

FOR BITUMINOUS HOT MIX

BID #2023-08

Issued by:

Portage County
Purchasing Department

All required bid documents/copies must be submitted No later than 2:00 PM 3/21/2023 to:

Portage County Purchasing 1462 Strongs Ave Stevens Point WI 54481

LATE BIDS WILL BE REJECTED

There will be a public opening for this Bid

1462 Strongs Ave

Stevens Point WI 54481

For further information regarding this RFB contact Karen Kluck At (715) 346-1333 Email: kluckk@co.portage.wi.gov

Issued: 2/28/2023

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCOPE

The County of Portage Wisconsin (County), through its Purchasing Department (Purchasing), requests bids to establish a contract for the purchase of bituminous hot mix material and bituminous hot mix material transfer vehicle (shuttle buggy).

All prices submitted will be considered on all LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) Projects including County Highway Improvement(CHI) projects.

The attached Standard Terms and Conditions shall govern this bid unless specifically modified in these bid documents. Conditions of bid that include the word "must" or "shall," describe a mandatory requirement. All specifications are defined as mandatory minimum requirements unless otherwise stated. If no bidder is able to comply with a given specification or condition of bid, Purchasing reserves the right to delete that specification or condition of bid. Failure to meet specification requirements shall disqualify your bid. Vendors may not submit their own contract document as a substitute for these terms and conditions.

Retain a copy of these Bid documents for your files. Should you receive an award, these Bid documents become your contract terms and conditions.

Contract Execution: Portage County utilizes a web based electronic signature program (DocuSign) for the execution of contracts that do not require notarization. By submitting your bid you are agreeing to the use of this program to sign documents should you receive an award. There is no cost to the bidder associated with this process.

Definitions: The following definitions are used throughout the RFB documents:

Bidder/Vendor means a company or individual submitting a bid response to this RFB

Contractor means bidder awarded the contract

County means the County of Portage Wisconsin

Purchasing means the County of Portage Purchasing Department

RFB means Request for Bid

State means the State of Wisconsin

Ton means 2,000 lbs.

VendorNet means the State of Wisconsin's electronic purchasing information system

2. CONTRACT TERM

Date of award, through **12/31/2023**. Any extension must be authorized by mutual agreement of the vendor and the County.

3. QUESTIONS

If a vendor discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in this RFB they shall notify the Procurement Director named below of such error and request a modification or clarification.

Any communications or questions regarding the specifications, or special conditions of bid should be written and submitted to Purchasing as soon as possible, but no later than end of day on **3/10/2023**. Purchasing will respond to questions if necessary by issuing an <u>official addendum</u>, posted on VendorNet and on the Portage County Website. Bidders are responsible for checking these websites for any addenda before submitting a bid. Failure to acknowledge addenda may disqualify your bid.

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https://vendornet.state.wi.us http://www.co.portage.wi.us/

Any correspondence or questions submitted must include the bid number

Submit questions in writing via email to:

Karen Kluck, Procurement Specialist, e-mail: kluckk@co.portage.wi.gov

Phone: 715-346-1333

4. METHOD OF BID

Bidder must submit a unit price for each item. All prices must be quoted in U.S. Dollars. Bids requiring an order minimum may be disqualified. Bidder must bid on the enclosed Bid Offer Form.

5. BID SUBMISSION

Bidders must submit an original and one copy including all required materials for acceptance of their bid by the date and time listed on the Bid Cover Sheet. Any bids received after that time and date will be rejected. Receipt of a bid by the US mail system does not constitute receipt of a bid by Purchasing, for purposes of this RFB. Also refer to the Bid Response Requirements.

Faxed and e-mailed bids are not accepted. Bids must be forwarded to:

Portage County Purchasing 1462 Strongs Ave Stevens Point WI 54481

All bids are to be packaged, sealed, and show the following information on the outside of the package:

- -Vendor's Name and Address
- -Request for Bid Title
- -Request for Bid Number
- -Bid Due Date

6. BID RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

In order for your bid to be considered, the following information must be provided by the due date and time listed on the bid cover page. Include an original and a copy:

- 6.1 Signature and Authority Affidavit Form, Attachment A (Acknowledge addendum(s) if any.)
- 6.2 References Sheet, Attachment B
- 6.3 Bid Offer Form, Attachment C

The Signature and Authority Affidavit submitted in response to this RFB must be signed by the person in the Contractor's organization who is responsible for the decision as to the prices being offered in the Bid or by a person who has been authorized in writing to act as agent for the person responsible for the decision on prices and services. Failure to provide these forms/information with your bid submittal may disqualify your bid. The County encourages all bidders to print their submission double-sided to save paper

7. METHOD OF AWARD

Award(s) shall be made on the basis of the lowest and most advantageous unit price per item from a responsive, responsible bidder(s) who meets specifications. Multiple bidders may be awarded. Timeliness of delivery may be considered when making this award.

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8. BIDDER/CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible for a contract award, you must be qualified and able to provide the following:

8.1 Bidder must supply references of three firms to which similar products have been provided during the past five years to a comparable-sized institution or company. If contacted, all of those references must verify that a high level of satisfaction was provided. Use Attachment B to list references.

8.2 Bidder must be in the business of bituminous hot mix for the past five years.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications are minimum acceptable requirements. Any attachments, documents, price lists, etc. to support your bid, must include the bid number

Bid specifications may not be revised without an official written addendum issued by Purchasing.

The estimated need is approximately 36,000 tons. The County does not guarantee to purchase any specific quantity. Materials must meet most current Wisconsin Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction and made available for entire 2023 season beginning approximately May 1st. The bidder shall provide the DOT approved mix designs to the County. The County is also requesting a price per ton for Item No. QMP 460.2.8 HMA mixture testing according to State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction.

Portage County requests a price per hour for a material transfer vehicle (shuttle buggy) and operator to transfer hot mix asphalt materials included in this bid. Material transfer vehicle must be capable of accepting material from a standard end dump truck and conveying material into a paver. Material transfer vehicle shall be of adequate size and capacity to maintain constant production of material to the paver.

Portage County requests a price for mobilization of a material transfer vehicle (shuttle buggy) to any location within Portage County with an operator.

A separate bid form shall be used for all Plant Locations.

Materials Required

Sand Fines PG 58-28	4LT PG 58-28H
4LT PG 58-28S	4MT PG 58-28H
3LT PG 58-28S	4HT PG 58-28H
2 LT PG 58-28S	Ultra Thin (PG 58-28H)
4MT PG 58-28S	Additional Cost per Ton to add Boni Fiber to Mix designs
3MT PG 58-28S	Boni Fiber Cold Mix
2MT PG 58-28S	Premium Cold Mix
4HT PG 58-28S	Tack Coat
3HT PG 58-28S	
2HT PG 58-28S	

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Ultra Thin Bituminous Mixture Criteria -

The Ultra Thin Bituminous Mixture shall be composed of a mixture of aggregate, asphalt cement and if required mineral filler designed according to the following:

Air Voids % 3 – 5
VMA % (min.) 16
Fines/Binder % Max. 1.2

Asphalt-proprietary PG 70-28 or PG 64-34

Ndsn 100

Aggregate Gradation and Physical Properties –

The combined gradation of the aggregate portion of the mixture including the mineral filler shall be within the following limits:

		Total Passing
Sieve Si	ze	Percent by Weight
12.5	mm	100
9.5	mm	99 - 100
4.75	mm	70 – 90
2.36	mm	45 – 68
600.00	mm	12 – 45
75.00	mm	4 – 10

The physical properties of the combined aggregates shall meet the following criteria:

Percent Crush (min.)	50%
L.A. Abrasion Loss (max.)	45%

The sum of the slate, siltstone, structurally weak and clay ironstone particles shall not exceed 1.0 percent. PG residue as per mix design.

Prices shall be quoted as loaded hot mix in Portage County Highway Department trucks. Please state availability of material and/or specific requirements for requesting material.

Prices may be given for regressed, non-regressed mix designs as well as Warm Mix.

The Contractor is required to provide a self-propelled Material Transfer Device (MTD) for all mainline paving consisting of 1,000 tons or more and all mainline paving for the Project Specific related work specified in the bid documents. Contractor is not required to provide a surge bin. The MTD is not required for the paving of driveways or side intersections. The MTD must be a non-contact device shuttle buggy style device (does not contact paver) and shall be capable of storing a minimum of 25 tons of HMA material on the device. The contractor shall provide an experienced operator. The contractor shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the MTD. Portage County will supply fuel used by the MTD when used for Portage County projects. The MTD shall arrive full of fuel and Portage County will replace fuel used on Portage County Projects.

In the event the MTD is not functioning due to mechanical errors, the Contractor shall work diligently to repair the device. Failure to put forth a diligent effort to promptly repair the MTD will result in the Contractor paying delay costs incurred by the County. If the MTD cannot be repaired within two working days, the Contractor shall coordinate to replace the device with a replacement MTD.

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Tack coat as provided shall meet all WisDOT Standard Specifications.

10. FIRM PRICES

The awarded contractor must hold the accepted costs for the entire contract period. The County will review any adjustment of costs before the beginning of a contract renewal period. Price increase requests must be justified with supporting documentation of industry-wide increases.

11. INVOICING REQUIREMENTS

The County's terms are to pay or reject invoices within 30 days of receipt. Before payment is made, it also must verify that all invoiced charges are correct as per this contract. Only properly submitted invoices shall be officially received for payment. Thus, your prompt payment requires that your invoices be clear and complete in conformity with the instructions below.

All invoices must be itemized showing:

a. loading location & date

b. vendor name

c. remit to address

d. complete product description as stated on your bid.

e. prices per the contract

The original invoice must be sent to the Portage County Highway Department.

12. CONTRACT CANCELLATION

This Contract may be terminated under the following conditions:

12.1 The County may terminate the contract at any time at its sole discretion by delivering 10 days written notice to the contractor.

13. APPEALS PROCESS

Notices of intent to protest and protests must be made in writing. Protestors should make their protests as specific as possible and should identify Wisconsin Statutes or Portage County Ordinance provisions that are alleged to have been violated.

The written notice of intent to protest the intent to award a contract must be filed with Chris Schultz, Procurement Director, Portage County Wisconsin, 1462 Strongs Ave, Stevens Point, WI 54481, and received in his office no later than five (5) working days after the notice of intent to award is issued.

The written protest must be received in his office no later than ten (10) working days after the notice of intent to award is issued.

The decision of the Procurement Director may be appealed to the Corporation Counsel Office within (5) working days of issuance. The appeal must allege a violation of a Wisconsin Statute or a Portage County Ordinance provision.

ATTACHMENT A

SIGNATURE AND AUTHORITY AFFIDAVIT FORM

BIDDING COMPANY NAME:			
FEIN (Federal Employer ID Number)	OR	Social	Security # (if Sole Proprietorship)
Address:			
City	State		Zip + 4
Number of years in Business			
Name the person to contact for questions	concerning thi	s bid.	
Name		Title	
Phone ()	Toll Free Pl	none	(
Fax ()	Email Add	dress	
above statement is accurate under penalty of particles of the undersigned, having familiarized themselv read completely the specifications, hereby prolabor, materials, equipment, tools and all othe workmanlike manner all of the materials or pro-	es with the co poses to perfo r services and	rm eve supplie	erything required and to provide and furnishes necessary to produce in a complete and
I further certify that I have carefully examined work is to be done and have no agreements to			·
Signature			
Name (type or print)			Date
This firm herby acknowledges receipt / review	of the followir	ng add	endum(s) (If any)
Addendum #Add	endum #	Add	endum #

ATTACHMENT B

REFERENCES

elephone number, and appropriate information on the similar to those requested in this solicitation document. y subcontractor arrangement for the completion of this
Phone No.
Phone No.
Phone No.
Phone No.

ATTACHMENT C

BID OFFER FORM

Vendor:	
Provide a separate Bid Offer Form for each Plant Location.	
Plant Name:	
Plant Address:	

NON-PROJECT SPECIFIC ITEMS

Line #	Description	Hot Mix Price per Ton Loaded on County Truck	Hot Mix Price per Ton Loaded on County Truck Including QMP
1	Sand Fines PG 58-28		
2	4LT PG 58-28S		
3	3LT PG 58-28S		
4	2 LT PG 58-28S		
5	5MT PG 58-28S		
6	4MT PG 58-28S		
7	3MT PG 58-28S		
8	2MT PG 58-28S		
9	4HT PG 58-28S		
10	3HT PG 58-28S		
11	2HT PG 58-28S		
12	4LT PG 58-28H		
13	4MT PG 58-28H		
14	4HT PG 58-28H		
15	Ultra-Thin (PG 58-28H)		
16	Additional Cost per Ton to add Boni Fiber to Mix Designs		
17	Boni Fiber Cold Mix		
18	Premium Cold Mix		

	Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Price
19	Material Transfer Vehicle/Shuttle Buggy and Operator*	Hour	
20	Material Transfer Vehicle/Shuttle Buggy Mobilization to Portage County Project Site*	Each	
21	Tack Coat	Gallon	
22	Tack Coat Distribution Truck with Operator	Hour	
23	Asphalt Millings Reimbursement	Per Ton	

Make and Model of Material Transfer Vehicle/Shuttle Buggy

PROJECT-SPECIFIC ITEMS**

Line	Description	Total Estimated	Hot Mix Price per Ton	Total Cost
#		Quantity (tons)	Loaded on County Truck***	
24	4MT PG 58-28S	12,000 tons		
25	2MT PG 58-28S	4,000 tons		

PROJECT-SPECIFIC ALTERNATE ITEMS**

Line	Description	Total Estimated	Warm Mix Price per Ton	Total Cost
#		Quantity (tons)	Loaded on County Truck***	
24	4MT PG 58-28S	12,000 tons		
25	2MT PG 58-28S	4,000 tons		

**The Project-Specific Quantity Estimates per project include:

Project	4MT PG 58-28S Quantity	2MT PG 58-28S Quantity
СТН К	4,500 tons	4,000 tons
CTH P	7,500 tons	
TOTAL	12,000 tons	4,000 tons

^{*}Per the specifications, the Material Transfer Vehicle shall be provided for all Project-Specific mainline paving projects and all other mainline paving of 1,000 tons or more.

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An original and one copy of all required forms are included in the submittal?	Yes	No
Hours of operation – material availability:		
Instructions for requesting materials:		

Portage County is exempt Federal Excise and Wisconsin Sales Taxes, 77.54(9a). WI Stats. Portage County's CES number is 008-0000250266-06.

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ATTACHMENT D

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.0 SPECIFICATIONS: The specifications in this request are the minimum acceptable. When specific manufacturer and model numbers are used, they are to establish a design, type of construction, quality, functional capability and/or performance level desired, unless otherwise specified. When alternates are bid/proposed, they must be identified by manufacturer, stock number, and such other information necessary to establish an acceptable equivalency. The County shall be the sole and final judge of equivalency.

2.0 HOW TO AMEND A REQUEST FOR BID, PROPOSAL OR QUOTE:

- 2.1 Public Works Projects are subject to Wis Stats 66.0901(5): If a person submits a bid or proposal for the performance of public work under any public contract to be let by a municipality and the bidder claims that a mistake, omission or error has been made in preparing the bid, the bidder shall, before the bids are opened, make known the fact that an error, omission or mistake has been made. If the bidder makes this fact known, the bid shall be returned to the bidder unopened and the bidder may not bid upon the public contract unless it is re-advertised and relet upon the re-advertisement. If a bidder makes an error, omission or mistake and discovers it after the bids are opened, the bidder shall immediately and without delay give written notice and make known the fact of the mistake, omission or error which has been committed and submit to the municipality clear and satisfactory evidence of the mistake, omission or error and that it was not caused by any careless act or omission on the bidder's part in the exercise of ordinary care in examining the plans or specifications and in conforming with the provisions of this section. If the discovery and notice of a mistake, omission or error causes a forfeiture, the bidder may not recover the moneys or certified check forfeited as liquidated damages unless it is proven before a court of competent jurisdiction in an action brought for the recovery of the amount forfeited, that in making the mistake, error or omission the bidder was free from carelessness, negligence or inexcusable neglect.
- 2.2 Non-Public Work Projects: After a Request for Bid/Proposal/Quote has been filed with the Portage County Purchasing Department, the responder may submit an amended response BEFORE THE DUE DATE AND TIME set in the request. All the conditions and provisions of the original Bid/Proposal/Quote will be in effect. No submittals or amendments will be accepted after the due date and time of the request. This does not preclude the County from requesting additional information and/or clarification.
- **3.0 DEVIATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS:** Deviations and exceptions from original text, terms, conditions, or specifications shall be described fully, on the bidder's/proposer's letterhead, signed, and attached to the request. In the absence of such statement, the bid/proposal shall be accepted as in strict compliance with all terms, conditions, and specifications and the bidders/proposers shall be held liable.
- **4.0 QUALITY:** Unless otherwise indicated in the request, all material shall be new, newest model year, and free from defects. Items which are used, demonstrators, obsolete, seconds, or which have been discontinued are unacceptable without prior written approval by the County.
- **5.0 QUANTITIES:** The quantities shown on this request are based on estimated needs. The County reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities to meet actual needs.
- **6.0 DELIVERY:** Deliveries shall be F.O.B. destination freight prepaid and included unless otherwise specified.
- **7.0 PRICING AND DISCOUNT:** The County qualifies for governmental discounts. Unit prices shall reflect these discounts.
 - 7.1 Unit prices shown on the bid/proposal or contract shall be the price per unit of sale (e.g., gal., cs., doz., ea.) as stated on the request or contract. For any given item, the quantity multiplied by the unit price shall establish the extended price; the unit price shall govern in the bid/proposal evaluation.
 - 7.2 Prices established in continuing agreements and term contracts may be lowered due to general market conditions.

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8.0 RESPONSES TO REMAIN OPEN: Responses must remain open and will be deemed to be open and subject to acceptance until awarding of the bid/proposal is finalized, or a minimum of sixty (60) days unless otherwise specified.

- **9.0 ACCEPTANCE-REJECTION:** The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids/proposals, to waive any technicality in any bid/proposal submitted, request clarification of any bid/proposal, award a bid/proposal that is not the lowest price, and to accept any part of a bid/proposal as deemed to be in the best interests of the County.
- **10.0 GUARANTEED DELIVERY:** Failure of the Contractor to adhere to delivery schedules as specified or to promptly replace rejected materials shall render the Contractor liable for all costs in excess of the contract price when alternate procurement is necessary. Excess costs shall include the administrative costs and other costs attributable to the delay.
- 11.0 CONTRACT AND EXECUTION OF CONTRACT: Unless otherwise specified in the bid/proposal, the successful responder agrees to enter into a contract, a copy of which will be on file in the office of the Portage County Purchasing Department. Contractor shall and will well and truly execute and perform this contract under the terms applicable to the satisfaction of the County, and shall promptly make payment to each and every person or party entitled thereto of all the claims for work or labor performed and materials furnished in the performance of this contract.
- **12.0 ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** These Standard Terms and Conditions shall apply to any contract or order awarded as a result of this request except where special requirements are stated elsewhere in the request; in such cases, the special requirements shall apply. Further, the written contract and/or order with referenced parts and attachments shall constitute the entire agreement and no other terms and conditions in any document, acceptance, or acknowledgment shall be effective or binding unless expressly agreed to in writing by the County.
- **13.0 APPLICABLE LAW AND COMPLIANCE:** This contract shall be governed under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. The Contractor shall at all times comply with and observe all federal and state laws, local laws, ordinances, and regulations which are in effect during the period of this contract and which in any manner affect the work or its conduct. The County reserves the right to cancel this contract if the contractor fails to follow the requirements of s. 77.66, Wis. Stats., and related statutes regarding certification for collection of sales and use tax. The County also reserves the right to cancel this contract with any state or federally debarred contractor or a contractor that is presently identified on the list of parties excluded from federal procurement and non-procurement contracts.
- **14.0 LICENSES AND PERMITS:** Contractor shall have and/or provide any and all licenses and permits required to perform the work specified and furnish proof of such licensing authorization and permits with their bids if required.
- **15.0 ASSIGNMENT:** No right or duty in whole or in part of the Contractor under this contract may be assigned or delegated without the prior written consent of the County.
- **16.0 NONEXCLUSIVE CONTRACT:** Unless otherwise stated, the County reserves the right to purchase work or materials outside of this contract.
- 17.0 NONDISCRIMINATION & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: In connection with the performance of work under this contract, the Contractor agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, religion, color, handicap, sex, physical condition, developmental disability as defined in s. 51.01(5), Wis. Stats., sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, or national origin. This provision shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
- **18.0 INDEPENDENT CAPACITY:** The parties hereto agree that the contractor, its officers, agents, and employees, in the performance of this agreement shall act in the capacity of an independent contractor and not as an officer, employee, or agent of the County. The contractor agrees to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that each subcontractor of the contractor will be deemed to be an independent contractor and will not be considered or permitted to be an agent, servant, joint venturer, or partner of the County.

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19.0 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: All materials, equipment, and supplies provided to the County must comply fully with all safety requirements as set forth by the Wisconsin Administrative Code and all applicable OSHA Standards.

- **20.0 WARRANTY:** Unless otherwise specifically stated, equipment purchased as a result of this request shall be warranted against defects by the Contractor for one (1) year from date of receipt. The equipment manufacturer's standard warranty shall apply as a minimum and must be honored by the Contractor.
- **21.0 INSURANCE RESPONSIBILITY:** If insurance is required, satisfactory proof of the existence and carriage of such insurance of the kinds and limits specified will be required.
- **22.0 CANCELLATION:** The County reserves the right to cancel any contract in whole or in part without penalty due to non-appropriation of funds or for failure of the contractor to comply with terms, conditions, and specifications of this contract.
- **23.0 VENDOR TAX DELINQUENCY:** Vendors who have a delinquent Portage County tax liability may have their payments offset by the County.
- **24.0 OPEN RECORDS:** Both parties understand that the County is bound by the Wisconsin Public Records Law, and as such, responses and contracts are subject to and conditioned on the provisions of the law. Contractor acknowledges that it is obligated to assist the County in retaining and producing records that are subject to Wisconsin Public Records Law, and that the failure to do so shall constitute a material breach of the contract, and that the Contractor must defend and hold the County harmless from liability under that law. Except as otherwise authorized, those records shall be maintained for a period of seven (7) years after receipt of final payment under the contract.
- **25.0 MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET:** If any item(s) on an order(s) resulting from this award(s) is a hazardous chemical, as defined under 29CFR 1910.1200, the Contractor shall provide one (1) copy of a Material Safety Data Sheet for each item with the shipped container(s) and one (1) copy with the invoice(s).
- **26.0 ADVERTISING AND NEWS RELEASES:** Reference to or use of the County, any of its departments, officials, or employees, for commercial promotion is prohibited. News releases pertaining to this procurement shall not be made without prior approval of the County. Release of broadcast e-mails pertaining to this procurement shall not be made without prior written authorization of the County.
- **27.0 HOLD HARMLESS:** The Contractor will indemnify, pay the cost of defense including attorney's fees, and save harmless the County and all of its officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or claims of any character brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received by any persons or property resulting from the operations of the contractor, or of any of its contractors, in prosecuting work under this agreement.
- **28.0 FOREIGN CORPORATION:** A foreign corporation (any corporation other than a Wisconsin corporation) which becomes a party to this contract is required to conform to all the requirements of Chapter 180, Wis. Stats., relating to a foreign corporation and must possess a certificate of authority from the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, unless the corporation is transacting business in interstate commerce or is otherwise exempt from the requirement of obtaining a certificate of authority. Any foreign corporation which desires to apply for a certificate of authority should contact the Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Corporation, P. O. Box 7846, Madison, WI 53707-7846; telephone (608) 261-7577.
- **29.0 FORCE MAJEURE**: Neither party shall be in default by reason of any failure in performance of this contract in accordance with reasonable control and without fault or negligence on their part. Such causes may include, but are not restricted to, acts of nature or the public enemy, acts of the government in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes and unusually severe weather, but in every case the failure to perform such must be beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the party.