

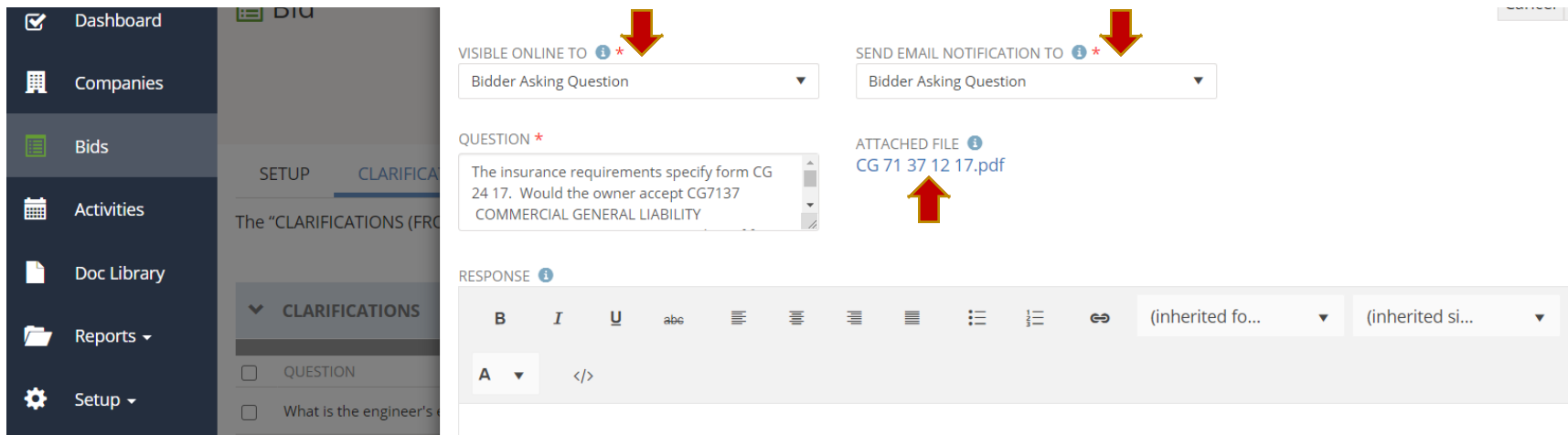
# ANSWERING CLARIFICATIONS

*Clarifications – The tab that allows bidders to ask questions and posting agencies to publish responses.*

## Responding to Clarifications as a User

Once you open your project, click on the **Clarifications** tab. If you hover the mouse over any question (whether posted by a bidder or the posting agency), the line will highlight in yellow and the “edit pencil” and “trash can” icons will appear.

If you click the “edit pencil” icon, you can add and/or edit a response. You may choose who can view the question with a dropdown selection. **We highly recommend that you make the responses visible to all bidders.** Finally, you must select whether an email notification should or should not be sent. **We highly recommend that email notices are not sent to all bidders but should be sent to the “Bidder Asking Question.”**



The screenshot displays the PennBid interface for managing clarifications. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with options: Dashboard, Companies, Bids, Activities, Doc Library, Reports, and Setup. The main content area shows a 'CLARIFICATIONS' section with a 'QUESTION' card. The question text is: "The insurance requirements specify form CG 24 17. Would the owner accept CG7137 COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY". Above the question, there are two dropdown menus: "VISIBLE ONLINE TO" and "SEND EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO", both currently set to "Bidder Asking Question". Red arrows point to the asterisks next to the information icons in these dropdowns. To the right of the question is an "ATTACHED FILE" section showing a PDF file named "CG 71 37 12 17.pdf", with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the question is a "RESPONSE" section with a rich text editor toolbar containing icons for Bold (B), Italic (I), Underline (U), text color (abc), bulleted list, numbered list, link, and unlink. The response text area is currently empty, showing a font size dropdown set to 'A' and a code icon (</>).



When the bidder adds a new clarification, they have the option to include a file with their question. You can easily view their attachment by clicking on the file name. Once you have viewed all information, click the “Save” button.

After clicking “Save” you’ll see the response listed and both when the question was asked and when the response was submitted will be date and time stamped.

The screenshot shows the PENNBID interface for bid 'Jenn Test #1' titled 'Road Repair'. The 'CLARIFICATIONS' tab is active, showing one record. The record details are as follows:

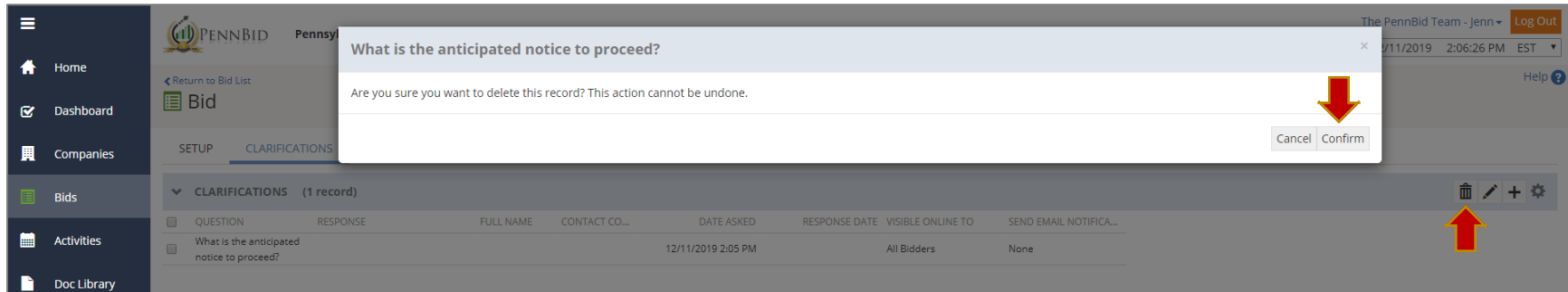
QUESTION	RESPONSE	FULL NAME	CONTACT CO...	DATE ASKED	RESPONSE DATE	VISIBLE ONLINE TO	SEND EMAIL NOTIFICA...
What is the anticipated notice to proceed?	July 20			12/11/2019 2:05 PM	12/11/2019 2:12 PM	All Bidders	None

*Note:* The posting agency will see who asked questions; however, from the bidders’ perspective, the company who asked the question is not displayed.

This screenshot is identical to the previous one, but a red arrow points to the question text 'What is the anticipated notice to proceed?' in the clarification record table.



If you click the “trash can” icon, the system will ask if you’re sure you want to permanently delete. You can select “Cancel” or “Confirm.”



*Note:* You can also delete one or more questions by checking the square box to left of each question you want to delete and clicking the “trash can” icon on the right-hand side of the blue toolbar.



## Viewing, Adding and Editing Clarifications as a User

When a solicitation is established, the Setup screen contains a field for the Clarification Deadline. This is the date and time cutoff for bidders to ask questions. This field may be edited after the bid goes live.

From the Users' perspective, the Clarifications tab is located to the right of the Setup tab within a bid. This page will remain blank until a bidder asks a question, or the posting agency adds a question themselves.

The image displays two screenshots of the PennBid web application interface. Both screenshots show a sidebar on the left with navigation options: Companies, Bids, Activities, Doc Library, Reports, and Setup. The main content area is divided into tabs: SETUP, CLARIFICATIONS, RESPONSE, ANALYSIS, AWARD, and LOG. Below these are sub-tabs: SETTINGS, QUESTIONS, PRICING, DOCUMENTS, and BIDDERS. The 'SETUP' tab is active in both screenshots, showing fields for NUMBER (Jenn Test #1), TITLE (Road Repair), BID TYPE (RFI), PROCESS (One Step Unsealing), AVAILABLE DATE (11/19/2019 6:01 PM), CLARIFICATION DEADLINE (12/27/2019 4:00 PM), DUE DATE (1/3/2020 10:00 AM), and DESCRIPTION (Patch and road repair). A red arrow in the left screenshot points to the 'CLARIFICATION DEADLINE' field. In the right screenshot, a red arrow points to the 'CLARIFICATIONS' tab in the top navigation bar.

In order to post a question, click on the Clarifications tab. On the blue tool bar, click the + icon on the right.



The screenshot shows the PennBid web application interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation options: Home, Dashboard, Companies, and Bids. The main content area has a top navigation bar with 'Return to Bid List' and 'Bid' buttons. Below this is a header for the current bid: 'Jenn Test #1' with title 'Road Repair'. The process is 'One Step Unsealing', with 0 bids received. The status is 'Open for Bidding' with a 'Cancel Bid' link. The closing time is '22 days: 23 hours: 54 minutes: 29 seconds'. Below the header are tabs for 'SETUP', 'CLARIFICATIONS', 'RESPONSE', 'ANALYSIS', 'AWARD', and 'LOG'. The 'CLARIFICATIONS' tab is active, showing '(0 records)'. At the bottom right of this section are icons for delete, edit, add, and settings. A red arrow points to the settings icon.

Enter the question in the “Question” box. You can enter the response at this time, or this field can be left blank. You may choose who can view the question with a dropdown selection. Finally, you must select whether an email notification should be sent to all the bidders or if an email notification should not be sent. **We highly recommend that email notices are not sent to all bidders.** Once you make your selection, click the “check” box.

This screenshot shows the 'CLARIFICATIONS' form in the PennBid application. The top navigation and bid information are the same as in the previous screenshot. The 'CLARIFICATIONS' section shows '(0 records)' and a 'Save And Copy' button with a checked checkbox and a settings icon. A red arrow points to this checkbox. Below this are three main input areas: 1. 'QUESTION \*' with a text area containing 'What is the anticipated notice to proceed?'. 2. 'VISIBLE ONLINE TO \*' with a dropdown menu showing 'Please choose one'. 3. 'SEND EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO \*' with a dropdown menu showing 'Please choose one', 'All Bidders On List', and 'None'. There is also a 'RESPONSE' field with a text area containing 'Enter Text'.

*Note:* If you plan to add another question, you can select the “Save and Copy” button instead of the “check” box. This will add your current question and duplicate the question in a new box where you can edit and insert the next question.

Once your question has been added, you can edit or delete at any time.