



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
Table with 4 columns and 10 rows containing contract details such as Department Office/Division/Program, Amount (\$ 77,325.13), Proposed Start Date (10/1/2023), and Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name (Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, Madison, WI).

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)
Table with 4 columns and 8 rows listing justification options A through L, with option C (Single Source/Unique Vendor) checked.

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.

The continued precipitation chemistry and mercury analyses of wet deposition samples are critical to maintaining a scientifically and statistically valid data base for determining and assessing long-term trends in atmospheric sulfates, nitrates and mercury deposition to the Maine environment. The high-quality data produced by these monitoring networks is needed by both federal and state policy makers to assess the need for regulatory programs to control and reduce emissions of sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury to the atmosphere, and to judge the effectiveness of any such adopted regional or federal control programs. Scientists and other users researching a vast array of impacts and effects on a variety of ecosystems, who require long-term trend datasets, depend on the data generated by this monitoring network.

These are ongoing annual analytical services which we are now contracting on a federal fiscal year basis. The impact of a delay or postponement in the continued analyses of these samples would: 1) interject a confounding level of uncertainty about interpreting and understanding any future changes observed in precipitation chemistry and mercury deposition levels, 2) jeopardize the ability to determine the success or failure of current regulatory emission control strategies and programs designed to decrease the environmental impacts of sulfur, nitrogen and mercury deposition, and 3) represent a significant loss of valuable and important environmental data routinely used by scientists, researchers and natural resource managers across the state, as well as nationally, in on-going studies and programs.

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

DEP's deposition monitoring sites have been part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program's (NADP) National Trends Network (NTN) and the Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) since 1979 and 1996, respectively. These are nationwide long-term deposition monitoring networks, which provide a national framework for collecting and disseminating quality assured deposition data that has been collected and analyzed following a common set of protocols in order to ensure consistency and comparability in the measurements and in the data. Consistency and comparability in the analytical data are also achieved by having all samples collected within a network analyzed by a single, common laboratory such as the NADP Analytical Laboratory (NAL) for NTN samples and MDN samples. A benefit of using a national laboratory for this purpose provides economies of scale because of the large volume of samples it analyzes, which it can do at a much less expensive rate than any Maine / state-based effort analyzing just our own samples could. There are no other labs that I am aware of that provide this unique suite of analytical services and monitoring support.

NADP's analytical laboratory services are specifically designed to match the requirements of the NADP's NTN and MDN sampling and analytical protocols, as detailed in their Quality Assurance Project Plans for various components of those programs. In order to have one's deposition monitoring sites considered as belonging to the NADP NTN or MDN network, the samples must be analyzed by the NAL, so using another laboratory's analytical services is simply not an option. As mentioned previously, the value and benefit to DEP of its sites belonging to these networks is the consistency and comparability of the data generated by all of its sites, providing for direct "apples to apples" comparisons with data from other states' sites.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

NADP reviews its networks' per sample costs periodically and provides for stakeholder input. Because of our level of site sponsorship participation, we have a seat and a vote on the Budget Advisory Committee, which oversees this process.

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

As mentioned previously, contracting with some other outside laboratory for the analyses of our precipitation samples would negate all of the other positive and beneficial aspects of being part of the NTN and MDN national networks.

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



Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

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

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):			
Typed Name:	Melanie Loyzim	Date:	Dec 8, 2023
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  891CE7A1493D45B...		
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date:	12/14/2023