

such feeder cable and distribution cable facilities.

B. Circuit and Number Assignments. If requested by the Owner, the Engineer shall prepare telephone number assignments and shall identify the circuit to which the service is to be connected for station installations, including without limitation such information with respect to central office equipment connections as may be required.

C. Cut Sheets. Where modification of existing lines is to be performed, the Engineer shall furnish in such form as the Owner shall require complete and detailed information, collectively known as "Cut Sheets" for: (a) making such changes in circuit connections in the existing outside plant as may be required, including without limitation all associated devices such as load coils, terminals, and temporary connections; (b) making such changes in telephone number assignments and service connections as may be required, including without limitations, the corresponding connection changes required at the central office end; and (c) designating the sequence to be followed in making such changes.

Section 4. Outside Plant Plans and Specifications and Contracts.

A. Plans and Specifications. The Engineer shall, to the extent not previously prepared under other provisions of this Agreement, prepare and review with the Owner complete and detailed plans and specifications, drawings, maps and other documents required for the construction of the outside plant facilities to be included as a part of the Project. During the preparation of the plans and specifications, the Engineer shall make such changes in the plans and specifications as may be reasonably required by the Owner as a condition of approval by the Owner and Administrator.

B. Content of Plans and Specifications. The plans and specifications for outside plant shall be prepared in sufficient time to allow normal completion of construction of the outside plant to coincide with the established service dates and shall include the following:

1. One copy of the key map of the system, when a tracing is furnished by the Owner.
2. One copy (or more if necessary for clarity) of the central office area detail maps (sometimes referred to as exchange detail maps) and town maps of the system, on which there shall be indicated the following:
 - a. Location of lines to be constructed, indicating joint use or joint occupancy lines;
 - b. Location of switching centers and pair-gain devices;
 - c. Location of existing lines included as part of the proposed system and modification of such lines;
 - d. Location of existing lines to be retired;
 - e. Locations other than service entrances, where right-of-way has not been obtained;
 - f. Work Sectors indicating sequence of construction;

3. Complete drawings of each type of non-standard RUS unit covering the construction and the materials to be used.

4. An estimate of quantities of the various units of construction.

5. A complete cable plant layout and cable schematics, when applicable, for each central

office area as prepared pursuant to paragraph A of section 3.

6. If the Project contains requirements for installation of underground conduit, manholes and associated appurtenances, the Engineer, during the preparation of the plans and specifications, shall secure field data necessary for the proper design of such facilities (including plan and profile data, if required, and detail construction drawings, including cable to be installed), and shall proceed with the preparation of detailed plans and specifications for the construction of such facilities. Such drawings and specifications, when completed, shall be added to, and made a part of, the construction plans and specifications.

7. An itemized list of materials on hand or on order to be furnished by the Owner, showing the locations of delivery points and delivery schedules of such materials, the quantity, unit price and extended price.

8. The form of the contract to be entered into between a Contractor and the Owner for the construction of the outside plant, including forms of notice and instructions to bidders, Contractor's proposal, materials and construction specifications, Contractor's bond, description of assembly units and construction drawings.

Note: Plans and specifications for outside plant facilities to be constructed under a force account proposal do not require Items 7 and 8, above.

C. Contracts.

1. Upon receipt of notice by the Engineer from the Owner of the Administrator's approval of the plans and specifications, the Engineer shall, unless otherwise instructed by the Owner, with the approval of the Administrator, proceed to take all usual and customary actions, including compliance with the procedures set forth herein and in 7 CFR Part 1753, to facilitate full, free, and competitive bidding for the award of contracts.

2. Notices to Bidders shall be sent in accordance with Subpart F of 7 CFR Part 1753. The Engineer shall then review with the Owner and the Owner shall approve the qualifications of bidders who replied to the notice, as a condition of release of bid documents to any such bidder. The Engineer shall prepare and furnish to such qualified bidders the appropriate bid documents including construction sheets, and the plans and specifications upon the conditions provided in the applicable standard RUS contract forms. The construction sheets shall be furnished upon payment of reasonable charges. The Engineer shall also prepare and furnish, upon payment of reasonable charges, to material suppliers requesting them, copies of the Contractor's proposal sheets for outside plant together with any special drawings or material specifications pertaining thereto and a list of materials to be furnished by the Owner.

3. The Engineer shall conduct a Pre-Bid Conference in accordance with Subpart F of 7 CFR Part 1753 and shall be available to each prospective bidder for consultation with respect to the details of the plans and specifications and all other matters pertaining to the preparation of the proposals for the construction, or the supply of

materials and equipment or services therefor. All changes to or clarifications of the plans and specifications provided to one prospective bidder shall be provided in writing to all other prospective bidders and to the Owner.

4. The Engineer shall attend and supervise all openings of bids for the construction, or for the furnishing of materials and equipment or services therefor. The Owner shall return unopened bids received from Bidders not previously qualified under paragraph C2 of this section. In the event that bids are received from less than three (3) qualified bidders, the bids shall remain unopened and the Owner shall notify the Administrator thereof immediately. If directed by the Owner, the Engineer shall proceed in respect of the rebidding, in the manner provided for herein for the initial bidding. The Engineer shall check the assembly unit prices and summarize of all bids received. The Engineer shall render to the Owner assistance in connection with the Owner's consideration of the bids received so that contracts may be prudently and properly awarded. The Engineer shall submit to the Owner a written recommendation for award of the contract or rejection of all bids stating the reasons therefor.

5. The Engineer shall prepare and furnish to the Owner three (3) copies of the detailed proposal sheets or a detailed tabulation of the low bid, and a tabulation showing the names and totals of all bids. The Owner shall submit to the Administrator the bidding information for approval by the Administrator of the award of the contract. Upon receipt of notice from the Owner of the Administrator's approval of the award of the contract, the Engineer shall prepare three (3) counterparts of the construction contract to be executed by the Owner and the successful bidder and the Owner shall forward such executed counterparts to the Administrator for approval.

6. If, after the construction contract has been approved by the Owner and the Administrator, it shall be determined by the Owner that any changes in the plans and specifications are advisable, the Engineer shall prepare and submit a contract amendment in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1753.

D. Force Account.

1. If all or a portion of the Project, shall be constructed by force account, the Engineer shall prepare a force account proposal in accordance with Subpart G of 7 CFR Part 1753.

a. When requested by the Owner, the Engineer shall prepare an itemized list of the total quantities of all items of materials required for the construction showing in addition the quantity of each item of materials the Owner has on hand based on the list furnished by the Owner pursuant to paragraph G of section 2.

b. The force account proposal shall include an estimate, prepared in collaboration with the Owner, of the unit construction costs in substantially the same form as the Contractor's proposal in the standard contract form, and a summary of the total estimated cost of construction, setting forth the following: