

Request for Qualifications (final 10/17/2006ER)

Task 3 Assessment of the contribution of OWTS relative to other sources

A Background:

The Florida Department of Health is requesting qualifications for the task of enumeration and aggregation of Nitrogen Loading from Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and comparison to other sources. The cost of this task shall not exceed \$25,000.

This task is part of the Wekiva Onsite Nitrogen Contribution Study that the Florida Legislature has assigned to the Department. The appropriation language reads:

“\$250,000 in non-recurring tobacco settlement funds are provided to the Department of Health to conduct or contract for a study to further identify and quantify the nitrogen loading from onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) within the Wekiva Study Area. The objectives of the study shall be determined by the Department’s Research Review and Advisory Committee, which shall also have oversight of the study. The Department shall provide a report to the Executive Office of the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than June 30, 2007. The report shall assess whether OWTS are a significant source of nitrogen to the underlying groundwater relative to other sources and shall recommend a range of possible cost-effective OWTS nitrogen reduction strategies if contributions are significant.”

Deliberations of the Department’s Research Review and Advisory Committee resulted in the developments of the following tasks:

Task 1: Field Study to identify and quantify nitrogen loading at a few sample OWTS in the Wekiva Study Area

Task 2: Categorization and Quantification of Nitrogen Loading from Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Types

Task 3 (subject to this RFQ): Assessment if OWTS are a significant source of nitrogen to the underlying groundwater relative to other sources; in particular enumeration and aggregation of OWTS loading

Task 4: Recommend a range of possible cost-effective OWTS nitrogen reduction strategies if significant

Qualifications are requested for the following services to proceed with the study. This will be a fixed-price purchase order. Vendors must be registered in MyFloridaMarketPlace before purchase order can become effective, unless exempted, and assume any associated fees.

Vendors are invited to submit a bid addressing the qualification requirements by 12 pm October 23, 2006 to:

Florida Dept. of Health,
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs
Attn: Eberhard Roeder Eberhard_roeder@doh.state.fl.us; fax 850-922-6969
Re: Wekiva Study Area Nitrogen Pie-Charts
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-08
Tallahassee FL 32399-1713

B Services Needed:

- 1.) Utilizing the existing coverage of locations of onsite wastewater treatment systems in the Wekiva Study area developed for DOH from permitting records and by Lake, Orange, and Seminole counties and provided by DOH, develop procedures for categorizing OWTS with regard to characteristics that are expected to influence their functioning and environmental impact. Such categories may include: depth to water table; soil texture; user category (single family residential, multifamily, domestic strength commercial, high-strength commercial); system type (conventional, mound, ATU); age; aquifer vulnerability. The final subcategories will be determined in coordination with DOH and DOH's consultant on task 2. Deliverable: process description by January 08, 2006
- 2.) Count the number of OWTS in each subcategory for each vulnerability zone, the Wekiva Study area, and the municipalities with area in the Wekiva Study area. Deliverable: coverage and tables by January 29, 2007
- 3.) Estimate the nitrogen loading from the different subcategories of OWTS to the environment and to the water table for the geographic areas listed in 2) by multiplying their number with loading estimates provided by DOH or DOH's consultant on task 2. Deliverable: tables and narrative of assumptions and methods by January 29, 2007.
- 4.) Coordinating with SJRWMD's consultant working on Wekiva nitrogen loading, estimate the nitrogen loading from other sources of nitrogen, including atmospheric deposition, centralized wastewater facilities, fertilizer applications, and animals, for each vulnerability zone in the Wekiva Study area. The estimate shall consider the loading to the environment and the loading to the water table. Deliverable: table with sources and loads, narrative of assumptions used by March 12, 2007
- 5.) Determine the relative contribution of OWTS to the nitrogen load to the underlying groundwater and assess its significance. Deliverable: pie-charts and tables from 3 and 4; narrative on criteria used for assessing significance by March 12, 2007
- 6.) Aggregation of deliverables, narrative and data in one project report in electronic form, including data and coverages in electronic form. Incorporate revisions by DOH's consultant on task 2 or DOH to loading estimates from categories of OWTS; address comments by DOH, Research Review and Advisory Committee and others. Deliverable: project report, data and coverages by April 09, 2007.

- 7.) Present interim results and final results at meetings of the Onsite Sewage Research Review and Advisory Committee at three meetings in January through April of 2007.

Note: The offeror shall prepare deliverables using software and hardware applications that are consistent with the Department Standards (currently Microsoft software, PC-compatible)

C Qualifications to be submitted:

The offeror will submit as applicable resumes or curriculum vitae, which shall include information on similar projects and their success, and publications.

The offeror will also submit a cost proposal for the task. If partial invoicing is desired by offerors, they will give prices for the service units listed in B. Any suggestions to modify the proposed approach shall be included. The total price will not exceed \$25,000.

D Evaluation of Proposals

To determine the best qualified offeror, the qualifications will be awarded points according to the following criteria:

- 1) Projects that address numbers of OWTS in geographical areas: two or more=2; one=1 no=0
- 2) Projects that address nitrogen budgets from various sources in geographical areas in Florida: two or more=2; one=1 no=0
- 3) Projects that address nitrogen transformation between the surface and the water table in Florida: two or more=2; one=1 no=0
- 4) Publications related to Nitrogen loadings in watersheds
 - National or international peer-refereed journal article, each: 0.6
 - Project report, Published Contributions to Proceedings of national meetings (NOWRA, ASABE), Book Chapters, each: 0.3
 - Published Contributions to Proceedings of Florida state meetings (FEHA, FOWA) and Florida state organization publications, each: 0.1

While DOH reserves the right to select any or none of the offerors, it expects to begin negotiation with the offeror with the most points first.