



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 STATE OF MAINE

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		DACF/Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources/PFAS	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Nancy McBrady	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 50,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 01A 20220328*2241
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	3/22/2023	Proposed End Date: 6/30/2023
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Northern Tilth LLC, Belfast Maine	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Site Soil Sampling	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals that repel oil, grease, water, and heat. PFAS are widespread and persistent in the environment. Farmland containing PFAS can have contaminated soils, water, crops, and livestock and the products they produce can be unsafe for human consumption (and in the case of forage crops, unsafe for feeding livestock). PFAS may enter soil through the application of treated sludges.

It is critical that farmers have comprehensive soil testing taken on their cropland to ascertain contamination levels. Identifying what fields have no or low contamination levels will allow them to plan what crops to grow or where livestock may graze, which is vital to their future as a commercial farm. This information is necessary early in the year, prior to the growing season, because farms must know what seed and inputs to purchase and where to safely plant and graze to meet seasonal conditions.

The ground is now beginning to unfreeze. DACF staff levels are insufficient to meet the demand for soil testing at PFAS impacted farms at the pace that is necessary to support farms in this critical decision-making window.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

Northern Tilth is a well-established environmental and agronomic technical services provider in Maine. It has been providing PFAS soil, water, and product testing services to farms in Maine for the past two years and is well-versed in sludge application issues, PFAS, and the resulting impacts to soil, livestock, crops, and water. They are well known and trusted in the agricultural community and are already familiar with the situation at a number of PFAS-impacted farms. They are also familiar with and employ DACF and DEP PFAS sampling protocols. They have a large staff who can quickly deploy into the field and rapidly obtain samples.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The hourly rates, mileage, and other costs associated with this contract are fair and reasonable. For instance, Northern Tilth anticipates taking ~33 soil samples for one farm for ~\$7,150. This is significantly less than what some larger environmental firms charge for time, materials, and mileage.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

DACF will work with DEP to amend one of DEP's existing pre-qualified vendor list for environmental services to allow for new vendors with agricultural PFAS experience to bid and join. DACF will then utilize that updated vendor list to issue mini bids for soil and other sampling work.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – If No, proceed to Part V.	

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	DocuSigned by: <i>Amanda E. Beal</i> 20AF3A2882BB4AA...		
Typed Name:	Amanda E. Beal	Date:	3/29/2022
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>Debbie Jacques</i> 1DFA565D481F42E...		
Typed Name:	Debbie Jacques	Date:	3/29/2022