

Request for Proposals (RFP) for
New Utility Pole Installations
for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)

Proposals Due: February 3, 2026 by 5:00pm MST

Proposal Submissions:

Please fill out the form at <https://forms.office.com/g/xAT3a6FxNx> and select the RFP you are responding to. If you are responding to more than one, you must submit a form for each. You will be emailed a link to a location where you may submit your proposal.

OR

Submit your proposal on a thumb drive using Microsoft Word or Adobe applications to the address noted below.

**Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
c/o Chuck Sanger, Network Support Manager
P.O. Box 278 Pablo, Montana 59855**

**For Questions:
fiber.questions@cskt.org**



Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Communications Service, April 2025

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Request for Proposals

For: Installation of Approximately 400 New Utility Poles to Support Aerial Fiber Deployment

Flathead Indian Reservation, Montana

RFP Release Date: **01/06/2026**

Proposal Submission Deadline: **2/03/2026**

Anticipated Award Date: **2/17/2026**

Introduction & Project Narrative

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) invite qualified electrical contracting firms to submit proposals for the installation of approximately 400 new utility poles across the Flathead Indian Reservation. This work supports CSKT's Broadband Infrastructure Project, enabling aerial fiber deployment to unserved and underserved Tribal communities.

This project is classified as a new installation project. Existing utility poles and associated infrastructure will remain in place and will not be removed, relocated, transferred, or decommissioned under this contract. New poles will be installed to meet structural and joint-use requirements for electrical distribution and communications attachments in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

The Contractor must be certified and pre-approved by Mission Valley Power (MVP), Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC), and Flathead Electric Cooperative (FEC), or be able to obtain approval prior to contract execution.

Project Overview

The project includes:

- Installation of approximately 400 new utility poles ($\pm 10\%$).
- No relocation or removal of existing poles or facilities.
- Joint-use capability for power and communications loading.
- Six construction phases, slightly front-loaded.
- Work occurring within ROWs of MVP, MEC, FEC, and MDT.
- Completion deadline of July 31, 2026.

Scope of Work

The Contractor shall:

- Install new utility poles only; no removal, relocation, abandonment, transfer, or disposal of existing poles, conductors, or attachments is included.
- Furnish and install new wood poles ranging from 30 to 60 feet in height.
- Coordinate pole placement with serving utilities while leaving existing infrastructure in place for future utility disposition.
- Ensure full compliance with NESC, applicable utility standards, and joint-use requirements.
- Provide all labor, materials, equipment, and site restoration.
- Procure all required poles and hardware.
- Coordinate daily with MVP, MEC, and FEC.
- Frame Crossovers, Install Poles of various heights, and complete grounding based on specifications listed.
- Furnish, Install and Engrave/Stamp Pole ID Tags for every new pole that's installed.

Technical & Material Requirements

Preferred Pole Material:

- Western Red Cedar is the preferred pole material.
- Alternative species (Douglas Fir) require prior written utility approval.
- DCOI/Cyazal wood treat should be utilized to treat new poles.

Reference the following specifications for all new pole installations including, but not limited to; framing for crossovers, installation of new poles of various heights, bury depths, and grounding, all of which are dependent upon line size in the affected area:

- RUS 1728F-700, RUS 1728F-803, RUS 1728-804 and RUS 1728-810

Pole Height and Class Requirements:

30 ft – Class 5

40 ft – Class 2

50 ft – Class 2

60 ft – Class 1

Final pole heights, classes, and quantities will be confirmed through coordination with MVP, MEC, and FEC.

Pricing Requirements

Contractors must provide:

- Tiered pricing for quantities of 1-50, 1-100, 1-200, and 1-400 poles.
- Unit pricing by pole height and class.
- Separate line-item pricing for materials and labor.
- Pricing inclusive of all incidental work required for a fully installed, utility-ready pole.

Exclusions & Clarifications

The following items are expressly excluded from the Contractor's scope:

- Removal or disposal of existing poles or foundations
- Transfer of conductors, communications, or third-party attachments
- Environmental remediation beyond standard site restoration
- Work on existing infrastructure not explicitly described as new installation

Utility Coordination Matrix

- MVP / MEC / FEC: Approval of pole material, class, and placement
- Contractor: Daily coordination, scheduling, and compliance with approved standards
- CSKT: Project oversight and contract administration

Project Timeline

Construction Start: March 31, 2026

Construction Completion: July 31, 2026

Deliverables

- Complete pricing schedule
- Construction schedule aligned with six phases
- Safety Plan and Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)
- Weekly progress updates
- Utility approval documentation

Proposal Requirements & Qualifications

- Executive Summary
- Company Profile & Experience
- Key Personnel
- Technical Approach & Methodology
- Work Plan & Schedule
- Traffic Control Plan
- Detailed Cost Proposal
- Certifications
- Bonding and Insurance
- References (minimum three)

Evaluation Criteria

- Technical Approach – 25%
- Experience & Qualifications – 20%
- Project Timeline – 35%
- Cost Competitiveness – 20%

Indian Preference applies under Ordinance 101A.

Schedule of Key Milestones

RFP Issued	01/06/2026
Deadline for Questions	01/15/2026
Final Addendum Issued	01/22/2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	02/03/2026
Interviews / Presentations	02/10/2026
Award Notification	02/17/2026
Contract Execution & Kickoff	03/10/2026
Construction Start	03/31/2026
Substantial Completion	07/31/2026

Contract Considerations

The selected Contractor shall enter into a standard CSKT contract. Work must proceed continuously. CSKT may enforce corrective action or termination for inadequate progress.

Preference to Subcontractors that are currently qualified to work with MVP, MEC and FEC.

Suspension & Debarment

The Contractor must complete the Suspension & Debarment Certification and W9 form included in Attachment B.

Insurance & Bonding Requirements

The Contractor must maintain all required insurance throughout the project, including:

- Commercial General Liability
- Professional Liability
- Workers' Compensation
- Automotive Liability
- Employer's Liability

All insurance certificates must list the following as Additional Insured/Owner:

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
- Mission Valley Power (MVP)
- Missoula Electric Cooperative
- Flathead Electric Cooperative

Bonding is required for all federally funded projects. All bonds must list:

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
- Mission Valley Power (MVP)
- Missoula Electric Cooperative
- Flathead Electric Cooperative

See Attachment C: Bonding Requirements

Submission of Proposals

Proposals may be submitted via:

1. Online form (preferred): <https://forms.office.com/g/xAT3a6FxNx>
OR
2. Thumb drive delivery to:

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
c/o Chuck Sanger, Network Support Manager
P.O. Box 278
Pablo, Montana 59855

Subject: Proposal – Utility Pole Replacement Project

Questions & Clarifications

Submit questions to: Fiber.questions@cskt.org

Attachments

Attachment A – Certification & Signature Form

Attachment B – Debarment and Suspension Certification & W9

Attachment C – Bonding Requirements

Attachment A: Certification and Signature Form

In order for your agency to be considered for a contract award, the following certification statement and signature page must be SIGNED BY THE INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATED WITH YOUR AGENCY WHO IS AUTHORIZED (in your by-laws) TO SIGN YOUR CONTRACT. This certification must be submitted with all application materials on or before the deadline.

Vendor Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I hereby certify that all information completed and submitted as a part of this Request for Proposals (RFP) process is true and correct, and accurately reflects the agency's program. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the requirements and provisions of the RFP and this Proposal and agree to comply with the terms and conditions contained in the RFP and Proposal, if selected to receive a contract award.

Additionally, I certify that I am a representative of the Vendor listed above and as such am legally authorized to sign and submit this information to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) on behalf of said agency. CSKT is hereby authorized to request from any individual, any information it deems necessary to verify any information provided in this Proposal and to determine the capabilities and responsibility of the Vendor as a prospective contractor with the Tribes.

I understand that any misrepresentation of information or failure to disclose information requested as a part of this application process may be grounds for recapture of grant funds awarded or received by the agency based on fraud or omission.

Vendor Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (typed to match signature)

Title: _____

Date: _____

Attachment B: Debarment and Suspension Certification & W-9 Form

TITLE 49, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 29 DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION

1. All persons or firms, including sub-consultants, must complete this certification and certify, under penalty of perjury, that, except as noted below, he/she or any person associated therewith in the capacity of owner, partner, director, officer, or manager:
 - a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency;
 - b. Have not, within the three (3) year period preceding this certification, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes, or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with Commission of any of the offenses listed in subparagraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
 - d. Have not, within the three (3) year period preceding this certification, had one or more public transactions (Federal, state, and local) terminated for cause or default.
2. If such persons or firms later become aware of any information contradicting the statements of paragraph (1), they will promptly provide that information to CSKT.

If there are any exceptions to this certification, note the exceptions in the following space and attach a detailed explanation to this document.

Exceptions will not necessarily result in denial of award, but will be considered in determining bidder responsibility. For any exception noted above, indicate below to whom it applies, initiating agency, and dates of actions.

NOTE HERE

Name of Firm

Signature (original signature required)

Date



W-9

Form W-9
(Rev. March 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

Before you begin. For guidance related to the purpose of Form W-9, see *Purpose of Form*, below.

Print or type.
See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name of entity/individual. An entry is required. (For a sole proprietor or disregarded entity, enter the owner's name on line 1, and enter the business/disregarded entity's name on line 2.)	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above.	
3a Check the appropriate box for federal tax classification of the entity/individual whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> C corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LLC. Enter the tax classification (C = C corporation, S = S corporation, P = Partnership)</p> <p>Note: Check the "LLC" box above and, in the entry space, enter the appropriate code (C, S, or P) for the tax classification of the LLC, unless it is a disregarded entity. A disregarded entity should instead check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions)</p>		4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): <p>Exempt payee code (if any) _____</p> <p>Exemption from Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) reporting code (if any) _____</p> <p><i>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the United States.)</i></p>
5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.). See instructions.	Requester's name and address (optional)	
6 City, state, and ZIP code		
7 List account number(s) here (optional)		

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. See also *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number					
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
or					
Employer identification number					
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and, generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person	Date
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

What's New

Line 3a has been modified to clarify how a disregarded entity completes this line. An LLC that is a disregarded entity should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. Otherwise, it should check the "LLC" box and enter its appropriate tax classification.

New line 3b has been added to this form. A flow-through entity is required to complete this line to indicate that it has direct or indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries when it provides the Form W-9 to another flow-through entity in which it has an ownership interest. This change is intended to provide a flow-through entity with information regarding the status of its indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries, so that it can satisfy any applicable reporting requirements. For example, a partnership that has any indirect foreign partners may be required to complete Schedules K-2 and K-3. See the Partnership Instructions for Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Form 1065).

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS is giving you this form because they

Attachment C: Bonding Requirements

③ § 200.326 Bonding requirements.

The Federal agency or pass-through entity may accept the recipient's or subrecipient's bonding policy and requirements for construction or facility improvement contracts or subcontracts exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold. Before doing so, the Federal agency or pass-through entity must determine that the Federal interest is adequately protected. If such a determination has not been made, the minimum requirements must be as follows:

- (a) A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The bid guarantee must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute any required contractual documents within the specified timeframe.
- (b) A performance bond on the contractor's part for 100 percent of the contract price. A performance bond is a bond executed in connection with a contract to secure the fulfillment of all the contractor's requirements under a contract.
- (c) A payment bond on the contractor's part for 100 percent of the contract price. A payment bond is a bond executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by the law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for under a contract.

Attachment D. Unit Rate Pricing Table

Unit Rate Pricing Table – By Pole Height & Class							
Pole Height	Pole Class	Cost Component	Single Pole	1-50 Poles	1-100 Poles	1-200 Poles	1-400 Poles
30'	Class 5	Pole Supply					
30'	Class 5	Labor (Install)					
30'	Class 5	Materials & Components					
30'	Class 5	Total Unit Rate					
40'	Class 2	Pole Supply					
40'	Class 2	Labor (Install)					
40'	Class 2	Materials & Components					
40'	Class 2	Crossover Installation (Per Pole)					
40'	Class 2	Total Unit Rate					
50'	Class 2	Pole Supply					
50'	Class 2	Labor (Install)					
50'	Class 2	Materials & Components					
50'	Class 2	Crossover Installation (Per Pole)					
50'	Class 2	Total Unit Rate					
60'	Class 1	Pole Supply					
60'	Class 1	Labor (Install)					
60'	Class 1	Materials & Components					
60'	Class 1	Crossover Installation (Per Pole)					
60'	Class 1	Total Unit Rate					

Adders (To Be Priced Separately)

Item	Unit Rate	
Rock excavation	\$ / pole	
Traffic control (flagging)	\$ / day	
Environmental mitigation	\$ / pole	
Engineering or staking revisions	\$ / hour	
Emergency / after-hours work	\$ / hour	