

Transmission Must-Run (TMR) Procurement Competition Fairness Advisor Summary Report

Audit Services was engaged by the AESO's Commercial group to act as the Fairness Advisor to review activities associated with the 2022 TMR procurement competition. The role of the Fairness Advisor is to ensure that the procurement is conducted in a fair and transparent manner. Audit Services is an independent function reporting to the AESO's Audit Committee (Board). In conducting our work, we are required to meet the Institute of Internal Auditors code of ethics and standards set out in the International Professional Practices Framework.

Scope of Work

The Fairness Advisor's responsibilities included:

- Assessing whether the AESO conducted the procurement in a transparent manner and encouraged competition.
- Reviewing all procurement documents including the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI), other public REOI documents, the Request for Proposal (RFP), the Evaluation Manual, the TMR Agreement and various revisions.
- Providing ongoing consultation and oversight of the process.
- Reviewing measures to maintain confidentiality, including confidentiality over submissions, commercial in confidence enquires, evaluation materials and relationship disclosures, as well as assessing the overall protection of confidential information.
- Reviewing communications and observing Teams meetings with proponents.
- Witnessing the proposal deadline and cutoff.
- Assessing whether the completeness and evaluation process was conducted in accordance with the RFP and Evaluation Manual.
- Attending any meetings and training sessions and participating in discussions which the Fairness Advisor deems necessary to make a fairness assessment.
- Validating that the award to the successful proponent coincides with evaluation results.
- Assessing adherence to confidentiality requirements when observing proponent(s) debriefs.
- Developing and issuing the Fairness Advisor Report.

Conclusion

The AESO encouraged competition through public notifications and a virtual stakeholder session. The AESO's procurement, completeness and evaluation team members undertook their roles diligently and in accordance with the processes predefined in the TMR RFP and Evaluation Manual, including adhering to the proposal cutoff, completeness, and evaluation requirements. The procurement team responded in a fair and transparent manner to all proponents during the competition. Proponent submissions and proposals and the competition documents were adequately protected and kept confidential. The contract volume coincides with the procurement results and target volume range.

In Audit Services' opinion as Fairness Advisor, the TMR procurement competition was undertaken in a fair and transparent manner as of this June 13, 2022 date.