

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Purchasing Division**

**515 East Musser Street, Suite 300 │ Carson City, NV 89701**

**Phone: 775-684-0170 │ Fax: 775-684-0188**

Solicitation:**70CNR-S2610**

For

**PFAS RISK ASSESSMENT MODELING TOOL**

Release Date: **02/14/2024**

Deadline for Submission and Opening Date and Time: **03/13/2024 @ 2:00 pm**

Single point of contact for the solicitation:

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# APPLICABLE REGULATIONS GOVERNING PROCUREMENT

## All applicable Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) documentation can be found at: [www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/law1.cfm).

## SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT. Vendors and/or their representatives shall only contact the single point of contract or use the electronic procurement system regarding this solicitation until after a notice of award (NOA) has been issued. Failure to observe this restriction may result in disqualification of a proposal per NAC 333.155(3).

## Prospective vendors are advised to review Nevada’s ethical standards requirements, including but not limited to NRS 281A, NRS 333.800, and NAC 333.155.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## The State of Nevada Purchasing Division, on behalf of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Safe Drinking Water is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide **PFAS Risk Assessment Modeling Tool** services as described in the scope of work and attachments.

## The State intends to award one (1) contract in conjunction with this Request for Proposals (RFP), as determined in the best interests of the State. The Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water shall administer contract(s) resulting from this solicitation. The resulting contract(s) are expected to be for a contract term of four years, subject to the Board of Examiners’ approval.

# AGENCY BACKGROUND

## Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of emerging contaminants made up of several thousand compounds. Emerging contaminants are pollutants that affect the quality of drinking water but are not yet regulated by the EPA.  PFASs were developed in the 1930s, came into widespread use in the 1950s, and EPA first became aware of the health effects associated with PFAS in 1998.  Due to their use in consumer and commercial applications such as firefighting foams, stain repellants for clothing and carpets, and other sources, these chemicals are being detected in drinking water, groundwater, surface water, landfills, and air.

## This project will result in the development and maintenance of a GIS tool that models fate and transport of PFAS in drinking water sources, wells, surface water, water bodies, and soils to identify potential impacts and risks to public water systems, as well as provide a public-facing visual representation of PFAS detections in Nevada.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## The selected contractor will provide a GIS PFAS Risk Assessment Tool utilizing 1D and 2D screening level groundwater models that will produce geospatial layers showing locations of drinking water sources, drinking water protection areas, wastewater treatment facilities, and other locations with existing PFAS data levels as well as projected movement of PFAS through various media based upon fate and transport modeling. Data will be provided by NDEP to populate the GIS software.

## This GIS PFAS Risk Assessment model will provide visual access to mapped data showing areas with modeled PFAS concentrations and priority levels for the various tested locations, as well as displaying actual PFAS detections.

## Components of this project shall include:

### A robust GIS PFAS Risk Assessment Tool that utilizes 1D and 2D screening level groundwater modeling to assess the fate and transport of PFAS down-gradient through groundwater, within drinking water systems, discharged into surface waters, and leached from landfills to groundwater, based on best available science.

### A graphic user interface to be accessed by members of the public that displays PFAS sampling sites, PFAS detections, as well as risk assessment modeling outputs.

### A GIS tool that is user-friendly and that can continue to be populated with updates as PFAS detection data becomes available in the future.

### Model output that has been tested to ensure proper functionality, in collaboration with NDEP staff to identify potential problems and improvements.

### Training for NDEP personnel.

### Ongoing maintenance.

### Materials/documentation for the GIS PFAS ASSESSMENT system will be provided to the NDEP-GIS Technician.

# SCOPE OF WORK

## PROJECT TASKS AND OBJECTIVES

### TASK 1 COMMUNICATION

#### Communications: Project update meetings with State representatives

### TASK 2 GIS DEVELOPMENT

#### The model would incorporate geospatial and tabular data depicting hydrological and contaminant level data.

#### Use State of Nevada PFAS geodatabase and public water system location data to develop PFAS risk layers.

#### Develop Hydrogeologic model modeling software to generate a GIS layer of likely transport path of potential PFAS sources in proximity to drinking water sources and determine risk to drinking water sources based on these dynamics.

#### Hydrogeologic models will integrate with GIS data.

#### Use of GIS desktop software and groundwater modeling software to develop the model.

#### Graphic user interface development: design/develop a tool with a graphic user interface that can be run by NDEP staff to input new data.

#### Output to public-facing web application that will display actual PFAS detections as well as projected dispersal of PFAS in various media and the extent of PFAS migration within and between media.

#### Data will be provided on an ongoing basis as our PFAS Environmental Sampling project progresses throughout the contract period.

### TASK 3 – TESTING

#### Develop test modeling.

#### Upon completion of the model the contractor will run the model and produce an output/report of locations/PWS sources at highest risk of PFAS contamination.

### TASK 4 – TRAINING

#### Produce SOP/instructions document for NDEP staff on how to utilize the tool.

#### Provide training materials for NDEP staff.

# CONTRACT DELIVERABLES

## COMMUNICATION

### Schedule with BSDW a Kick-off meeting to include:

#### Key personnel introductions

#### Identification of key actions

#### Create timelines and milestones.

#### Documentation of meeting minutes

#### Scheduling of follow-up meetings with BSDW IT

## DEVELOPMENT

### Provide data extension/plug-in to ArcGIS such that:

### The graphic user interface tool is accessible to NDEP staff and

### The model output should be in a geospatial data format and compatible with ArcGIS desktop software.

### TESTING

#### Develop QA/QC testing of the Risk Assessment Tool- GIS model.

#### Monitoring and reporting of results to BSDW

#### Modify and resolve any performance issues found.

#### Report on resolutions and validate corrections.

#### Communicating with NDEP staff to identify any potential issues.

## RAINING

#### Vendor to provide BSDW with training components for all identified BSDW employees.

#### Training user guide and quick start guide documentation shall be provided.

#### Scheduled training sessions will be arranged with BSDW project coordinator.

# ATTACHMENTS

## ATTACHMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE. To be read and not returned.

### Terms and Conditions for Services

## ATTACHMENTS FOR REVIEW. To be read and not returned (unless redlining).

### Contract Form

### Insurance Schedule

## PROPOSAL ATTACHMENTS. To be completed and returned.

### Cost Schedule

### Proposed Staff Resume

### Reference Questionnaire

### Attachments for Signature

#### Vendor Information Response

#### Vendor Certifications

#### Certification Regarding Lobbying

#### Confidentiality and Certification of Indemnification

# TIMELINE

## QUESTIONS. All questions regarding this solicitation shall be submitted using the Bid Q&A feature in NevadaEPro.

## TIMELINE. The following represents the proposed timeline for this project.

### All times stated are Pacific Time (PT).

### These dates represent a tentative schedule of events.

### The State reserves the right to modify these dates at any time.

#### Deadline for Questions No later than 5:00 pm on 02/21/2024

#### Answers Posted On or about 02/28/2024

#### Deadline for References No later than 5:00 pm on 03/12/2024

#### Deadline Proposal Submission and Opening No later than 2:00 pm on 03/13/2024

#### Evaluation Period (estimated) 03/13/2024 – 03/20/2024

#### Notice of Intent (estimated) On or about 03/20/2024

#### Notice of Award (estimated) On or about 04/09/2024

#### BOE Approval (estimated) 05/14/2024

#### Contract start date (estimated) 05/14/2024

# EVALUATION

## Evaluation and scoring are conducted in accordance with NRS 333.335 and NAC 333.160-333.165.

### Proposals shall be kept confidential until a contract is awarded.

### In the event the solicitation is withdrawn prior to award, proposals remain confidential.

### The evaluation committee is an independent committee established to evaluate and score proposals submitted in response to the solicitation.

### Financial stability shall be scored on a pass/fail basis.

### Proposals shall be consistently evaluated and scored based upon the following factors and relative weights.

#### Experience in Performance of Comparable Engagements 35

#### Conformance with the Terms of this RFP 10

#### Expertise and Availability of Key Personnel 35

#### Cost Factor 20

### Cost proposals will be evaluated based on the following formula.

#### Cost Factor Weight x (Lowest Cost Submitted by a Vendor / Proposer Total Cost) = Cost Score

## INVERSE PREFERENCE

### The State applies an inverse preference to vendors that have a principal place of business in a state other than Nevada and that state applies an in-state preference not afforded to Nevada based vendors, pursuant to AB28 passed in the 81st session of the Nevada Legislature.

### The amount of the inverse preference is correlated to the amount of preference applied in the other state.

### Vendors who meet this criterion must indicate it on their submitted Quote in NevadaEPro.

### This preference cannot be combined with any other preference, granted for the award of a contract using federal funds, or granted for the award of a contract procured on a multi-state basis.

# MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

## Pursuant to NRS 333.311 a contract cannot be awarded to a proposal that does not comply with the requirements listed in this section. The proposal shall include confirmation of compliance with all mandatory minimum requirements.

## NEVADA LAW AND STATE INDEMNITY. Pursuant to NRS 333.339, any contract that is entered into may not: (1) Require the filing of any action or the arbitration of any dispute that arises from the contract to be instituted or heard in another state or nation; or (2) Require the State to indemnify another party against liability for damages.

## NO BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. Pursuant to NRS 333.338, the State of Nevada cannot enter a contract with a company unless that company agrees for the duration of the contract not to engage in a boycott of Israel. By submitting a proposal or bid, vendor agrees that if it is awarded a contract, it will not engage in a boycott of Israel as defined in NRS 333.338(3)(a).

## INDEMNIFICATION. Required contract terms on Indemnification: "To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend, not excluding the State’s right to participate, the State from and against all liability, claims, actions, damages, losses, and expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, arising out of any breach of the obligations of Contractor under this contract, or any alleged negligent or willful acts or omissions of Contractor, its officers, employees and agents. Contractor’s obligation to indemnify the State shall apply in all cases except for claims arising solely from the State’s own negligence or willful misconduct. Contractor waives any rights of subrogation against the State. Contractor’s duty to defend begins when the State requests defense of anyclaim arising from this Contract."

## LIMITED LIABILITY. Required contract terms on Limited Liability: "The State will not waive and intends to assert available NRS Chapter 41 liability limitations in all cases. The contract liability of both parties shall not be subject to punitive damages. Damages for any State breach shall never exceed the amount of funds appropriated for payment under this Contract, but not yet paid to Contractor, for the Fiscal Year budget in existence at the time of the breach. Contractor’s tort liability shall not be limited."

## CONTRACT RESPONSIBILITY. Awarded vendor shall be the sole point of contract responsibility. The State shall look solely to the awarded vendor for the performance of all contractual obligations which may result from an award based on this solicitation, and the awarded vendor shall not be relieved for the non-performance of any or all subcontractors.

## DATA ENCRYPTION. State IT requires that data be encrypted in transit and in rest.

## STATESIDE DATA. State IT requires that State data assets must be maintained in the United States and data will not be held offshore.

## NEVADA BUSINESS LICENSE. Pursuant to NRS 353.007, prior to contract execution awarded vendor must hold a state business license pursuant to NRS chapter 76 unless exempted by NRS 76.100(7)(b).

## DISCLOSURE. Each vendor shall include in its proposal a complete disclosure of any alleged significant prior or ongoing contract failures, contract breaches, any civil or criminal litigation or investigations pending which involves the vendor or in which the vendor has been judged guilty or liable.

# CRITICAL ITEMS

## In addition to the *Scope of Work* and *Attachments*, the items listed in this section are critical to the success of the project. These items will be used in evaluating and scoring the proposal. Vendor proposals should address items in this section in enough detail to provide evaluators with an accurate understanding of vendor capabilities. Proposals that fail to sufficiently respond to these items may be considered non-responsive.

## CONTRACT FORM*.* The State strongly prefers vendors agree to the terms of the attached *Contract Form* as is. The ability to agree to contract terms is a high priority to the State. Vendors who cannot agree to the contract as is must include a redlined Word version of the attached *Contract Form* with their proposal response. To the extent a vendor has prior contractual dealings with the State, no assumption should be made that terms outside those provided herein have any influence on this project.

## INSURANCE SCHEDULE

### The State strongly prefers vendors agree to the terms of the attached *Insurance Schedule* as is. Vendors who cannot agree must explain which areas are causing non-compliance and attach a red line if necessary.

### The awarded vendor shall maintain, for the duration of the contract, insurance coverage as set forth in the fully executed contract.

### Work on the contract shall not begin until after the awarded vendor has submitted acceptable evidence of the required insurance coverage.

### Failure to maintain any required insurance coverage or acceptable alternative method of insurance shall be deemed a breach of contract.

## VENDOR BACKGROUND

### Company background/history and why vendor is qualified to provide the services described in this solicitation.

### Provide a brief description of the length of time vendor has been providing services described in this solicitation to the public and/or private sector.

## VENDOR STAFF RESUMES

### A resume shall be included for each proposed key personnel, see *Proposed Staff Resume.*

### A resume shall also be included for any proposed key subcontractor personnel.

## SUBCONTRACTORS

### Subcontractors are defined as a third party, not directly employed by the contractor, who shall provide services identified in this solicitation. This does not include third parties who provide support or incidental services to the contractor.

### The proposal should include a completed *Vendor Information Response* form for each subcontractor.

### Vendor shall not allow any subcontractor to commence work until all insurance required of the subcontractor is provided to the vendor.

### Vendor proposal shall identify specific requirements of the project for which each subcontractor shall perform services.

#### How the work of any subcontractor(s) shall be supervised

#### How channels of communication shall be maintained

#### How compliance with contracts terms and conditions will be assured

#### Previous experience with subcontractor(s)

## VENDOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### The information requested in this section is designated as confidential business information by the Administrator pursuant to NRS 333.020(5)(b) and is not public information pursuant to NRS 333.333.

### This information should be submitted as a separate attachment, flagged as confidential in NevadaEPro.

### Proposing vendor shall provide the following financial information and documentation:

#### Federal Tax Identification Number

## BUSINESS REFERENCES

### The information requested in this section is designated as confidential business information by the Administrator pursuant to NRS 333.020(5)(b) and is not public information pursuant to NRS 333.333.

### Vendors shall provide a minimum of three (3) business references from similar projects performed for private and/or public sector clients within the last five (5) years, see *Reference Questionnaire*.

### The purpose of these references is to document relevant experience and aid in the evaluation process.

### Business references should return *Reference Questionnaire* directly to Single Point of Contact via email.

### Business references will not be accepted directly from proposing vendor.

### Business references shall not be requested from the soliciting agency.

### The State will not disclose submitted references but will confirm if a reference has been received.

### The State reserves the right to contact references during evaluation.

# SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

## This section identifies documents that shall be submitted to be considered responsive. Vendors are encouraged to review all requirements to ensure all requested information is included in their response.

### Proposals must be submitted as a Quote through NevadaEPro, [https://NevadaEPro.com](https://nevadaepro.com/).

### Vendors are encouraged to submit a single file attachment per proposal section if possible.

### Technical proposal information and Cost proposal information shall not be included in the same attachment.

### Cost proposal attachment shall not be flagged as confidential in NevadaEPro.

### Additional attachments may be included but are discouraged and should be kept to a minimum.

## TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

#### Title Page

#### Table of Contents

#### Response to Mandatory Minimum Requirements

#### Response to Critical Items

#### Response to Scope of Work

#### Proposed Staff Resumes

#### Other Informational Material

## PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. If necessary. The attachment should be flagged confidential in NevadaEPro.

#### Title Page

#### Table of Contents

#### Trade Secret information, cross reference to the technical proposal.

## COST PROPOSAL

## VENDOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION. The attachment should be flagged confidential in NevadaEPro.

## SIGNED ATTACHMENTS

#### Vendor Information Response

#### Vendor Certifications

#### Confidentiality and Certification of Indemnification

#### Certification Regarding Lobbying

## OTHER ATTACHMENTS. If necessary, not recommended.

## REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRES. Not submitted directly by vendor.