

CHAPTER 187

AN ACT concerning certain price adjustments in local public contracts and amending P.L.1971, c.198.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 16 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-16) is amended to read as follows:

C.40A:11-16 Separate plans, specifications for work on public building; contracts.

16. a. In the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction, alteration or repair of any public building by any contracting unit, when the entire cost of the work will exceed the bid threshold, the architect, engineer or other person preparing the plans and specifications may prepare separate plans and specifications for

- (1) The plumbing and gas fitting and all kindred work;
- (2) Steam power plants, steam and hot water heating and ventilating apparatus and all kindred work;
- (3) Electrical work;
- (4) Structural steel and ornamental iron work; and
- (5) All other work required for the completion of the project.

The contracting agent shall advertise for and receive, in the manner provided by law, either (a) separate bids for each of said branches of work, or (b) bids for all the work, goods and services required to complete the building to be included in a single overall contract, or (c) both. In the case of a single bid under (b) or (c), there shall be set forth in the bid the name or names of all subcontractors to whom the bidder will subcontract the furnishing of plumbing and gas fitting, and all kindred work, and of the steam and hot water heating and ventilating apparatus, steam power plants and kindred work, and electrical work, structural steel and ornamental iron work, each of which subcontractors shall be qualified in accordance with P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.). The contracting unit shall require evidence of performance security to be submitted simultaneously with the list of the subcontractors. Evidence of performance security may be supplied by the bidder on behalf of himself and any or all subcontractors, or by each respective subcontractor, or by any combination thereof which results in evidence of performance security equaling, but in no event exceeding, the total amount bid.

b. Whenever a bid sets forth more than one subcontractor for any of the specialty trade categories (1) through (4) specified in subsection a. of this section, the bidder shall submit to the contracting unit a certificate signed by the bidder listing each subcontractor named in the bid for that category. The certificate shall set forth the scope of work, goods and services for which the subcontractor has submitted a price quote and which the bidder has agreed to award to each subcontractor should the bidder be awarded the contract. The certificate shall be submitted to the contracting unit simultaneously with the list of the subcontractors. The certificate may take the form of a single certificate listing all subcontractors or, alternatively, a separate certificate may be submitted for each subcontractor. If a bidder does not submit a certificate or certificates to the contracting unit, the contracting unit shall award the contract to the next lowest responsible bidder.

c. Contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. In the event that a contract is advertised for both separate bids for each branch of work and for bids for all work, goods, and services, said contract shall be awarded in the following manner: If the sum total of the amounts bid by the lowest responsible bidder for each branch is less than the amount bid by the lowest responsible bidder for all the work, goods and services, the

contracting unit shall award separate contracts for each of such branches to the lowest responsible bidder therefor, but if the sum total of the amounts bid by the lowest responsible bidder for each branch is not less than the amount bid by the lowest responsible bidder for all the work, goods and services, the contracting unit shall award a single overall contract to the lowest responsible bidder for all of such work, goods and services. In every case in which a contract is awarded for a single overall contract, all payments required to be made under such contract for work, goods and services supplied by a subcontractor shall, upon the certification of the contractor of the amount due to the subcontractor, be paid directly to the subcontractor.

d. Any bid specification prepared pursuant to this section that includes the use of 1,000 or more tons of hot mix asphalt, shall include a pay item for any asphalt price adjustment reflecting changes in the cost of asphalt cement. Any bid specification prepared pursuant to this section that includes the use of less than 1,000 tons of hot mix asphalt, shall include a pay item for an asphalt price adjustment for any quantity of hot mix asphalt exceeding 1,000 tons that may be used in the work in the event that performance of the work, including change orders, requires more than 1,000 tons of hot mix asphalt.

The asphalt price adjustment shall be calculated in accordance with the formula and relevant instructions published in the most recent edition of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction as revised by the "Standard Inputs" periodically issued by the department. All invoices for payment shall be accompanied by the calculation of any asphalt price adjustment and a showing of the current month's Asphalt Price Index, the Basic Asphalt Price Index.

e. (1) Every bid specification prepared pursuant to this section may be eligible for a fuel price adjustment. Fuel that is eligible for a fuel price adjustment shall be the sum of the quantities of the eligible pay items in the contract times the fuel usage factors as determined by the Department of Transportation. The types of fuel furnished shall be at the option of the contractor.

(2) The fuel requirement for items not determined by the Department of Transportation to be eligible, and for pay items in the bid specifications calling for less than 500 gallons of fuel, shall not be eligible for a fuel price adjustment. If more than one pay item has the same nomenclature but with different thicknesses, depths, or types, each individual pay item must require 500 gallons or more of fuel to be eligible for a fuel price adjustment. If more than one pay item has the exact same nomenclature, similar pay items shall be combined and this combination must require 500 gallons or more of fuel to be eligible for the fuel price adjustment.

(3) Fuel price adjustments shall not be made in those months for which the monthly fuel price index has changed by less than five percent from the basic fuel price.

f. As used in subsections d. and e. of this section:

"Asphalt Price Index" means the Asphalt Price Index as determined and published by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Basic Asphalt Price Index" means the Basic Asphalt Price Index as published by the New Jersey Department of Transportation in its "Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction," as revised by the "Standard Inputs" periodically issued by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Fuel Price Index" means the Fuel Price Index as determined and published by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

"Pay Item" means a specifically described item of work for which the bidder provides a per unit or lump sum price in a bid specification as determined and published by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment.

Approved January 12, 2010.