

May 15, 2012

Real Property Utilization and Disposal Division (7PZ)
819 Taylor Street, Room 8A10
Fort Worth, TX 76102-6112

Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Billings, Montana, expresses its interest in potential acquisition of the James F. Battin Federal Building and Courthouse in Billings (Case No. 7-G-MT-0621-AB) in accordance with the Notice of Surplus Determination received by the City from GSA Greater Southwest Region on April 23, 2012.

The City of Billings believes it is qualified to acquire fee title to the building for courts, law enforcement and general City-related business uses under 40 USC 545(b)(8), Negotiated sale to public bodies for use for public purposes generally.

The City of Billings understands that, although the Government Services Administration (GSA) has information on the costs of removing asbestos already discovered in the building and will conduct a fair-market appraisal of the building, it will not publicly disclose those costs.

Therefore, the City of Billings requests a 1-year period to April 30, 2013, to allow the City to have an assessment done on the property's condition; conduct a commercial appraisal that it estimates would take at least 4 months to obtain; hold public meetings on the proposed use of the facility and the desirability of its acquisition; and then determine what, if any, offer it wishes to make on the facility.

The City of Billings requests the formal application documents necessary to submit a proposal to GSA by April 30, 2013. It also requests any additional public documents available on the Battin Building, including statements of condition, assessments, appraisals, floor plans or other details that could assist the City in its determine of the suitability of the building for its uses. Upon notification of the amount, the City is willing to pay reasonable expenses for the reproduction of documents it deems to be useful to it.

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Correspondence regarding the facility, including the formal application documents, may be forwarded to Billings City Administrator Christina F. Volek, P.O. Box 1178, 210 N. 27th St., Billings, MT 59103. Ms. Volek may also be reached by phone at (406) 657-8430 or by e-mail at volekc@ci.billings.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor
City of Billings

Cc: Senator Max Baucus
Senator John Tester
Rep. Denny Rehberg
Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners
Big Sky Economic Development