|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RFP NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFP #202503049 Engineering Services and Operations Support at State-Owned Landfill, East Millinocket, Maine |
| **RFP ISSUED BY:** | Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services |
| **BIDDERS’ CONFERENCE LOCATION:** | Dolby Landfill, East Millinocket Maine |
| **BIDDERS’ CONFERENCE DATE/TIME:** | August 22, 2025 from 12:30-2:30 |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | August 01, 2025 |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | August 29, 2025 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | September 8, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |

**Below are questions received and the responses provided at the Bidders’ Conference.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | **Question** |
| What areas get mowed? |
| **Answer** |
| Beginning summer 2025, the mowing schedule will return to biennial mowing of the landfill covers. The mowing program will be performed such that the Dolby II Landfill is mowed one year and the Dolby III Landfill is mowed the following year. Dolby II was mowed in 2025, so will not be mowed until 2027. Dolby III is scheduled to be mowed in 2026. Mowing also includes the landfill access road and leachate pipeline route. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2** | **Question** |
| Is there any mulching that is done? |
| **Answer** |
| There is no mulching done at the landfill other than for erosion control during construction activities. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3** | **Question** |
| Who is responsible for clearing brush and fallen trees along the landfill road or leachate pipeline? |
| **Answer** |
| Mowing includes clearing brush and fallen trees, as well as tree trimming along the leachate pipeline route, landfill access road, and leachate pond will be conducted as needed. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **4** | **Question** |
| How is brush growth managed in the rock ditches? |
| **Answer** |
| Wooded vegetative growth would have to be removed via hand tools for any rock ditches and downspouts. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **5** | **Question** |
| How long does it take to complete the mowing? |
| **Answer** |
| It takes approximately 75 – 100 hours to complete the annual mowing. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **6** | **Question** |
| When can mowing the landfill begin? |
| **Answer** |
| Mowing can begin after June 30th. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **7** | **Question** |
| Is there any mowing along the pipeline road after it crosses South of Rt 157? |
| **Answer** |
| There is no mowing along the pipeline route South of Rt 157, however, tree trimming required as needed. |

**Below are submitted, written questions from bidders and the Department’s responses.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| PART II, Line-Item I., Pg 8 | Given that this scope item includes engineering support for currently undefined, future projects, we are seeking clarification from BGS regarding approach to cost preparation to ensure a comparable bid item amongst respondents. |
| **Answer** |
| The Final Cover Upgrade for Dolby II and PFAS Treatment System for landfill leachate are not in the current work plan. The question is to solicit information about the capacity to perform such work if and when it is programmed and funded. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| PART II, Line-Item I., Pg 8 | Does BGS have a proposed timeline for additional closure work or Leachate PFAS treatment system design/installation? |
| **Answer** |
| There is not a proposed timeline for a Leachate PFAS treatment system, or closure work at this time. |
| **3** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| PART II, Line-Item A., Pg 8 | Have the revised (2025) Post-Closure Monitoring Plan and Environmental Monitoring Plan been approved by MDEP for implementation in their entirety? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, the revisions made to the 2025 Post-Closure Monitoring Plan and to the Environmental Monitoring Plan have been approved in their entirety. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **4** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| PART II, Line-Item A., Pg 8 | According to the Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Plan – Aerial Topographic Surveys of the landfill surfaces are required once per five years. Can BGS provide the date of the last Topographic Aerial Survey completed or clarify whether this service will be needed during the upcoming 3-year contract term? |
| **Answer** |
| The Aerial Survey was conducted in 2025. The Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Plan requires an Aerial Survey every 5 years. The next survey would be in 2030. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **5** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, A. p.8 | Is Appendix F of the 2024 Annual Report the same as the POST-CLOSURE MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE PLAN (revised April 2025) the latter being provided in the RFP by a link. If not, can Appendix F of the 2024 Annual report be made available? |
| **Answer** |
| The Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Plan is included as Appendix F in the 2024 Annual Report. The link provided in the RFP references the same document. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **6** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, F, p. 8 | Are the reports listed in this section the entirety of the required reports? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, all reports required are listed in this section. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **7** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, A., p. 5 | Does cost proposal need to include the cost of engineering services and operations/maintenance support for final cap upgrade of Dolby II? |
| **Answer** |
| The cost proposal does not need to include support for the final cap upgrade of Dolby II. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **8** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, C. | The “ELIGIBILITY TO SUBMIT BIDS” section appears to be missing. Can you please provide? |
| **Answer** |
| **C. Eligibility to Submit Bids**All interested parties are invited to submit bids in response to this Request for Proposals. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **9** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section IV, 1a, p. 12 | The period of performance requested for the cost proposal (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027) conflicts with the period of performance shown on Part I, C, p. 7. (December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2027). What period of performance should the bidders assume for the proposal? |
| **Answer** |
| The Initial Period of Performance is 12/1/2025 – 11/30/2027. The term of the anticipated contract (Initial Performance Period, Renewal Period #1, Renewal Period #2) is detailed in Part I Section C on Page 7. Bidders must submit a cost proposal that covers the initial period starting December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2027. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **10** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| TOC Pg 2 | Can Part I, Section C (Eligibility to submit bid) be provided, it was not included in the RFP? |
| **Answer** |
| **C. Eligibility to Submit Bids**All interested parties are invited to submit bids in response to this Request for Proposals. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **11** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section A, second paragraph | Text states “Current landfill operations have ceased”? Should this say filling operations have ceased? |
| **Answer** |
| The text should say “Current landfill filling operations have ceased.” |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section A, pages 2 & 6. | Can the status and acreage be clarified? RFP states different acreages, as follows: 1) page 2, paragraph 2: capped area of Dolby III is 25 + 14 + 19 + 10 = 68 acres; 2) page 2, paragraph 4: 72 acres of Dolby III has been capped; and 3) page 6 paragraph 5: about 73 acres. What acreage of Dolby III is covered and what remains to be covered at the Site, if any? |
| **Answer** |
| Dolby III consists of 68 acres and is completely covered with a modern cover design. Dolby II consists of 62 acres and is currently covered with a barrier layer consisting of compacted soil (till and/or sludge-till mixture) that still needs to be upgraded. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **13** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section A, page 6. | Are there estimated inflow rates to the pond to inform possible treatment design? |
| **Answer** |
| Although Dolby III has received a Final Cover Upgrade, Dolby II still has a soil cover to be replaced at a later date when funding is available.Leachate from Dolby II is generated from the following sources:1. Water that percolates through the cover system and is collected in the underlying sand layer associated with the existing cover system on the top of the Landfill;
2. Water that infiltrates through the Dolby II cover system and waste, into groundwater, contributing to the underdrain system associated with the Dolby III Landfill; and
3. Water that percolates through the east and north sides of the Dolby II cover system and is collected in an interceptor drain located adjacent to the east and north sides of Dolby II.

Dolby II will need to receive a final cover upgrade to decrease the leachate totals from the sources listed above, and to establish an accurate estimate of flow rates to design a PFAS Treatment System. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **14** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section A, page 6. | Has/will Dolby II sampling and analysis been aligned with that at Dolby I (field parameters only), due to the post-closure status of Dolby II (it was capped in 1987, so it is passed the 30-year post-closure period in \_\_\_)? |
| **Answer** |
| There are no current plans to modify the environmental monitoring program for the Dolby landfills. Several years of monitoring under the current plan will be needed to evaluate any changes in groundwater conditions resulting from the cover improvement projects.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **15** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section A, page 6. | What scope of services is required for the successful bidder related to “*ensure that the landfill is operated and* ***closed in compliance*** *with all MEDEP licenses and applicable state solid waste laws and regulations*”? The closure of the landfill is not defined and there is no place to provide a cost in Appendix D.  |
| **Answer** |
| The Dolby Landfill is closed to accepting waste. Dolby III has received a cover system upgrade, but Dolby II still has a soil-based cover system that will need to be upgraded with a modern cover system once funding has been secured. The Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Plan now functions as the Landfill Operations Manual where the landfill is fully closed to accepting waste. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **16** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section C, page 7 & Part IV, Section IV, page 12 | Can the Initial Period of Performance be clarified? Different periods are identified, as follows: Page 7: 12/1/2025 – 11/30/2027 & Page 12: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2027. |
| **Answer** |
| The Initial Period of Performance is 12/1/2025 – 11/30/2027. The term of the anticipated contract (Initial Performance Period, Renewal Period #1, Renewal Period #2) is detailed in Part I Section C on Page 7. Bidders must submit a cost proposal that covers the initial period starting December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2027. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **17** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Last Paragraph | No *field work* is identified in Part I, A, should this reference another Part/Section? |
| **Answer** |
| Part 1, A details the Purpose, Background and location of the Dolby Landfill. The field work associated with this contract is detailed in Part II Scope of Services to Be Provided. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **18** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D | What repairs to the leachate line system are expected in 2026 and 2027? |
| **Answer** |
| There are no repairs expected in 2026 or 2027. The leachate pond will need to be cleaned in 2028 (every 5 years) as required by the Post Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (PCMMP). The PCMMP also includes conditions where the leachate transport pipeline shall be cleaned when the combined pumping flow rate in the pipeline drops below 450 gallons per minute.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **19** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section F, page 8 | Will the most up-to-date files for text, tables, and figures (word, excel, historical database, statistics, etc.) be provided for each report? |
| **Answer** |
| The most up-to-date files can be found in the 2024 Annual Report. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **20** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, page 8. | Can a copy of the 2024 Annual Report be provided? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, the 2024 Annual Report has been provided upon request. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **21** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section D, Page 8 | Are we required to use all meters specified in the Environmental Monitoring Plan? All parameters (i.e., dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, etc.) have an individual meter listed. Can a multi-parameter meter be used if it is equivalent? |
| **Answer** |
| Any changes must be approved by DEP first, and if a change is approved the EMP must be revised to reflect the new method/equipment used. Revisions to the EMP can be submitted along with the Annual Reports. In this case using a multimeter to analyze different parameters is allowed, but it would have to be proven that the multimeter is equivalent or better. We would need to approve the change and then a revision would need to be done to the EMP to include the use of the new multimeter. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **22** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section F, page \* | Do statistics need to be completed using the same method as used in the past or only comply with “1992 Interim Final Guidance for statistics at RCRA Facilities?” |
| **Answer** |
| Statistical trend analyses and intra-well comparative analyses should be completed as part of annual reporting. Typical analysis methods used are Mann-Kendall trend analysis and Kruskal-Wallis comparative analysis. Other statistical test methods may be acceptable, with concurrence from the DEP. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **23** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section E, page 10 | Does it matter which sampling event the leachate is analyzed for assessment parameters? |
| **Answer** |
| A schedule for analyzing leachate for assessment parameters has not been specified. Ideally, this should occur during the same event annually for purposes of comparability, and we suggest the Spring monitoring event.   |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **24** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section F, page 10 | For analytical methods, does the method used need to be the exact method listed in the environmental monitoring plan or can it be comparable? |
| **Answer** |
| Comparable analytical methods must first be reviewed and approved by DEP. If approved the EMP would need to be revised to reflect the changes |
| **25** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D | How are non-scoped maintenance and repair activities, including emergency response, services beyond engineering services billed? |
| **Answer** |
| Any activities or services not included in the scope of work shall be billed separately by the vendor. For non-emergency items, notification of the cost shall be reported to the Landfill Manager for approval prior to conducting the work. The Landfill Manager shall be notified of all emergency work within 24 hours of conducting the work. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **26** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | For non-routine maintenance events or scope increases, how will the successful bidder request and receive funds (T&M, cost plus, change-orders)? |
| **Answer** |
| Any activities or services not included in the scope of work shall be billed separately by the vendor. For non-emergency items, notification of the cost shall be reported to the Landfill Manager for approval prior to conducting the work. The Landfill Manager shall be notified of all emergency work within 24 hours of conducting the work. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **27** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Is an electronic data deliverable required as part of the monitoring report to MEDEP, and if so, will the historic data be provided to facilitate trend evaluations, etc.? |
| **Answer** |
| Monitoring Data will be submitted to MEDEP within 30 days of receipt and evaluation of laboratory results as per the Environmental Monitoring Plan. Historic gas and water quality data can be found in the Annual Reports. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **28** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Is there a rain gauge onsite or is an outside source used for daily rainfall? If so, what is the source? |
| **Answer** |
| Rainfall is measured at the leachate pump station adjacent to the leachate pond. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **29** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| PART II, Line-Item C., Pg 10 | Historic waste produced from the cleaning of the leachate collection system components was disposed of on the Dolby landfill. Given that the landfill is officially closed, can BGS provide an assumed quantity of material requiring disposal annually from future required cleaning of the pond and force main for costing purposes? |
| **Answer** |
| There were less than 5 Cubic yards of materials (sediment, glove, rags, tubing) disposed of in the landfill after the leachate transport pipeline was cleaned in 2021, and 2022. There were approximately 47 cubic yards of waste materials (sediment, glove, rags, tubing) disposed of in the landfill after the 2023 cleaning of the leachate pond, and leachate transport pipeline. Although sediment accumulation should diminish with the continued closure of Dolby II, similar volumes (5 cubic yards for pipeline / 45-50 cubic yards for pond and pipeline) should be expected for future cleanings.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **30** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| PART II, Line-Item E., Pg 10 | According to Section 3.0 of the Environmental Monitoring Plan, “The detection monitoring program includes a list of parameters that will be sampled three times per year and used to evaluate changes in site water quality.” Section 3.1 further states, “Samples will be obtained and analyzed three times per year…” However, according to Section 7.1 of the Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Plan prepared by SME, monitoring locations “for the Dolby Facility are sampled and analyzed twice per year.” Furthermore, prior data included in the 2024 Annual Report prepared by SME suggests that sampling occurs twice per year. Can you please help clarify this discrepancy and confirm that detection monitoring occurs twice per year (in the spring and fall)? |
| **Answer** |
| Sampling is to occur twice per year (Spring/Fall). This reduction in monitoring frequency was approved by Maine DEP in their review memo of the 2019 Annual Report (dated July 23, 2020). |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **31** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Would BGS consider hosting a site visit for perspective bidders? |
| **Answer** |
| The RFP was amended to include a site visit, and BGS hosted a non-mandatory site visit for perspective bidders from 12:30 – 2:30 pm on Friday 8/22/2025. |