

SWIPCO Protest of Contract Award

1. Who may file the protest:

a. Any bidder or prospective bidder who is aggrieved in connection with an Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Bid (RFB) from Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) or the award of a contract obtained through such a process may file a protest. Protests relating to cancellation of RFPs and RFB's protest relating to the rejection of all bids are not permitted. A bidder is a person or organization that submits a bid in response to the RFB/RFP. A prospective bidder is one who has not submitted a bid.

2. Time for filing:

a. If a protest is submitted by a prospective bidder, it must be filed within five business days after the prospective bidder knew or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest. In no event may a prospective bidder who did not submit a bid be allowed to submit a protest after bid opening time.

b. If a protest is filed by a bidder, the protest must be filed within five business day after the protesting bidder knew or should have known of the facts giving rise to the protest. Once the bid opening has occurred, the bidder has five business days to file a protest. The date of filing is the date of receipt of the protest by SWIPCO.

3. Form of protest:

a. All bid protest must be in writing and filed with the SWIPCO Executive Director, 1501 SW 7th St, Atlantic, IA, 50022

b. The protest must state all grounds upon which the protesting party asserts that the solicitation or award was improper. Issues not raised by the protesting party in the protest are deemed waived and may not be raised on appeal.

c. The protesting party may submit with the protest any documents or information deemed relevant.

4. Notice of protest:

a. If award has been made, the Executive Director shall notify the successful bidder or contractor of the protest. If the protest is received before award and substantial issues are raised by the protest, all bidders who appear to have a substantial and reasonable prospect of winning the award shall be notified and may file their agreement/disagreement with the Executive Director within three days after receipt of notice of the protest.

5. Stay of Procurement:

a. The Executive Director shall immediately decide, upon receipt of the protest, whether or not the solicitation or award should be stayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. If it is deemed that the protest has merit, the Executive Director shall not proceed further with the bid process or award of the

contract, and shall suspend performance under the contract if awarded, unless the award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of SWIPCO.

6. Procedures:

a. Within five days of receipt of the protest, the Executive Director shall submit to the protesting party a response to the protest. The protesting party then has five days to file a response.

b. The Executive Director shall review and decide the merits of the protest based on all documentation and information, including the initial protest, subsequent responses, Bid Protest Procedures Samples and any additional documentation provided. The Executive Director may, in her/her sole discretion, conduct a hearing.

c. If the protest occurred prior to the bid opening date, the Executive Director shall decide on the merits of the protest within a reasonable time period, and, if necessary, reschedule the bid award accordingly. If the protest occurred subsequent to the bid opening, the Executive Director shall decide on the merits of the protest prior to the final vote of award by the SWIPCO Board of Directors.

d. Within five days of making of decision, the Executive Director shall notify all affected parties in writing of the determination. The determination shall state the reason for the decision, and if the determination is a denial of the protest, inform the protesting party of its right to file an additional protest with Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau within 5 business days of the determination.