



State of New Jersey



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Lt. Governor

Buy America Waiver Request

July 29, 2016

Robert Clark
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
840 Bear Tavern Road
W. Trenton, NJ 08628

Attn: John Miller

Project Purpose: SeaStreak's Ferry Vessel Repower
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$6,800,000
Funding: \$3,400,000 from CMAQ and \$3,400,000 from SeaStreak (50% match)

Dear Mr. Clark,

NJDOT is requesting a "Buy America" waiver for the purchase of propulsion engines, gearboxes, and Jetdrive propulsion thrusters for the SeaStreak Ferry Vessel Repower Project. This project proposes to repower the propulsion engines on two SeaStreak ferry vessels, the M/V New Jersey and M/V New York with new engines certified to EPA Tier 3 emission standards. The current engines were manufactured in 2001 and carry an EPA Tier 1 rating. These two ferry vessels operate between Atlantic Highlands, NJ and downtown Manhattan as commuter ferries and is an eligible Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding project as it will reduce emissions and provide significant air quality benefits.

The four existing engines on these ferries were manufactured in 2001 and carry an EPA Tier 1 rating. The proposed project consists of removing the four propulsion engines and installing two higher horsepower engines in their place on each vessel. The total overall vessel horsepower will be reduced from 7,500 HP to 6,012 HP. With this approach of migrating from four to two engines, a significant amount of weight will be removed from the vessels. This is important because these are catamaran ferries, and with the removal of weight, the vessels are able to ride higher in the water (substantially reduced drag) while still allowing for a marginal increase in passenger capacity. Reducing drag will result in being able to operate the engines more efficiently and provide additional emission reductions and fuel savings as compared to a straight engine-to-engine repowering that maintains the existing four engine configuration. As a result of changing

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from four engines to two, the propulsion arrangement and gearboxes in each vessel must be replaced in order to achieve the estimated emissions and fuel reductions. The Jetdrive propulsion thrusters are required for this repower as the boat is going from a four to a two Jet drive configuration and the existing units are not properly sized and therefore cannot be reused.

Specific request: to allow the purchase of 2 MTU engines, 2 Reintjes gearboxes, and 2 Rolls-Royce water jet thrusters to be installed on SeaStreak's M/V New Jersey and M/V New York. On February 9, 1994 a Notice of nationwide waiver of Buy America for ferryboat equipment and machinery was published in the Federal Register. The waiver specifies engines but it is unclear whether gearboxes and water jet thrusters are covered.

As part of a similar project, SeaStreak published a RFP for equipment and evaluated numerous bids. The above mentioned manufacturers were chosen for that particular project. It is anticipated that the same manufacturer's equipment will be used on this particular ferry repower project.

The repower project is targeted at reducing NOx, GHG, and PM emissions and reducing fuel consumption by repowering the propulsion engines in the New Jersey and New York ferry vessels. Given the long lifespan of marine engines, annual reductions are expected to occur for the anticipated remaining useful life of these ferry vessels, in excess of 10 years. In addition to emission savings, fuel savings are also expected for the vessels of approximately 10% due to the higher efficiency of the new, electronically-controlled engines. This project advances various plans, including MAP-21(Enacted July 6, 2012), which discusses planning factors for MPOs when implementing CMAQ projects. One of these factors is, "Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns".

All specific questions concerning this request should be directed to Mr. Kartikeya Patel at (609)530-5640 or Mr. Himanshu Patel at (609) 530-3848.

Very truly yours,

Nicole Minutoli, Director
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