

**Advantage** Consulting Engineers is a certified DBE and MBE company specializing in Site Civil Design



**DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**

**CITY OF CHICAGO**

**AUG - 8 2017**

Thakor P. Patel  
**Advantage Consulting Engineers**  
80 Main Street, Suite 17  
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Dear Thakor P. Patel:

The City of Chicago, your host agency, is pleased to notify you that your firm, **Advantage Consulting Engineers** has met the requirements for certification as a **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise ("DBE")** in accordance with the governing federal regulations, 49 CFR parts 23.

This certification allows your firm to participate as a DBE, and as an ACDBE in the Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP). The participating agencies include the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace.

To remain certified with the IL UCP you must submit a *No Change Affidavit* each year. **Your anniversary date is August 1st.** Notification will be sent to you sixty (60) days prior to the anniversary date of your certification. It is your responsibility to ensure that your certification is kept current by submitting the required information in a timely manner. Failure to provide this information is a ground for removal of certification based on failure to cooperate pursuant to 49 CFR 26.109(c).

If there is any change in circumstances that affect your ability to meet size, disadvantaged status, ownership, or control requirements or any material change in the information provided in your application, you must provide written notification to this agency within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the change. Failure to provide this information is a ground for removal of certification pursuant to 49 CFR 26.83(i).

Your firm's name will appear in the IL UCP DBE/ACDBE Directory in the following area(s) of specialty:

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**NAICS Code(s):**

**541330 – Engineering Services**

This Directory is used by prime contractors/ consultants, as well as other agencies, to solicit participation of DBE, and ACDBE firms. The Directory can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/doing-business/certifications/disadvantaged-business-enterprise-certification/il-ucp-directory/index>

Your participation on contracts will only be credited toward DBE and/or ACDBE contract goals when you perform in your firm's approved area(s) of specialty. Credit for participation in an area outside your specialty requires prior approval (verification of resources, expertise, and corresponding support documentation, etc.).

**Please note:**

- This certification does not attest to your firm's abilities to perform in the approved work category (ies).
- Your certification may be revoked if your firm is found to be involved in bidding or contractual irregularities or has violated DBE/ACDBE program regulations pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26.107.
- For work to count toward a contract goal, the DBE and/or ACDBE firm must perform a "commercially useful function" pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26.55. A DBE is considered to perform a commercially useful function when it is responsible for execution of a distinct element of the work of a contract and carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved.

**For All Non Trucking Firms:**

- Firms seeking work with IDOT as a prime or subconsultant in specialized engineering categories must be prequalified by IDOT's Bureau of Design and Environment.
- Firms seeking work with IDOT, as a prime construction contractor must be prequalified by IDOT's Bureau of Construction.

**For All Trucking Firms:**

- All DBE trucking firms must own at least one truck. The truck must be operable and capable of hauling materials specific to the contract. The owned truck(s) must be used prior to utilizing leased truck(s).
- The DBE trucking firm receives goal credit for the total value of the transportation service it provides on the contract using trucks it owns, insures and operates and using drivers it employs.

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- The DBE trucking firm, which leases trucks from another DBE trucking firm, receives goal credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the contract.
- When a DBE trucking firm leases from a non-DBE trucking firm, the goal credit is limited to the fee or commission the DBE receives as a result of the lease arrangement. The fee or commission shall be reasonable and shall be indicated on the lease.
- For any credit to be allowed for leased trucks, the leases must be properly filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ILCC), and indicate that the DBE has exclusive use and control over the truck(s). Leased trucks must visibly display the name and ILCC number of the DBE trucking firm.

Please direct all inquiries and any questions to the City of Chicago Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program at 312-744-4900.

Sincerely,



Rich Butler  
First Deputy Procurement Officer

RB/vlw







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Thakor P. Patel  
**Advantage Consulting Engineers**  
80 Main Street, Suite 17  
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Dear Thakor P. Patel:

We are pleased to inform you that **Advantage Consulting Engineers** has been certified as a **Minority-Owned Business Enterprise ("MBE")** by the City of Chicago ("City"). This **MBE** certification is valid until **08/01/2022**; however your firm's certification must be revalidated annually. In the past the City has provided you with an annual letter confirming your certification; such letters will no longer be issued. As a consequence, we require you to be even more diligent in filing your **annual No-Change Affidavit 60 days** before your annual anniversary date.

It is now your responsibility to check the City's certification directory and verify your certification status. As a condition of continued certification during the five year period stated above, you must file an **annual No-Change Affidavit**. Your firm's annual No-Change Affidavit is due by **08/01/2018, 08/01/2019, 08/01/2020, and 08/01/2021**. Please remember, you have an affirmative duty to file your No-Change Affidavit 60 days prior to the date of expiration. Failure to file your annual No-Change Affidavit may result in the suspension or rescission of your certification.

Your firm's five year certification will expire on **08/01/2022**. You have an affirmative duty to file for recertification **60 days** prior to the date of the five year anniversary date. Therefore, you must file for recertification by **06/01/2022**.

It is important to note that you also have an ongoing affirmative duty to notify the City of any changes in ownership or control of your firm, or any other fact affecting your firm's eligibility for certification **within 10 days** of such change. These changes may include but are not limited to a change of address, change of business structure, change in ownership or ownership structure, change of business operations, gross receipts and or personal net worth that exceed the program threshold. Failure to provide the City with timely notice of such changes may result in the suspension or rescission of your certification. In addition, you may be liable for civil penalties under Chapter 1-22, "False Claims", of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

Please note – you shall be deemed to have had your certification lapse and will be ineligible to participate as a **MBE** if you fail to:

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- File your annual No-Change Affidavit within the required time period;
- Provide financial or other records requested pursuant to an audit within the required time period;
- Notify the City of any changes affecting your firm's certification **within 10 days** of such change; or
- File your recertification within the required time period.

Please be reminded of your contractual obligation to cooperate with the City with respect to any reviews, audits or investigation of its contracts and affirmative action programs. We strongly encourage you to assist us in maintaining the integrity of our programs by reporting instances or suspicions of fraud or abuse to the **City's Inspector General at [chicagoinspectorgeneral.org](http://chicagoinspectorgeneral.org), or 866-IG-TIPLINE (866-448-4754).**

Be advised that if you or your firm is found to be involved in certification, bidding and/or contractual fraud or abuse, the City will pursue decertification and debarment. In addition to any other penalty imposed by law, any person who knowingly obtains, or knowingly assists another in obtaining a contract with the City by falsely representing the individual or entity, or the individual or entity assisted is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by incarceration in the county jail for a period not to exceed six months, or a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000 or both.

Your firm's name will be listed in the City's Directory of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises in the specialty area(s) of:

**NAICS Code(s):**

**541330 – Engineering Services**

Your firm's participation on City contracts will be credited only toward **Minority Business Enterprise** goals in your area(s) specialty. While your participation on City contracts is not limited to your area of specialty, credit toward goals will be given only for work that is self-performed and providing a commercially useful function that is done in the approved specialty category.

Thank you for your interest in the City's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Program.

Sincerely,



Rich Butler  
First Deputy Procurement Officer

RB/vlw

