Areawide Public Utilities Contract

CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.
Houston, Texas

Natural Gas and Energy Management Services

Contract No. GS-00P-13-BSD-0947
From: May 23, 2013
To: May 22, 2023
Areawide Public Utility Contract
for
Natural Gas
and
Regulated Energy Management Services
between the
United States of America
and
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.
Contract No. GS-00P-13-BSD-0947

CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.
1111 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002
Duns No. 006948210

Service Areas in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas
Negotiated Areawide Contract
No. GS-00P-13-BSD-0947
between the
United States of America
and
CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

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Authorization for Natural Gas Service.................................................................Exhibit A
Authorization for Energy Management Service.......................................................Exhibit B
Authorization for Services Provided under the Appropriate Regulatory Authority.......Exhibit C
NEGOTIATED AREAWIDE CONTRACT
No. GS-00P-13-BSD-0947

BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

THIS AREAWIDE CONTRACT FOR NATURAL GAS, AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE APPROPRIATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY is executed to be effective the 23rd day of May, 2013, between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through the Administrator of General Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Government"), pursuant to the authority contained in 40 U.S.C. 501(b)(1), and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, and having its principal office and place of business at 1111 Louisiana Street, Suite 4600, Houston, Texas 77002 (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"): 

WHEREAS, the Contractor is a regulated natural gas public utility company;

WHEREAS, the Contractor now has on file with the Texas Railroad Commission, the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the Mississippi Public Service Commission, the Oklahoma Public Service Commission and/or other such regulatory bodies as may have jurisdiction over the Contractor (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Commission") all of its effective tariff, rate schedules, riders, rules and regulatory terms and conditions of service, as applicable;

WHEREAS, with some exceptions, the Government is generally required by Chapter 1 of Title 48 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), 48 CFR 41.204, to enter into a bilateral contract for natural gas and/or energy management services at each Federal facility where the value of the utility service provided is expected to exceed $150,000 per year;

WHEREAS, where the Government has an Areawide Contract in effect with a particular utility then such utility service is normally to be procured thereunder;

WHEREAS, the Contractor and the Government mutually desire that this Areawide Contract be used by the agencies of the Government in obtaining natural gas, and energy management services and/or services provided under the Appropriate Regulatory Authority from the Contractor and to facilitate partnering arrangements as encouraged and authorized by 10 U.S.C. 2911-2918 and 42 U.S.C. 8256;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1. As used in this contract,

(a) the term "Areawide Contract" means this master contract entered into between the Government and Contractor to cover the acquisition of utility service by all Federal agencies with facilities in the service territory from Contractor for a period not to exceed ten (10) years;

(b) the term "Agency" means any Federal department, agency, or independent establishment in the executive branch of the Government, any establishment in the legislative or judicial branch of the Federal Government, or any wholly or mixed ownership Government corporation, as defined in the Government Corporation Control Act, a list of which Agencies may be found by searching the document entitled ADM 4800.2G, dated February 16, 2011, on the General Services Administration website;

(c) the term "Ordering Agency" means any Agency that is authorized to and obtains Utility Services under this Areawide Contract;

(d) the term "Authorization" means an order form used to acquire services under this Areawide contract (see Exhibit "A" AUTHORIZATION FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE, Exhibit "B" AUTHORIZATION FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICE, and/or Exhibit "C" AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE APPROPRIATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY) annexed hereto.

WHEREAS,

the term "Service" means any natural gas, and/or energy management services generally available from the Contractor pursuant to Contractor's Tariff or the Contractor's Terms and Conditions, whichever is applicable;

(g) the term "Natural Gas Service" means natural gas commodities (where applicable), transportation, distribution, and/or related services;

(h) the term "Energy Conservation Measure" means any specific energy related or water project intended to provide energy savings and/or demand reduction in Federal facilities (Reference Article 18 herein);

(i) the term "Energy Management Service (EMS)" means any project that reduces and/or manages energy demand in a facility as well as those services that determine whether such reductions are feasible (such as energy audits and any ancillary services necessary to ensure the proper operation of the energy conservation measure. Such measures include, but are not limited to, operating, maintenance and commissioning services. (Energy Conservation Measure and Demand Side Management Measure are considered equivalent terms, and may result from Energy Management Services.)
To be considered an EMS measure, the measure must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. the EMS measure must produce measurable energy reductions or measurable amounts of controlled energy and/or water use;
2. the EMS measure must be directly related to the use of energy or directly control the use of energy or water;
3. the preponderance of work covered by the EMS measure (measured in dollars) must be for Items 1 and 2 above; and
4. the EMS measure must be an improvement to real property.

(j) the term "Contractor's Tariff" means the CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. Utility Service Tariffs, and includes rate schedules, covenants, riders, rules, regulations, and regulated terms and conditions of service as may be modified, amended or supplemented by the Contractor from time to time and approved by the Commission;

(k) the term "Contractor's Terms and Conditions" for this Agreement, means the generic terms, conditions, policies, procedures, payment terms established by the Contractor for those services that are provided pursuant to this Contract, and as such, may be modified, amended, or supplemented by the Contractor from time to time, that are under the Commission's jurisdiction, but are not required to be approved by the Commission before they take effect.

(l) the term "Connection Charge" means a Contractor's charge for facilities on the Contractor's side of the delivery point which facilities (1) are required to make connections with the nearest point of supply and (2) are installed, owned, maintained, and operated by the Contractor in accordance with the Contractor's Tariff and the Commission's rules and regulations;

(m) the term "Class of Service" or "Service Classification" means those categories of service established by the Contractor's Tariff as filed with the Commission; and

(n) the term "Utility Service" means any Natural Gas Service, Energy Conservation Measure, Energy Management Services and/or Services provided under the Appropriate Regulatory Authority that are generally available from the Contractor pursuant to Contractor's Tariff or the Contractor's Terms and Conditions, whichever is applicable.

(o) the term "Service Territory" means the service territories of Contractor for the provision of Utility Service in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas and such other jurisdictions in which Contractor provides Utility Service under the Appropriate Regulatory Authority.

1.2. This Article is hereby expanded to include the additional definitions contained in FAR Clause 52.202-1, Definitions (JULY 2004), 48 C.F.R. 52.202-1, which are incorporated herein by reference.

ARTICLE 2. SCOPE AND DURATION OF CONTRACT.

2.1. This Areawide Contract shall be in effect on and after the date of execution and shall continue for a period of ten (10) years, except that the Government, pursuant to the clause contained in FAR 52.249-4 (48 C.F.R. 52.249-4), incorporated into this Areawide Contract under Article 14.1-69, or the Contractor, upon 60 days written notice to the Government, and without liability to the Government or any Ordering Agency, may terminate this Areawide Contract, in whole or in part, when it is in their respective interest to do so. Neither the stated duration of this Areawide Contract nor any other termination of it, in whole or in part, shall be construed to affect any obligation for any payment, charge, rate, or other matter that may be imposed pursuant to the Contractor's tariff, Contractor's Terms and Conditions or in any Authorization entered into pursuant to this Areawide Contract.

2.2. Authorizations may be executed under this Areawide Contract at any time during the term of this contract, up to and including the last effective date. The term of the Authorization shall be for a term of up to ten (10) years that is independent of the term of this Areawide Contract provided this contract is superseded by a follow-on contract with the Contractor.

2.3. The provisions of this Areawide Contract shall not apply to the Contractor's service to any Agency until both the Ordering Agency and the Contractor execute a written Authorization for Natural Gas and/or Energy Management services. After both the Government and Contractor have signed the Authorization, the Contractor will furnish to the Ordering Agency, and the Ordering Agency will purchase from the Contractor, the specific Utility Services described in the Authorization for the installation(s) or facility(ies) that are named in the Authorization.

2.4. Nothing in this Areawide Contract shall be construed as precluding the Ordering Agency and the Contractor from entering into an Authorization for negotiated rates or service of a special nature, provided such negotiated rates or service are in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission, if applicable.

2.5. This Areawide Contract may be used by an Ordering Agency to obtain utility services that are offered by Contractor in the Service Territory as further described in 40 U.S.C. Section 591, to the extent it is applicable, (quoted here in relevant part): "A department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government may not use amounts appropriated or made available by any law to purchase electricity in a manner inconsistent with State law governing the provision of natural gas utility service...". To facilitate an Ordering Agency obtaining services under Contractor's standard agreements for utility service, an Exhibit "C" has been included in this Areawide Contract. This Exhibit "C" is designed so it also can be used by an Ordering Agency when a change requested by the Ordering Agency to Contractor's standard terms and conditions for utility service has been approved by the appropriate regulatory authority.

ARTICLE 3. EXISTING CONTRACTS.

3.1. The parties agree that an Agency currently acquiring service from the Contractor under a separate written contract may continue to do so until that contract expires or until such time as the Agency and the Contractor mutually agree to terminate that separate written contract and have such service provided pursuant to this Areawide Contract by executing an appropriate Authorization or Authorizations.

3.2. Existing special rates and services of a special nature currently provided under a separate written contract may be continued under the Authorizations described in Article 3.1 if requested by the Ordering Agency and agreed upon by the Contractor.
ARTICLE 4. AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURE AND SERVICE DISCONNECTION.

4.1. To obtain or change service under this Areawide Contract, the Ordering Agency shall complete the appropriate Authorization and forward it to the Contractor. Upon the request of the Ordering Agency, the Contractor shall endeavor to provide reasonable assistance to the Ordering Agency in selecting the service classification which may be most favorable to the Ordering Agency. Upon execution of an Authorization by both the Contractor and the Ordering Agency, the date of initiation or change in service shall be effective as of the date specified in the Authorization. In the event a date is not specified in the Authorization as the effective date, the date in which the Authorization was signed by the Ordering Agency shall be the effective date of the Authorization. An executed copy of the Authorization shall be transmitted by the Ordering Agency to GSA at the address provided in Article 16.1.

4.2. During the term of this Areawide Contract, effective Authorizations need not be amended, modified, or changed by an Ordering Agency to reflect changes in: accounting and appropriation data, the Contractor's Tariff requirements, the Contractor's cost of purchased fuel, or the estimated annual cost of service. Such changes are considered internal to the party involved. Where changes are required in effective Authorizations because of a change in the service requirements of an Ordering Agency, an amended Authorization shall be mutually agreed upon and executed.

4.3. An Ordering Agency or the Contractor may discontinue service provided pursuant to this Areawide Contract to a particular Federal facility or installation by delivering a written Termination Authorization to the other. Such discontinuance of service by an Ordering Agency or the Contractor shall be in accordance with the terms of this Areawide Contract and the Contractor's Tariff, Contractor's Terms and Conditions, as or otherwise provided under a particular Authorization.

4.4. Prior to entering into an Authorization for goods and/or services, other than utility service, generally available from other sources on a competitive basis, the Contracting Officer shall obtain a justification for utilizing other than full and open competition in accordance with the policies and procedures prescribed by Subpart 6.3 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 C.F.R 6.301).

4.5. In the event the Areawide Contract is not renewed at the expiration of the contract term, and active Exhibit "B" Authorization for energy management service shall be cancelled unless it is modified to incorporate the general terms and conditions of the current contract and the term extended to the required contract term specified in the Authorization.

4.6. The Contracting Officer of the Authorization shall review the clauses in Article 14 and include the relevant clauses in the Exhibit "A" AUTHORIZATION FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE, Exhibit "B" AUTHORIZATION FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICE and/or Exhibit "C" AUTHORIZATION OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE APPROPRIATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

ARTICLE 5. RATES, CHARGES, AND PUBLIC REGULATION.

5.1. A complete listing of all the Contractor's Tariffs are available to the Government and any Ordering Agency electronically at the Contractor's website accessible via the tariff link on the website entitled www.centerpointenergy.com/.

5.2. Subject to the provisions of Article 2.3, all utility and/or energy management service purchases under this Areawide Contract, as well as any other actions taken under this Areawide Contract, shall be in accordance with, and subject to, the Contractor's Tariff, except to the extent that same are preempted by Federal law. Throughout the term of the Contract, the Government shall have full access to the Contractor's currently effective Tariffs. In the event the Contractor's Tariff becomes inaccessible via the internet or the Ordering Agency does not have access to the internet, the Contractor agrees to provide newly effective or amended Tariff in accordance with the Contractor's Tariff distribution practices, policies and procedures applicable to all customers.

5.3. If, during the term of this Areawide Contract, the Commission approves a change in rates for utility service obtained under an Authorization in effect hereunder, the Contractor agrees to continue to furnish, and the Ordering Agency agrees to continue to pay for, those Utility Services at the newly approved rates from and after the date such a rate change is made effective. As provided in Article 4.2, modification of any Authorization hereunder is not necessary to implement higher or lower rates.

5.4. The Contractor hereby represents and warrants to the Government that the Utility Service rates available to any Ordering Agency hereunder shall at all times not exceed those available to any other customer served under the same service classification for the same or comparable service, under like conditions of use. Nothing herein shall require the Contractor to apply a utility service rate that is inapplicable to the Ordering Agency.

5.5. Reasonable written notice via an Authorization shall be given by the Ordering Agency to the Contractor, at the address provided in Article 16.2, of any material changes proposed in the volume or characteristic of utility services required by the Ordering Agency.

5.6. To the extent required by the Contractor's Tariff or the Contractor's Terms and Conditions, and in accordance therewith, any necessary extension, alteration, relocation, or reinforcement of the Contractor's transmission and/or distribution lines, related special facilities, service arrangements, Energy Management Services (including any rebates to which the Ordering Agency may be entitled), energy audit services, or other Utility Services required or requested by an Ordering Agency shall be provided and, as applicable, billed for, by the Contractor.

5.7. To the extent available from the Contractor, the Contractor shall provide and, as applicable, bill for technical assistance on or concerning an Ordering Agency's equipment (such as the inspection or repair of such equipment) as may be requested by such Ordering Agency. The charges for such technical assistance shall be calculated at the time the technical assistance is rendered in accordance with the Contractor's applicable billing schedule in effect at the time the technical assistance is rendered (except as otherwise mutually agreed upon by the Contractor and Ordering Agency in writing), and the assistance shall comply with Contractor's Tariff, if applicable.

5.8. The Authorization used to obtain and provide the matters, Utility Services, or technical assistance described in Articles 5. And above shall contain information descriptive of the matters, services, or technical assistance required or requested, including the amount of (or method to determine) any payment to be made by the Ordering Agency to the Contractor for the provision of said matters, services, or technical assistance.

5.9. Any charges for matters or services referenced in Article 5.6 hereof which are not established by the Contractor's Tariff shall be subject to audit by the Ordering Agency. Payment for the matters and services referenced in Article 5.6 shall not be unreasonably withheld or denied. The Contractor further warrants and represents to the Government that charges for the matters or services referenced in Article 5.6. will not exceed the charges billed to other customers of the Contractor served under the same service classification for like matters or services provided under similar circumstances.
ARTICLE 6. BILLS AND BILLING DATA.

6.1. The Utility Services supplied hereunder shall be billed to the Ordering Agency at the address specified in each Authorization. Bills shall be submitted in original only, unless otherwise specified in the Authorization. All bills shall contain such data as is required by the Commission to substantiate the billing, and such other reasonable and available data as may be requested by the Ordering Agency, provided that such other data are contained in bills provided to other customers of the Contractor served under the same service classification as the Ordering Agency.

ARTICLE 7. PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES.

7.1. With the exception of the payments described in Article 7.3 herein, payments hereunder shall not be paid in advance of services rendered. The Ordering Agency shall effect payment of all bills for Utility Services rendered under this Areawide Contract in accordance with the terms of the Contractor's currently effective payment provisions of the Contractor's Tariff. Changes in the Contractor's Tariff provisions for the payment of bills shall supersede the provisions of this paragraph. The Ordering Agency will make invoice payments for services not subject to the direct oversight or approval of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the FAR Subpart 52.232-25 (Article 14.1-43). The interest rate for late payments made pursuant to this clause shall be computed in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget prompt payment regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1315.

7.2. All payments hereunder shall not normally be made in advance of services rendered in accordance with FAR Subpart 32.4 unless required by the Contractor's Tariff. The applicability of this provision is limited to connection charge and line extension payments specifically cited and provided for in the Contractor's Tariff. Each payment made by Treasury check to the Contractor shall include the Contractor's billing stub(s), or a Government or Ordering Agency payment document that clearly and correctly lists all of the Contractor's account numbers to which the payment applies and the dollar amount applicable to each account. If payment is by Electronic Funds Transfer either through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) or the Federal Reserve Wire Transfer System, the provisions of FAR Subpart 52.232-37 shall apply (See Article 14) and the Ordering Agency must specify the method of payment and the designated payment office on the Authorization form.

ARTICLE 8. CONTRACTOR-OWNED METERS.

8.1. Metering equipment of standard manufacture suitable to measure all Utility Services supplied by the Contractor hereunder shall be furnished, installed, calibrated and maintained by the Contractor at its expense. In the event any meter fails to register or registers incorrectly, as determined by the regulations of the Commission, billing adjustments shall be made in accordance with such regulations.

8.2. The Contractor, so far as reasonable, shall read all meters monthly in accordance with the Contractor's Tariff and the Commission's regulations.

8.3. Meters shall be inspected upon installation at no direct charge to the Ordering Agency. Subsequent inspection, periodic testing, repair, and replacement of meters shall be done in such place and manner as provided by the Commission's regulations. Upon notice that a meter is failing to register correctly, the Contractor shall take immediate steps to effect replacement or repair. Ordering Agencies shall have the right to request a meter test in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Commission's regulations. The tests and applicable meter accuracy standards are those set forth in the Commission's regulations. The expense of meter tests shall be borne by the party designated as responsible therefor in the Commission's regulations.

8.4. For the purposes of this Article, references to meters shall apply only to Contractor-owned metering devices installed and maintained by the Contractor in accordance with Commission guidelines for regulated Utility Service(s). References to meters under this Article shall not apply to meters that are to be installed by the Contractor at the request of an Ordering Agency, to be owned by the Government as a part of an Authorization for Energy Management Service or other service.

ARTICLE 9. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES.

9.1. Subject to the provisions of Article 5.6 hereof, the responsibility for owning, furnishing, installing, and maintaining all equipment and facilities (other than meters) required to supply service at the delivery point(s) specified in an Authorization shall be determined in accordance with the Contractor's regulated Tariff. The Ordering Agency shall provide, free of charge to the Contractor, mutually agreeable locations on its premises for the installation of meters and such other equipment furnished and owned by the Contractor and necessary to supply service hereunder. The Contractor shall, at all times during the life of this Areawide Contract, operate and maintain at its expense such equipment or facilities as for which it has responsibility in accordance with this Article 9.1, and shall assume all taxes and other charges in connection therewith. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in FAR 52.241-5 (Contractor's Facilities (FEB 1995)), to the extent required by the Contractor's Tariffs and the Commission's rules and regulations, and in accordance thereof, such equipment and facilities for which the Contractor has responsibility in accordance with this Article 9.1 may be removed or abandoned in place. In both cases, the Agency's premises shall be restored by the Contractor at its expense within a reasonable time after discontinuance of service to the Ordering Agency.

9.2. All necessary rights-of-way, easements and such other rights necessary to permit the Contractor to perform under this contract shall be obtained and the expense for same borne in accordance with the Contractor's Tariff and the Commission's rules and regulations.

ARTICLE 10. LIABILITY.

10.1. If the Government and/or an Ordering Agency has limited or restricted the Contractor's right of access under Article 11 and thereby interfered with the Contractor's ability to supply service or to correct dangerous situations which are a threat to public safety, Contractor shall be excused from any contractual or service obligations that are impacted by the Government's limitation or restriction on access and the Government shall be responsible for any liability resulting from such restricted or limited access to the extent permitted by law and authorized by appropriations. This Article 10.1 shall not be construed to limit the Government's liability under applicable law.
ARTICLE 11. ACCESS TO PREMISES.

11.1. The Contractor shall have access to the premises served at all reasonable times during the term of this Areawide Contract and at its expiration or termination for the purpose of reading meters, making installations, repairs, or removals of the Contractor's equipment, or for any other proper purposes hereunder; provided, however, that proper military or other governmental authority may limit or restrict such right of access in any manner considered by such authority to be necessary or advisable.

ARTICLE 12. PARTIES OF INTEREST.

12.1. This Areawide Contract shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the successors, legal representatives, and assignees of the respective parties hereto.

12.2. When the Contractor becomes aware that a change in ownership of the Contractor ("change in ownership" for purposes of this Areawide Contract being defined as a sale of more than fifty percent of the outstanding voting stock of the Contractor) or a change in the name of the Contractor has occurred, the Contractor shall notify the Government at the address provided in Article 16.1 within thirty (30) days after the effective date of any such ownership or name change.

ARTICLE 13. REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS.

13.1. This Areawide Contract incorporates by reference the representations and certifications made by the Contractor, which shall be filed annually electronically at www.sam.gov.

13.2. The offeror represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate and execute on its behalf with the U.S. Government in connection with this contract: (List names, titles, and telephone numbers of the authorized negotiators):

1. Richard A. Zapalac; Division Sr. Vice President, Regional Gas Operations & Engineering; (713) 207-2700
2. Deborah C. Korenek; Division Vice President, Marketing & Sales; (713) 207-3400
3. Philip W. Reeves; Director, Transportation Services; (713) 207-5655

ARTICLE 14. SUPPLEMENTAL CLAUSES.


This contract incorporates one or more provisions and contract clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions and clauses may include blocks that must be completed by the contractor and/or submitted with its documentation. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions and clauses, the contractor may identify the provision and/or clause by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its documentation. Also, the full text of the provisions and clauses may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es): http://www.acquisition.gov, http://www.acqnet.gov.
14.2. Repeal of Clauses During Term of Contract.

If, during the term of this Areawide Contract, any of the clauses contained in this Article are repealed, revoked, or dissolved by the Government, then such clauses shall no longer be part of this contract as of the date of such repeal, revocation, or dissolution. The elimination of these clauses by reason of such repeal, revocation, or dissolution shall not affect the continuing validity and effectiveness of the remainder of the Areawide Contract or other clauses referenced in this Article.

14.3. Clauses Incorporated in Full Text.

1. 52.216-1 Type of Contract (APR 1984)

As prescribed in 16.105, complete and insert the following provision:

TYPE OF CONTRACT (APR 1984)

The Government contemplates award of a fixed price/requirements contract resulting from this solicitation.

(End of provision)

2. 52.222-40 Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act.

As prescribed in 22.1605, insert the following clause:

NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE RIGHTS UNDER THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT (DEC 2010)

(a) During the term of this contract, the Contractor shall post an employee notice, of such size and in such form, and containing such content as prescribed by the Secretary of Labor, in conspicuous places in and about its plants and offices where employees covered by the National Labor Relations Act engage in activities relating to the performance of the contract, including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted both physically and electronically, in the languages employees speak, in accordance with 29 CFR 471.2 (d) and (f).

(1) Physical posting of the employee notice shall be in conspicuous places in and about the Contractor's plants and offices so that the notice is prominent and readily seen by employees who are covered by the National Labor Relations Act and engage in activities related to the performance of the contract.

(2) If the Contractor customarily posts notices to employees electronically, then the Contractor shall also post the required notice electronically by displaying prominently, on any website that is maintained by the Contractor and is customarily used for notices to employees about terms and conditions of employment, a link to the Department of Labor's website that contains the full text of the poster. The link to the Department's website, as referenced in (b)(3) of this section, must read, "Important Notice about Employee Rights to Organize and Bargain Collectively with Their Employers."

(b) This required employee notice, printed by the Department of Labor, may be—

(1) Obtained from the Division of Interpretations and Standards, Office of Labor-Management Standards, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5609, Washington, DC 20210, Phone: (202) 693-0123, or from any field office of the Office of Labor-Management Standards or Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs;

(2) Provided by the Federal contracting agency if requested;

(3) Downloaded from the Office of Labor-Management Standards Web site at www.dol.gov/olms/regs/compliance/EO13496.htm; or

(4) Reproduced and used as exact duplicate copies of the Department of Labor's official poster.

(c) The required text of the employee notice referred to in this clause is located at Appendix A, Subpart A, 29 CFR Part 471.
(d) The Contractor shall comply with all provisions of the employee notice and related rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(e) In the event that the Contractor does not comply with the requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this clause, this contract may be terminated or suspended in whole or in part, and the Contractor may be suspended or debarred in accordance with 29 CFR 471.14 and subpart 9.4. Such other sanctions or remedies may be imposed as are provided by 29 CFR part 471, which implements Executive Order 13496 or as otherwise provided by law.

(f) Subcontracts.
   
   (1) The Contractor shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (f), in every subcontract that exceeds $10,000 and will be performed wholly or partially in the United States, unless exempted by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 3 of Executive Order 13496 of January 30, 2009, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor.

   (2) The Contractor shall not procure supplies or services in a way designed to avoid the applicability of Executive Order 13496 or this clause.

   (3) The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions, including the imposition of sanctions for noncompliance.

   (4) However, if the Contractor becomes involved in litigation with a subcontractor, or is threatened with such involvement, as a result of such direction, the Contractor may request the United States, through the Secretary of Labor, to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

(End of clause)

3. 52.241-7 Change in Rates or Terms and Conditions of Service for Regulated Services (FEB 1995)

As prescribed in 41.501(d)(1), insert a clause substantially the same as the following:

CHANGE IN RATES OR TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR REGULATED SERVICES (FEB 1995)

(a) This clause applies to the extent services furnished under this contract are subject to regulation by a regulatory body. The Contractor agrees to give 30 days written notice of (1) the filing of an application for change in rates or terms and conditions of service concurrently with the filing of the application and (2) any changes pending with the regulatory body as of the date of contract award. Such notice shall fully describe the proposed change. If, during the term of this contract, the regulatory body having jurisdiction approves any changes, the Contractor shall forward to the Contracting Officer a copy of such changes within 15 days after the effective date thereof. The Contractor agrees to continue furnishing service under this contract in accordance with the amended tariff, and the Government agrees to pay for such service at the higher or lower rates as of the date when such rates are made effective.

(b) The Contractor agrees that throughout the life of this contract the applicable published and unpublished rate schedule(s) shall not be in excess of the lowest cost published and unpublished rate schedule(s) available to any other customers of the same class under similar conditions of use and service.

(c) In the event that the regulatory body promulgates any regulation concerning matters other than rates which affects this contract, the Contractor shall immediately provide a copy to the Contracting Officer. The Government shall not be bound to accept any new regulation inconsistent with Federal laws or regulations.

(d) Any changes to rates or terms and conditions of service shall be made a part of this contract by the issuance of a contract modification unless otherwise specified in the contract. The effective date of the change shall be the effective date by the regulatory body. Any factors not governed by the regulatory body will have an effective date as agreed to by the parties.

(End of clause)

4. 52.252-1 Solicitation Provisions Incorporated by Reference (FEB 1998)

As prescribed in 52.107(a), insert the following provision:

SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEB 1998)

(End of Clause)

5. 52.233-1 Supplement to Dispute Clause Requirements

The requirements of the Dispute clause at Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.233-1 are supplemented to provide that matters involving the interpretation of tariff retail rates, tariff rate schedules, and tariff terms provided under this contract are subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the utility rate commission having jurisdiction.

(End of Supplement)
14.4. State Taxes.

The contract price excludes all State and local taxes levied on or measured by the contract or sales price of the services or completed supplies furnished under this contract. The Government agrees either to pay the amount of the state or local taxes to the Contractor or provide evidence necessary to sustain an exemption from such taxes.

ARTICLE 15. SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN

15.1. Attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference is a SUBCONTRACTING PLAN FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS, SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIAVLY & ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS, HUB ZONE BUSINESS CONCERNS, WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS, VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES CONCERNS AND DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES negotiated between the Contractor and the Government, which is applicable on a company wide basis pursuant to the requirements of 15 U.S.C. 637(d). The Contractor expressly understands that this subcontracting plan is an annual plan and hereby agrees to submit a new subcontracting plan by November 30th of each year during the life of this Contract.

15.2. Information and announcements concerning current developments in the GSA Small Business Subcontracting Program are available on the GSA Energy Division web site accessible via http://www.gsa.gov/energy.

ARTICLE 16. NOTICES

16.1. Unless specifically provided otherwise, all notices required to be provided to the Government under this Areawide Contract shall be mailed to: U. S. General Services Administration, PBS, Office of Facilities Management and Services Program; Director, Energy Division, 1800 F Street, NW, Room 1300-11, Washington, DC 20405 or via email at energycenter@gsa.gov.

16.2. All inquiries and notices to the Contractor regarding this Areawide Contract shall be mailed to: Mr. Philip W. Reeves, Director, Transportation Services, CenterPoint Energy, Inc, 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002, telephone number: (713) 207-5655, or to such other person as the Contractor may hereafter designate in writing.

16.3. The Ordering Agency shall provide GSA with a copy of all fully executed Exhibit “B” Authorizations for Energy Management Service including any applicable attachments at the address provided in Article 16.1.

ARTICLE 17. REPORTING

The Contractor shall provide, as prescribed and directed by the Contracting Officer, an annual report on Subcontracting Plan Achievements (contract awards to small businesses), in accordance with the approved subcontracting plan for small business concerns and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals by October 30 of each year during the life of this Areawide Contract. The report shall be submitted electronically utilizing the Small Business Administration's Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System. The website address of the system can be found at http://www.esrs.gov.

ARTICLE 18. UTILITY ENERGY SERVICE CONTRACTS.

18.1. Performance Assurance: Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) will not normally be included within a project unless a net overall energy usage or cost reduction can be demonstrated and verified. When ECM construction is complete, the commissioning process provides data for this verification. UESCs that include a savings guarantee will require additional measurement and verification (M&V) activities during the performance period. Verification standards for energy projects are established in the M&V Guidelines: Measurement and Verification for Performance Based Contracts, published by the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP). All UESCs, regardless of whether they include a savings guarantee, will include a Performance Assurance Plan with key performance indicators identified.

18.2. Unless otherwise provided by law, UESC performance assurances or guarantees of the savings generated by the ECMs must equal or exceed the total task order value.

18.3. Subcontracting: The Contractor may perform any or all of its requested services through subcontractors, including its unregulated affiliates. ECM subcontractors shall be competitively selected in accordance with FAR 52.244-5 (Article 14.1-65 herein). Subcontractor selection shall be based on cost, experience, past performance and other such factors as the Contractor and the Ordering Agency may mutually deem appropriate and reasonably related to the Government’s minimum requirements. Upon request by the Government, the Contractor shall make available to the contracting officer all documents related to the selection of a subcontractor. In no event shall the service be provided by subcontractors listed as excluded from Federal Procurement Programs maintained by GSA pursuant to 48 C.F.R. 9.404 (Article 14.1-13 herein).

18.4. For all Authorizations involving Energy Conservation Measures, it is desirable to have a Warranty Clause that addresses the specific needs and requirements of the work being performed and equipment that is to be provided by the Contractor, however, in the absence of a Warranty Clause in the Authorization the following language will serve as the default Clause:

The Company shall pass through to the Agency all warranties on equipment installed or provided by it or its subcontractors on Government property with the following representation:

CENTPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL OWN OR LEASE THE EQUIPMENT AND/OR MATERIALS BEING INSTALLED OR SUPPLIED HEREBUNDER, AND, ACCORDINGLY, AGREES THAT ALL WARRANTIES SET FORTH HEREIN, OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW IN FAVOR OF CENTPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. SHALL INURE ALSO TO THE BENEFIT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT ALL CLAIMS ARISING FROM ANY BREACH OF SUCH WARRANTIES OR AS A RESULT OF DEFECTS IN OR REPAIRS TO SUCH EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES MAY BE ASSERTED AGAINST CENTPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. OR MANUFACTURER DIRECTLY BY THE UNITED STATES.
18.5. The Ordering Agency shall provide GSA with copies of fully executed Exhibit “C” Authorizations for any EMS resulting from approved energy audits, including any applicable attachments, at the address provided in Article 16.1. The contractor shall provide financial schedules at interim delivery points as required by the ordering agency. Financial schedules are based upon the eProject Builder system and final financial schedules shall be submitted through the eProject Builder system https://eprojectbuilder.lbl.gov.

18.6. Contractor’s Responsibilities under Contract for Energy Management Services provided under this Contract:

(a) The Contractor shall not provide Energy Management Services to Federal facilities under this Agreement unless the facility is a current customer of the Contractor or a prospective customer of the Contractor that is located within a geographic area that the Contractor is authorized to serve.

(b) The work that is to be performed under the Energy Management Service contract shall be limited to work resulting in a direct reduction in energy usage (see Article 1.1(i)) and any modifications or repairs that are necessary as a direct result of the installation of the Energy Conservation Measure.

ARTICLE 19. MISCELLANEOUS.

19.1. Contract Administration: The Ordering Agency shall assist in the day-to-day administration of the utility service being provided to it under an Authorization.

19.2. Anti-Deficiency: Unless otherwise authorized by Public Law or Federal Regulation, nothing contained herein shall be construed as binding the Government to expend, in any one fiscal year, any sum in excess of the appropriation made by Congress for that fiscal year in furtherance of the matter of the contract or to involve the Government in an obligation for the future expenditure of monies before an appropriation is made (Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341 (a)(1)(A)).

19.3. Obligation to Serve: Nothing contained in this Contract shall obligate the Contractor to take any action which it may consider to be detrimental to its obligations as a public utility.

19.4. Term of Authorizations: It is recognized that during the life of this Contract, situations and/or requirements may arise where it may be desirable that the term of service to an Ordering Agency’s facility extend beyond the term of this Contract. In such event, the particular Authorization involved may specify a term extending beyond the term of this Contract, provided that it is within the contracting authority of the Ordering Agency and appropriate termination liability provisions have been negotiated between the Contractor and Ordering Agency to address unamortized balances for connection charges and/or financing charges associated with energy management service projects.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this contract as of the day and the year first above written.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Acting through the Administrator
of General Services

By: Linda Collins
Contracting Officer
GSA, PBS, Energy Division

ATTEST:
By: Franz N. Struphard
GSA, PBS, Energy Division

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

By: Philip W. Torres
Director, Transportation Services

ATTEST:
By: George C. Hapeman, III
Division Vice President and Assistant Secretary
CERTIFICATE

I, George C. Hepburn, certify that I am Assistant Secretary of CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., named as Contractor in the negotiated Areawide Public Utility Contract No. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947; that Philip W. Reeves, who signed said contract on behalf of the Contractor, was then Director, Transportation Services, of said Corporation; and that said contract was duly signed for and on behalf of said Corporation and is within the scope of its corporate powers.

George C. Hepburn, III

(Corporate Seal)
EXHIBIT "A"

Contractor's ID NO. ____________ (Optional)
Ordering Agency's ID ____________ (Optional)

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.

AUTHORIZATION FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE, CHANGE IN NATURAL GAS SERVICE, 
OR DISCONNECTION OF NATURAL GAS SERVICE UNDER 
CONTRACT NO. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947

Ordering Agency: ____________________________________
Address: ____________________________________

Pursuant to Contract No. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947 between the Contractor and the United States Government and subject to all the provisions thereof, service to the United States Government under such contract shall be rendered or modified as hereinafter stated. Contract Article 2 and 4 shall be followed for the initiation of service under this contract.

PREMISES TO BE SERVED:
_____________________________
SERVICE ADDRESS:

NATURE OF SERVICE: ☐ Connect, ☐ Change, ☐ Disconnect, ☐ Continue Service, ☐ DSM Work
☐ Line Extension, Alteration, Relocation, or Reinforcement, ☐ Special Facilities

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
Attach any other relevant terms and conditions under which service will be provided.

POINT OF DELIVERY: ______________________________

TERM OF SERVICE: __________________ through ____________
SERVICE HEREBY SHALL BE UNDER RATE SCHEDULE NO. ____________
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USAGE: __________ MCF,
ESTIMATED ANNUAL SERVICE COST: $________
ESTIMATED CONNECTION/SPECIAL FACILITIES CHARGE: $________ (if applicable)**
ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA FOR SERVICE:
_____________________________

FOR CONNECTION/SPECIAL FACILITIES CHARGE:
________________________________________

CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (Check applicable clauses):

(1) ☐ 52.211-10 Commencement, Prosecution and Completion of Work (APR 1984)
(2) ☐ 52.236-5 Material and Workmanship (APR 1984)
(3) ☐ 52.241-4 Change in Class of Service (FEB 1995)
(4) ☐ 52.241-3 Scope and Duration of Contract (FEB 1995)
(5) ☐ 52.241-5 Contractor's Facilities (FEB 1995)
(6) ☐ 52.241-7 Change in Rates or Terms and Conditions of Service for Regulated Services (FEB 1995) (Use Full Text of Clause)
(7) ☐ 52.241-11 Multiple Service Locations (FEB 1995)
(8) ☐ 52.243-1 Changes-Fixed Price (AUG 1987)
(9) ☐ 52.249- _ Default (_________) (Specify appropriate Clause)

BILLS WILL BE RENDERED TO THE ORDERING AGENCY FOR PAYMENT AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
________________________________________
______________________________ in __________ copies.

The foregoing shall be effective upon the return of the fully executed original Authorization by the Contractor to the ordering Agency.

ACCEPTED:

______________________________
(Ordering Agency)

______________________________
(Contractor)

By: ____________________________
Authorized Signature
Title: ____________________________
Date: ________________________

By: ____________________________
Authorized Signature
Title: ____________________________
Date: ________________________

* Include a reference to the applicable rate schedule, and attach a copy of such schedule.

** If necessary, attach and make part hereof supplemental agreements or sheets that cover required connection or extension charges and special facilities or service arrangements. (See Article 5 of this Contract for instructions.)

NOTE: A fully executed copy of this Authorization shall be transmitted by the ordering Agency to the Energy Division (PMAA), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405.

Contract No. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947
CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.
AUTHORIZATION FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CONTRACT NO. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947

Ordering Agency:__________________________________
Address: _____________________________________

Pursuant to Contract No. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947 between the Contractor and the United States Government and subject to all the provisions thereof, service to the United States Government under such contract shall be rendered or modified as hereinafter stated. Contract Articles 2 and 4 shall be followed for the initiation of service under this contract.

PREMISES TO BE SERVED:________________________________________________________
SERVICE ADDRESS: ________________________________________________

NATURE OF SERVICE: □ Preliminary Energy Audit □ ECP Feasibility Study □ ECP Engineering & Design Study
□ Energy Conservation Project (ECP) Installation □ Demand Side Management (DSM) Project
□ Other (See Remarks Below)

SERVICE HEREUNDER shall be provided consistent with the Contractor's applicable tariffs, rates, rules, regulations, riders, practices, and/or terms and conditions of service, as modified, amended or supplemented by the Contractor and approved, to the extent required, by the Commission. (See Article 5 of this contract.)

POINT OF DELIVERY:___________________________________________________________

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: $ ____________________________

ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA:_____________________________________

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:
□ General Conditions □ Payment Provisions □ Special Requirements □ Economic Analysis
□ Facility/Site Plans □ Historical Data □ Utility Usage History □ ECP Feasibility Study
□ Design Drawings □ Design Specifications □ Certifications □ Commission Schedules

CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (Check applicable clauses):
(1) __52.211-10 Commencement, Prosecution and Completion of Work (APR 1984)
(2) __52.232-5 Payments under Fixed-Price Construction Contracts (SEP 2002)
Supersedes provisions of payment clauses in Article 14.
(3) __52.232-27 Prompt Payment for Construction Contracts (FEB 2002)
(4) __52.236-5 Material and Workmanship (APR 1984)
(5) __52.241-8 Change in Rates or Terms and Conditions of Service for Unregulated
Services (FEB 1995) (Use full Text of Clause)
(6) __52.243-1 Changes-Fixed Price (AUG 1987)
(7) __52.249- Default (____) (Specify appropriate Clause)

In addition, the Contracting Officer negotiating the terms and conditions under this authorization shall supplement the above-referenced clauses with clauses for the appropriate type of contract.

REMARKS:

ACCEPTED:
________________________________________
(Ordering Agency)
By: ______________________________________
Authorized Signature
Title: _____________________________________
Date: _____________________________________
Telephone No.: ____________________________

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.
(Contractor)
________________________________________
By: ______________________________________
Authorized Signature
Title: _____________________________________
Date: _____________________________________
Telephone No.: ____________________________

NOTE: A fully executed copy of this Authorization shall be transmitted by the ordering Agency to the Energy Division (PMAA), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405.
Pursuant to Contract No. GS-OOP-13-BSD-0947 between the Contractor and the United States Government and subject to all the provisions thereof, service to the United States Government under such contract shall be rendered or modified as hereinafter stated. Contract Article 2 and 4 shall be followed for the initiation of service under this contract.

PREMISES TO BE SERVED: ________________________________

SERVICE ADDRESS: ________________________________

NATURE OF SERVICE:  
- □ Connect,  
- □ Change,  
- □ Disconnect,  
- □ Continue Service,  
- □ DSM Work  
- □ Line Extension, Alteration, Relocation, or Reinforcement,  
- □ Special Facilities

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS: ________________________________

ATTACH any other relevant terms and conditions under which service will be provided.

POINT OF DELIVERY: ________________________________

TERM OF SERVICE: From _______ through _______.

SERVICE HEREUNDER SHALL BE UNDER RATE SCHEDULE NO. _______.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USAGE: _______ MCF,

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SERVICE COST: _______ (if applicable)**

ESTIMATED CONNECTION/SPECIAL FACILITIES CHARGE: _______ (if applicable)**

ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA FOR SERVICE: ________________________________

FOR CONNECTION/SPECIAL FACILITIES CHARGE: ________________________________

CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (Check applicable clauses):

1. 52.211-10 Commencement, Prosecution and Completion of Work (APR 1984)
2. 52.236-5 Material and Workmanship (APR 1984)
3. 52.241-4 Change in Class of Service (FEB 1995)
4. 52.241-3 Scope and Duration of Contract (FEB 1995)
5. 52.241-5 Contractor's Facilities (FEB 1995)
6. 52.241-7 Change in Rates or Terms and Conditions of Service for Regulated Services (FEB 1995) (Use Full Text of Clause)
7. 52.241-11 Multiple Service Locations (FEB 1995)
8. 52.243-1 Changes-Fixed Price (AUG 1987)
9. 52.249-__ Default (_______) (Specify appropriate Clause)

BILLS WILL BE RENDERED TO THE ORDERING AGENCY FOR PAYMENT AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

_________________________________ _ in copies.

The foregoing shall be effective upon the return of the fully executed original Authorization by the Contractor to the ordering Agency.

ACCEPTED:

CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP

(Ordering Agency)  
(Contractor)

By: ________________  
Authorized Signature

Title: ________________  
Date: ________________

By: ________________  
Authorized Signature

Title: ________________  
Date: ________________

* Include a reference to the applicable rate schedule, and attach a copy of such schedule.

** If necessary, attach and make part hereof supplemental agreements or sheets that cover required connection or extension charges and special facilities or service arrangements. (See Article 5 of this Contract for instructions.)

NOTE: A fully executed copy of this Authorization shall be transmitted by the ordering Agency to the Energy Division (PMAA), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405.