

# **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

## **For Weather Research and Forecasting Model (WRF) technical support**

### **STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

#### **General Information about the RFI:**

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Air Quality, is seeking information on providing technical support to the Division related to the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model.

#### **Background:**

DEC is currently looking at the possibility of WRF model support for both the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) State Implementation Plan (SIP) and the Division's Air Permitting Program. The WRF model results provide gridded, regional meteorological data that can be used as inputs for a photochemical transport model, in this case the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model. Currently the FNSB SIP relies on two WRF episodes using 2008 data. DEC is looking to update its WRF modeling outputs to reflect wintertime episodic conditions during a more recent base year, which will require configuration and operation of the WRF model as well as performance comparisons to observed meteorological data. Descriptions of the existing WRF episodes may be found at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/communities/fbks-pm2-5-moderate-sip/>.

The Permitting Program is considering its needs for contract support to review and approve prognostic meteorological data generated using the WRF model that would then be used by permit applicants in AERMOD model demonstrations required for permitting purposes. Prognostic data submitted by stationary source applicants used in lieu of meteorological monitoring data in permit applications would need to meet federal and state regulatory requirements for air quality permits.

DEC is requesting the following information:

- 1) Is it possible for a single contractor to provide both support to the development of WRF episodes to support the FNSB SIP and provide contractual support for reviewing and approving WRF-generated prognostic meteorological data submissions by entities wishing to use modeled versus monitored meteorology in support of permit applications for stationary sources.
- 2) What difficulties or advantages would a single contract with both types of tasks have?

#### **Summary:**

This RFI is to identify sources that could provide technical support in the development of a possible 5 Percent Plan. The information provided in the RFI is subject to change and is not binding on DEC. DEC has not made a commitment to procure any of the services discussed, and release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorization to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought. All submissions become DEC property and will not be returned.

**Important Notice:**

DEC does not intend to award a contract from this RFI, nor will DEC be financially responsible for the preparation, or administrative costs incurred in responses to this RFI. All costs associated with responding will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if any is issued. DEC may or may not choose to meet with potential offerors to get further clarification of potential capability to meet requirements.

**Response Information:**

Responses to this RFI are required by **Friday, April 26, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. AKST.**

Responses should include the following:

- a) Name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail of designated point of contact; and
- b) Responses to each of the two numbered items identified above.

Written responses may be sent by U.S. mail or e-mail to the following address:

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Administrative Services  
Procurement Section  
Attention: Christine Mash  
555 Cordova Street, 4th Floor  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Telephone: 907-269-0291  
Email: **[DECDASPROCUREMENT@alaska.gov](mailto:DECDASPROCUREMENT@alaska.gov)**

**Proprietary information, if any, should be minimized and MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED. Information not marked as proprietary may become public.**

Please note the State does not accept responsibility for failed U.S. mail or e-mailed response deliveries. It is the responsibility of the interested party to follow up with the individual listed above to ensure your response was received prior to the deadline specified above.

Questions about this RFI can be directed to Christine Mash at [decdasprocurement@alaska.gov](mailto:decdasprocurement@alaska.gov).