

Beware of Phishing!

We recently made the DBE community aware of sophisticated phishing attempts directed at DBEs in the state of New York. These malicious attempts are happening daily in our state as well, as some of you may have already experienced.

INDOT/EOD handles a great deal of confidential material, and in DBE certification-related processes, we request sensitive personal information. However, be assured that all of your information and your entire DBE file are stored and protected by our Electronic Records Management System (ERMS) . Once DBEs are certified, communications will come directly from a staff member or from our ITAP system (dbecertification@indot.in.gov).

Email notifications about a DBE's annual No Change Affidavit are transmitted in batches on the first day of the month and are commonly sent in early hours of the morning. These reminder notifications will never ask you for sensitive information. During the No Change process, the only information you are required to supply on a regular basis is a copy of your corporate taxes. Other information we might require will usually be in the process of an update to your DBE record via an amendment application, which you initiate in ITAP's DBE portal.

There are many steps you can take to protect yourself. For example:

1. Don't open attachments from unknown parties.
2. Don't open emails before previewing them.
3. Learn how to spot phishing emails.
4. Create strong passwords.
5. If you receive an email from someone you know that seems "off," contact them by separate means to verify.
6. Hover your cursor over links to see where they actually go before clicking on them.

Further, the U.S. Small Business Administration offers cybersecurity classes for small businesses. If you are interested in seeing what is available, here is the link: <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/manage-your-business/stay-safe-cybersecurity-threats>.

As always, if you receive correspondence that purports to come from our office, but something doesn't seem "right" about it, do not hesitate to contact one of our team members. A full listing can be found at: <https://www.in.gov/indot/2674.htm>.