IS OWNED BY EACH OF BEC FUNDING LLC AND BEC FUNDING II LLC
Why Do Water Utilities Need Efficiency?

- Rising energy costs
  - Using more at higher prices
- Shrinking budgets
- Emissions requirements
- Climate Change
- “Green”: Public image

But how do you ask for energy efficiency?
The Problem: Municipal Bid Process

Hurdles Facing Municipal Utilities

- Low bid requirement → Race to the bottom
- Energy performance must be included in specification
- Shortage of specification expertise

Hurdles Facing Consulting Engineers

- Lack of consistency
The CEE RFP Guidance: Objectives

- Improve consistency
- Help small facilities – raise the baseline
- Increase awareness of efficiency opportunities
- Assist communication and knowledge sharing
- Generate low-cost energy savings
We spent 6 months...

- ...reading RFP documents
- ...talking to stakeholders
- ...making sense of the solicitations process
- ...stepping on toes
The Guidance includes a recommended form and key concepts for wastewater project RFQ/RFPs, including:

- Sections to include
- Project team qualifications
- Considerations for facility sizing
- Capital vs. Lifecycle cost, methodologies
CEE RFP Guidance: Process focused

Process-specific guidance focused on major energy end-users, including: aeration, pumping, solids handling, UV disinfection
Shaped by the Water Industry

CEE developed the RFP Guidance document in partnership with the Water Environment Federation

- Process included review & substantial input from WEF technical committees
Where Is the CEE RFP Guidance Available?

- Consortium for Energy Efficiency
- Water Environment Foundation
- Energy Efficiency Programs:
  - Efficiency Vermont
  - Energy Trust of Oregon
  - Nebraska Public Power
  - NYSERDA
  - …
Trade Press
Share Your Thoughts (Seriously)

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