



Response to Inquiries

RFQ No. 2027-2030-2

Contractor Services

Date: August 31, 2026

1. ADA / WCAG 2.1 Level AA Compliance: Please clarify the standard SEMSWA will use to determine whether a submitted SOQ PDF meets the requirement to be ADA-compliant and adhere to WCAG 2.1 Level AA. Will SEMSWA require a specific accessibility validation method or report, such as Adobe Acrobat's Accessibility Checker, or is an appropriately tagged and remediated accessible PDF sufficient?

SEMSWA requires that all SOQ submissions be provided as ADA-compliant PDF documents that conform to WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards as a formatting requirement. Compliance is not a scored evaluation criterion and will not be separately evaluated. Firms may include a brief statement describing how accessibility compliance was achieved if they believe it would be helpful.

2. Artificial Intelligence Use: The RFQ states that the Contract includes requirements for Contractors to disclose the use of AI for proposals and work deliverables, while Section 17 of the Contract prohibits AI use under the Agreement without SEMSWA's prior written consent. Please clarify the requirements applicable to AI-assisted preparation of an SOQ submitted in response to this RFQ. Is disclosure of AI use sufficient for SOQ preparation, or is prior written consent required? If disclosure is required, please specify the required form and content of the disclosure.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in preparation of the SOQ submittals to SEMSWA is not prohibited on the condition that no information that is not already in the public domain about SEMSWA is used to prepare the submittals. Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used for work deliverables only upon SEMSWA's written approval. SEMSWA prohibits utilizing SEMSWA information when utilizing AI tools unless prior written approval is obtained. The intent of the prohibition is to

prevent information (not already in the public domain) regarding SEMSWA's financial information and operations from residing on the web.