

HAC & CCOG RFP #2020.03.19

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Health Action Council (“HAC”) and The Cooperative Council of Governments (“CCOG”), collectively the “Issuers”, have issued a Request for Proposal (“RFP”), RFP #2020.03.19, regarding the planned implementation of a PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROGRAM (the “Program”) on behalf of all HAC and Sourcing Alliance members. Sourcing Alliance is a public sector group purchasing organization (“GPO”), and CCOG is a public sector contract holder for Sourcing Alliance. Bidders submitting proposal responses must be able to provide the required Pharmacy Benefit Management Services and deliver the Program nationwide.

The RFP can be acquired at CCOG/Sourcing Alliance’s headquarters located at 6001 Cochran Road, Suite 333, Cleveland, Ohio 44139 during regular business hours between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM Eastern, Monday through and inclusive of Friday. The RFP can also be requested via email sent to PBM@SourcingAlliance.org. The Issuers will hold a pre-proposal supplier conference call on March 30, 2020 at 3:30 PM Eastern. Bidders may request conference call dial-in information by email sent to PBM@SourcingAlliance.org.

Proposal responses will be accepted via US Mail, overnight delivery service, or hand delivery attn: David J. Akers at the CCOG/Sourcing Alliance headquarters location until 5:00 PM Eastern on April 20, 2020; four additional copies of proposal responses must be submitted, two each, to both HAC (attn: Kevin Gregory, Vice President Business Solutions, Rockside Square II, 6133 Rockside Road, Suite 210, Independence, Ohio 44131) and Lockton – Excelsior Solutions (attn: Sarah Martin, Vice President, 2100 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas, 75201) as specified in the RFP by the same date and time via US Mail, overnight delivery service, or hand delivery. The Pharmacy Benefit Management Services to be supplied must be provided in accordance with specifications prepared by the Issuers as set forth in the RFP. Proposal responses will be opened in a public meeting at the CCOG/Sourcing Alliance headquarters beginning at 5 PM Eastern on April 20, 2020. Up to four Suppliers will be selected for finalist interviews and discussions between June 22, 2020 and July 17, 2020 with draft contracts due August 14, 2020. Contract negotiations will continue through September and the winner(s) will be selected and notified on or about October 1, 2020. Additional information about the procurement timetable is detailed in the RFP. All requested bid revisions may be provided electronically

The Issuers reserve the right to reject any and all proposal responses and to waive any informality in the proposals received. The Issuers are under no obligation to issue a contract as a result of this RFP solicitation and reserve the right to not select any supplier should the Issuers decide not to proceed for any reason.

The RFP shall be advertised in the Columbus Dispatch on March 23, March 30, and April 6, 2020; on the Sourcing Alliance website (www.SourcingAlliance.org/PBM) from March 19 through April 20, 2020; and, through electronic communication.

A COPY OF THIS LEGAL NOTICE IS LOCATED IN THE RECEPTION AREA AT CCOG/SOURCING ALLIANCE’S HEADQUARTERS LOCATED AT 6001 COCHRAN ROAD, SUITE 333, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44139.

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NKorea says Trump wrote, offering coronavirus help

Min Joo Kim
The Washington Post

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump sent a letter to Kim Jong Un offering help in North Korea's battle against the coronavirus, the North Korean leader's sister said on Sunday, while warning that it wasn't enough to improve relations.

The United States and North Korea are at loggerheads over the reclusive state's nuclear weapons program. Trump has often tried to restart negotiations by cultivating a personal relationship with Kim.

"We view such a personal letter of President Trump as a good example showing the special and firm personal relations with Chairman Kim Jong Un," said Kim Yo Jong, who is also a senior ruling party official. Her statement was published by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim Yo Jong said Trump explained in the letter "his plan to propel the relations between

the two countries of the DPRK and the U.S.," a reference to the country's formal name of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.S. president also explained "his intent to render cooperation in the anti-epidemic work," the report said, quoting Trump as saying he was "impressed by the efforts made by the chairman to defend his people from the serious threat of the epidemic."

Trump's letter was "consistent with his efforts to engage global leaders during the ongoing pandemic," said a senior Trump administration official, who spoke the condition of anonymity. "The president looks forward to continued communications with Chairman Kim."

Since the coronavirus outbreak in neighboring China in January, North Korea has not reported a single case of the virus. The isolated country has adopted stringent quarantine measures against the virus, calling it a matter of "national survival."

Kim's sister, however,

warned against making "hasty conclusions" about the good personal relationship between the two leaders. "I think that the bilateral relations and dialogue for them would be thinkable only when the equilibrium is kept dynamically and morally and justice is ensured between the two countries, not merely by the personal letter between the two leaders," Kim Yo Jong said in her statement.

Duyeon Kim, a senior adviser at the International Crisis Group, said the response is North Korea's way of saying it still wants a better offer at the negotiating table.

"North Korea is warning that they won't be fooled by niceties or U.S. tactics and that the U.S. needs to do better," she said, adding that the North Korean leader's sister is "making it clear that Pyongyang will continue with nuclear weapons development."

This is the second known correspondence this year between Trump and Kim after Trump sent birthday greetings in January.

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Completed proposals must be submitted by 5 PM Eastern on April 20, 2020 at CCOG/Sourcing Alliance's headquarters: 6001 Cochran Road, Suite 333, Cleveland, Ohio 44139.

CD-009524812402

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US-led forces quit third base in Iraq; 2 locations remain

Samya Kullab
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq withdrew Sunday from a military base in the country's north that nearly launched Washington into an open war with neighboring Iran.

The K1 Air Base is the third site coalition forces have left this month, in line with U.S. plans to consolidate troops in two locations in Iraq.

A rocket attack on the base in late December killed one American contractor and led to a series of tit-for-tat attacks between the U.S. and Iran-backed Iraqi militia groups. The attacks culminated in the U.S.-directed killing of top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and a senior Iraqi militia leader, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Coalition forces handed over the K1 base in the northern Iraqi province of Kirkuk to Iraq's military, according to a coalition

statement. At least \$1.1 million worth of equipment was transferred to the Iraqis as 300 coalition personnel departed.

Until last month, there were about 7,500 coalition troops based in Iraq, including 5,000 U.S. forces.

Withdrawals are planned "in the coming days" from two bases in western Iraq, said Col. Myles Caggins, a coalition spokesman. He said troops have so far been moved to other bases in the country and some will head home in the coming weeks, but did not specify how many.

He said the two bases are the Nineveh Operations Command in Mosul — Iraq's second-largest city and which was under the Islamic State group's control from 2014 until 2017 — and the Taqadum military airport outside the city of Habaniya, on the Euphrates River.

K1 has hosted coalition forces since 2017 to

launch operations against IS in nearby mountainous areas. Areas south of Kirkuk and north of neighboring provinces of Diyala, Salahuddin and Nineveh remain hotbeds of IS activity.

The stretch of territory is also disputed between the federal Iraqi government and the autonomous Kurdish region, which has created security gaps benefiting IS militants. The coalition's presence had at times been a mediating force between the two competing authorities.

A senior coalition official earlier this month claimed IS forces weren't as able to exploit the "security gap" between Iraqi and Kurdish forces, as the militants did in the past.

"That (gap) doesn't necessarily mean that Daesh is free to operate in the way that they wish," said the official, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "They're still pretty constrained."

The coalition official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

U.S.-led forces have already withdrawn this month from the Qayara base in Nineveh province followed by the Qaim base near the border with Syria. All the withdrawals were in line with plans to pull out from bases across Iraq and consolidate coalition forces in Baghdad and at the Ain al-Asad Air Base in the country's western desert.

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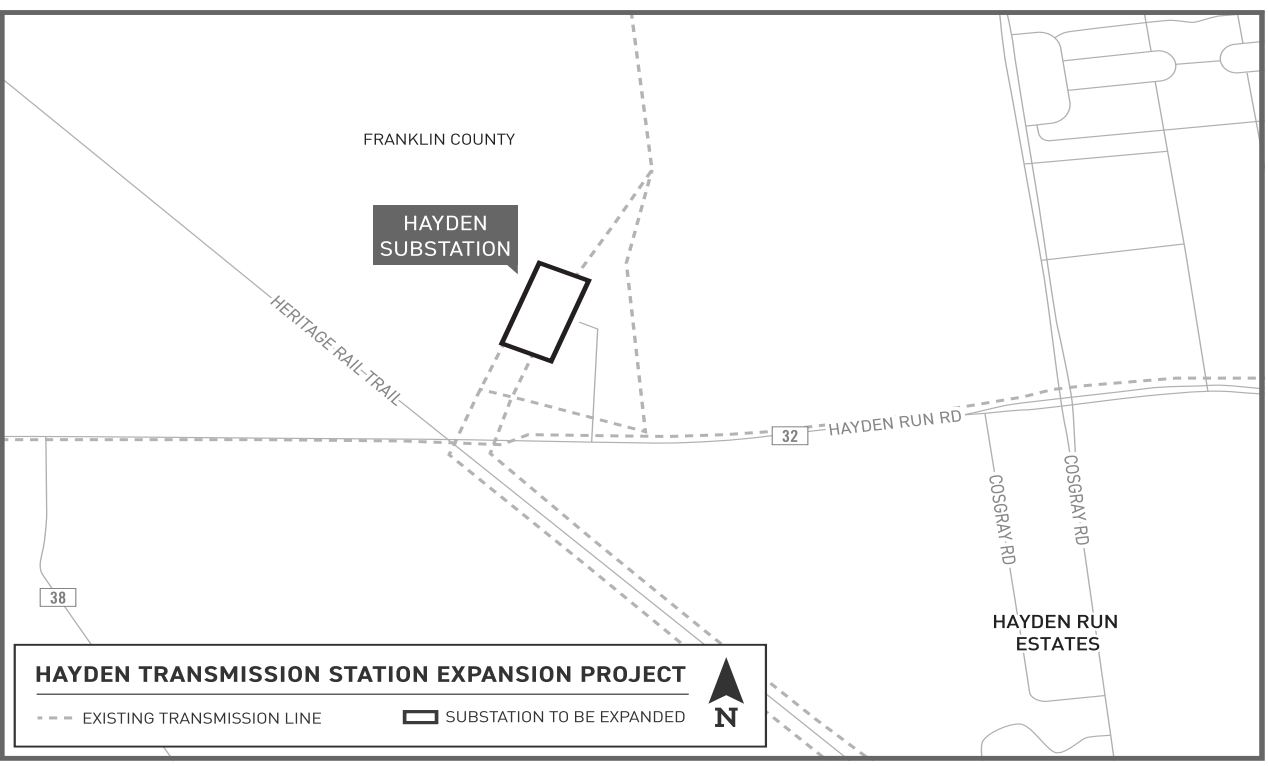
NOTICE OF PROPOSED MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY

AEP Ohio representatives plan to expand Hayden Substation located off Hayden Run Road in Brown Township, Franklin County. The investment improves performance and increases electric reliability in the area.

Construction begins this fall on AEP Ohio's property and concludes Summer 2021.

AEP Ohio representatives filed a Letter of Notification with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) as the Hayden Transmission Station Expansion Project, Case No. 20-583-EL-BLN. The Letter of Notification to construct, operate and maintain this facility awaits review by the OPSB.

The OPSB accepts motions to intervene in the Letter of Notification up to 10 days following the publication date of this notice. The requirements to intervene are included in Rule 4906-2-12 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Please address motions to Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio, 43215-3793 and cite Case No. 20-583-EL-BLN.



The accompanying map shows the project area. Please use this map only as a general guide due to its reduced scale and limited detail. Copies of the actual Letter of Notification, including specific details about the location and construction, are available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Columbus Metropolitan Library • 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH, 43215
- Columbus Metropolitan Library- Hilliard Branch • 4500 Hickory Chase Way, Hilliard, OH 43026

Ohio Power Siting Board • 180 E. Broad St. • Columbus, Ohio, 43215-3793 • (866) 270-6772 • contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us

Electronic versions of the Letter of Notification are available at <http://www.aeptransmission.com/ohio/> and at the OPSB website at <http://opsb.ohio.gov>. Search under current cases for Case No. 20-583-EL-BLN.

The following local city and county government officials have been served with a copy of the application as required by OPSB regulations:

- Franklin County Board of Commissioner**, Ms. Marilyn Brown
- Franklin County Board of Commissioner**, Mr. John O'Grady
- Franklin County Board of Commissioner**, Mr. Kevin Boyce
- Franklin County Engineer**, Mr. Cornell R. Robertson
- Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District**, Jennifer Fish, Director

- Brown Township Board of Trustee**, Mr. Gary Dever
- Brown Township Board of Trustee**, Ms. Pam Sayre
- Brown Township Board of Trustee**, Mr. Gary Dever
- City of Hilliard**, Mayor Don Schonhardt
- City of Hilliard**, Councilman Colleen Briscoe

If you are a local city or county government official and would like an electronic or hard copy of the Letter of Notification, please contact Joe Demaree at the information listed below.

To ask a question or make a comment about the project, please call (380) 205-5046 or send an email inquiry to jkdemaree@aep.com. Send mail inquiries to the following address:

AEP Ohio
Attention: Joseph Demaree
8600 Smiths Mill Rd
New Albany, OH 43054



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