

Statement of Objectives

Background

The mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social and environmental needs. NOAA's mission faces new urgency given the intensifying national needs of the environment, the economy, and public safety. NOAA's role in facing these challenges is to assess and predict environmental changes, protect life and property, provide decision makers with reliable scientific information, manage the Nation's living marine and coastal resources, and foster global environmental stewardship. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the foundation of American environmental protection requiring Federal agencies to use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which people and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other needs of present and future generations of Americans. NEPA provides a mandate and framework for Federal agencies to consider all reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of their proposed actions and to involve and inform the public in the decision making process. NOAA's policies, requirements, and procedures for complying with NEPA and the implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) are delineated in NOAA Administrative Order Series 216-6, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.

Program Objectives

NOAA's objective in meeting the requirements of NEPA for its own programs is to fully integrate the environmental review process into NOAA's planning and decision making process; fully consider the impacts of NOAA's proposed actions on the quality of the human and marine environment; involve interested and affected agencies, state and local governments, organizations, and individuals early in NOAA's planning and decision making process when impacts are, or may be, expected to the quality of the human or marine environment from implementation of proposed NOAA actions; and conduct and document environmental reviews and related decisions appropriately and efficiently while successfully carrying out the mission of NOAA.

Contract Objectives.

In assessing the most advantageous use of NOAA's resources, expert environmental review process services must be available to the responsible program manager for NOAA programs. Environmental review is the process and analysis undertaken by the responsible program manager to identify the scope of environmental issues related to a proposed action, and to determine the necessary steps for full compliance with NEPA, executive orders, any actions required by the CEQ, and Department regulations. The objectives to be accomplished under contract tasking:

Define the environmental nature of the proposed action and location;

Guide the environmental review and decision process; initiate the planning process as early as possible; and advise and recommend the need for an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) decision.

Coordinating the environmental analyses with the NEPA Coordinator to determine the best means for NEPA compliance and facilitating review and clearance at later stages of the decision making process.

Assess the nature and intensity of the potential environmental consequences of the action in relation to the criteria and guidance to determine if the action requires an EA, EIS, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Categorical Exclusion (CE), or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI);

Prepare a CE memorandum;

Prepare an EA or initiate planning for an EIS where an EIS is known to be appropriate;

Prepare the plan and scope the relevant processes and issues for an EA, EIS, or SEIS;

Representative NOAA Actions

- A Meteorological Radar

- A Satellite Control Terminal

- A Marine Laboratory in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone

Management Objectives

NOAA's objective is to accomplish its mission while leading environmental stewardship under NEPA by considering all reasonable foreseeable environmental effects of its actions using expert environmental review process services provided under this contract.

Place of Performance

The place of performance will be at the contractor's facility. Deliverables are to be sent to the NOAA/NWS Headquarters.

Period of Performance

The period of performance for this requirement is 1 base year with 4 1-year options. The base year will be from September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005.