



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

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State 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 Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		DACF / APH / Board of Pesticides Control		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Karla Boyd		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Agency Department Code:		Advantage CT / RQS #:	20260318*1951	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$156,489.00		
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	4/1/2026	Proposed/Most Recent End Date:	11/15/2026
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:		New End Date (if Applicable):	
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Eastern Research Group, Inc. Concord, MA		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Research Report to Evaluate Impact of Neonicotinoids		

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 type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. Higher Education 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.

During the first special session of the 132nd Maine Legislature, LD 1323, An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds, was brought before the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry (ACF). This bill ultimately passed and was signed by the Governor as a Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans, and the Environment.

The requirements of this evaluation are as follows:

Board of Pesticides Control to study neonicotinoids. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control, referred to in this resolve as "the board," shall study:

1. The impacts of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-treated seeds, on pollinators;
2. The costs and benefits of neonicotinoid-treated seeds compared to untreated seeds, including the market availability of neonicotinoid-treated seeds compared to untreated seeds;
3. The impact of neonicotinoids on the environment, including, but not limited to, soil, water and plant tissues;
4. The toxicity of neonicotinoids to humans;
5. Alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments for the protection of crops from damaging pests and disease;
6. The toxicity of effective alternatives to neonicotinoids and neonicotinoid-treated seeds that may be used for the protection of crops from damaging pests and disease; and
7. Methods of application of alternatives to neonicotinoids and neonicotinoid-treated seeds and the required number of applications for effectiveness.

In conducting the study under this section, the board shall give special consideration to effects on potato crops and corn crops.

It is imperative that the BPC contracts with an impartial, professional, and reputable research organization to complete this report. The BPC doesn't have the necessary staffing to compile this report due to its very broad scope and time limitations.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/RFQ) number if applicable.

The BPC attempted to contract this work through the competitive process by issuing an RFP in the fall of 2025 after the resolve was stamped by the Secretary of State's Office, RFP # 202511145. No bids were received for this RFP.

With a now extremely shortened timeline, BPC reached out to the Eastern Research Groups, Inc. (ERG) to gauge their interest and availability to take on this project. ERG's *Anticoagulant Rodenticide Scientific Review Final Report* (October 2025), completed for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), was an integral resource for the BPC during recent

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

rulemaking activities to comply with LD 356, Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings.

Upon completion of this report, the BPC will still need to present it to the Board and the Department for feedback in November of 2026 before sending the complete final report to the ACF Committee, due on January 15, 2027. This gives a shortened timeline of just 8 months to complete this fully comprehensive research report. This report requires a company with experience and specialization in agronomy, environmental toxicology, and environmental state and federal policies to fulfil the resolve for the Maine legislature.

For more than 25 years, ERG has delivered objective, scientifically defensible environmental health risk assessments, toxicology evaluations, and environmental analyses to government agencies across the United States. BPC has not previously contracted with ERG.

Additionally, procurement has informed BPC that ACF does not currently have a PQVL that would be applicable to the goods and services sought.

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

LD 1323 resolved that appropriations and allocations of funds of \$156,500.00 to complete this research.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF Pesticides Control - Board of 0287

Initiative: Provides funding for contractual services to research the effects of neonicotinoids.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS 2025-26

All Other \$156,500

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

The BPC will continue to attempt to contract for goods and services through the competitive process in the future.

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

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

Yes, ARPA funds (025) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

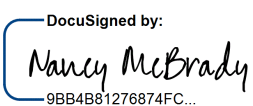
Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

The requesting department’s signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine’s Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.

PART VI: APPROVALS

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee


1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	Nancy McBrady	Date:	3/26/2026

2. Additional signature required **ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II**. The signature below indicates approval by the Department’s Commissioner, or the designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	

****OSPS Section Only****

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:			
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	3/30/2026