



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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Steven G. Raymer
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Director

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April 5, 2006

To: Maintenance NBAs
Regional Coordinators

Re: Recent USPS Request to Vendors Regarding Custodial Contracting

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Western Region

The following two pages contain the questions I posed to the USPS at this level and their responses which were received today. The Q&A was sent via email in order to receive a quick response. Please ensure the widest possible dissemination to the Local President's and Maintenance Craft Directors in your area of responsibility. I ask you to send this information out as quickly as possible.

It has been brought to my attention that some offices' have posted the USPS request for information from vendors (attached as a separate file) in their maintenance hallway and/or on bulletin boards. I also understand there has been some speculation by others on the internet.

It is imperative that our custodial members have their concerns put to rest as quickly as possible. It is a shame that some prefer playing the role of 'Chicken Little' before making any attempt to find out what the facts are. While it was appropriate to ask about the vendor request, it was unnecessary to create such angst in our membership by the speculation that was engaged in on this matter.

As you can see from the attached, the USPS is not attempting to broaden the scope of custodial work that can be contracted out. The USPS specifically commits that any custodial contracting will be covered by the square footage MOU and the CBA.

Yours in union solidarity,

/s/

Steven G. Raymer
Director, Maintenance Division

Attachment

Steve,

I have inserted the answers with the questions below.

Please note this is a Request for Information, not a Solicitation.

Terry C. LeFevre, CPMM
Engineering - Maintenance Policies & Programs

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven Raymer, Maintenance Director [mailto:sraymer@apwu.org]

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 4:24 PM

To: LeFevre, Terry C - Merrifield, VA

Cc: Devine, Patrick M - Washington, DC

Subject: Request for Info - Janitorial Services

Dear Terry,

This is the follow-up to our discussion today regarding the recent solicitation by the USPS for Janitorial Services posted on a nationwide Vendor website.

Statements in that solicitation include:

- 1) "The United States Postal Service is seeking information from suppliers with capabilities to implement and manage Janitorial Services in U. S. Postal Service facilities for as many as 48 states."
 - 2) "... the IMMEDIATE need is for custodial services ..."
 - 3) "Capability to do very large contracts"
- and many other items that cause a significant interest to the APWU.

Below are some specific questions:

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- 1) Please explain the purpose and scope of this solicitation and any impact upon APWU bargaining units or occupational groups, such as the custodial work force.  
A.) It is not a solicitation. It is a request for information to determine if we can gain an economy of scale for contracts at facilities where custodial work is subcontracted. It is not an expansion of existing management rights to contract. No impact to the bargaining unit is anticipated.
- 2) Is this solicitation for the providing of custodial supplies, the actual performance of custodial work or both?  
A.) This request of information is in regards to custodial work.
- 3) Is this a USPS initiative to obtain a sole source for the contracting out of custodial duties?  
A.) No
- a) Does the USPS intend to use the responses to this solicitation to contract out work currently being performed by custodial employees of the maintenance craft?

**A.) This is not a solicitation. If contracting eventually results it will be consistent with existing MOUs and the CBA.**

**4) Is this a USPS initiative to expand contracting out of custodial work beyond that established under the CBA?**

**A.) No**

**5) Why is there an "IMMEDIATE need for custodial services"?**

**A.) This statement clarifies, for the interested target audience, that the first service being contemplated is custodial service.**

**6) Why are the States of Illinois, California and Texas specifically listed as the INITIAL need?**

**A.) These are states serviced by the PMSCs involved with the evaluation.**

**7) Please clarify and explain the statement "Capability to do very large contracts".**

**a) Is this in relation to total dollar value?**

**A.) Not necessarily**

**b) Is this in relation to size of the facility that will be contracted?**

**A.) No**

**c) Please identify what is a "large contract".**

**A.) Numerous facilities, perhaps over a large geographical area.**

**8) Under the bullet point of "Capability of electronic reports", will any such contractors be interfacing with existing Postal equipment and/or employees (e.g. - eMars and/or Maintenance Support Clerks and/or the FSSP)?**

**A.) Not anticipated**

**9) Under the bullet point of "Programs for reducing costs/improving efficiencies", will any such contractors be commenting on, reviewing, etc. the method(s) of or actual performance of work by maintenance craft custodial personnel?**

**A.) No**

**Steve Raymer**

**Director, Maintenance Division**

**American Postal Workers Union**