



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Administrative Services

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### **RFP # 18-611-24 – Addendum One**

**To:** RFP # 18-611-24  
Interested Parties

**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**From:** Bryant Trujillo – Procurement Specialist 3  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Administrative Services

**Subject:** RFP # 18-611-24  
Addendum One

The solicitation package for **Request for Proposal (RFP) 18-611-24 – Ports and Waterways Ambient Water Quality Sampling** for the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Water is hereby clarified or changed as follows:

1. Questions submitted by an interested party and answers provided by the Division of Water representatives.

Addendum One is hereby made part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and comprises four pages.

All other terms and conditions for this Request for Proposal (RFP) remain unchanged.

Issued by: Bryant Trujillo  
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# Questions & Answers

## ❖ Question 1 –

- Section 1.04, Prior Experience, notes that the offeror should have at least 3 years of experience reporting water quality sampling results to EPA’s Water Quality Portal, ADEC’s Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS), or similar. Our firm has extensive experience developing water quality monitoring databases and reports for our mining, government, and other corporate entities. Can ADEC clarify what “similar” system would qualify?

The QAPP, Section A.6.2, Project Implementation Schedule, (dated June 2023) notes that all collected data will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet in a format provided by ADEC (and “the dataset will be joined to be used in analysis and imported into AWQMS”). As the data are to be provided to ADEC in a formatted spreadsheet, the database requirement appears to be superfluous. Is AWQMS experience necessary for this effort?

### ▪ Answer 1 –

- AWQMS is a database system that flows data to EPA’s Water Quality Portal. It allows for data submission to be either batched or manually input. DEC prefers the batched approach, which seems to be the most efficient for large datasets. This approach utilizes import files (excel spreadsheets) to map and configure imported data so that information and metadata must only be entered once for similar events (multiple results from the same event). The end user cannot alter the format of the spreadsheet; any alteration may result in import errors or require additional data mapping. The manual approach requires entering all data and metadata for each result and event. With both approaches, the end user must understand the database options allowed, as some fields are conditional entries, restricted to numbers or text, or must match lookup options found in the Water Quality Portal. Experience with systems with similar requirements or structures would satisfy DEC’s request.

While DEC is providing the import files (excel spreadsheets) to the contractor, contractor knowledge of AWQMS structure and limitations assists with smooth data import and transmission of the data collected to the EPA Water Quality Portal.

## ❖ Question 2 –

- Has ADEC considered separating the current RFP into multiple RFPs, potentially centered on geographic regions? Our firm is hesitant to propose on the current RFP due to the overall scope and scale of the logistics involved in working in geographically distant communities throughout Alaska. For example, the need to return to the various ports for up to 6 sample events in a 30-day period is a concern. If the project was split into multiple RFPs, we would likely consider pursuing one or more regions for a proposal submission.

### ▪ Answer 2 –

- To ensure samples are collected consistently across the state, we prefer one contractor. Contractors can subcontract, train, or partner with others to break up the regions. If no vendor is found during this RFP, we may consider breaking the contract up into regions.

❖ Question 3 –

- We have noted that this RFP does not include providing an annual summary report or a final comprehensive report summarizing multi-year results. Will reporting for the project be limited to the data provided in Excel spreadsheets for input into AWQMS (with supporting field logs, Data Review Checklist, electronic results from laboratory analyses, etc.)?

- Answer 3 –

- The vendor will provide a monthly report summarizing the work completed and the identified data deliverables, but not a data analysis report. The effort has been ongoing for the last three years. After completing this contract, DEC will contract for a large comprehensive analysis of the entire project (five years of data), including developing future recommendations.

❖ Question 4 –

- Due to the overall geospatial and temporal requirements for the project's sample collection, the most feasible method to conduct the work in a cost-effective manner requires the use of multiple subcontractors who are local to the sampling areas. Because of the broad geographical scope of the project, identifying enough specific, qualified subcontractors to complete the project team within the RFP timeframe requirements is a challenge. For the RFP response, will ADEC accept a series of minimum qualifications for any subcontractors as sufficient, without having to identify the specific subcontractors?

If we are unable to identify local subcontractors acceptable to us and ADEC, we would deploy qualified staff to collect the required field samples.

- Answer 4 –

- DEC does not need to approve the list of subcontractors. The contractor only needs to confirm subcontractors, if employed, will meet minimum qualifications.

❖ Question 5 –

- The current RFP QAPP (date June 2023) notes that the State of Alaska Environmental Health Lab was responsible for all analyses of Whittier and Valdez analytes (except for ammonia-N). Does this apply to the current RFP? Is there contact information?

- Answer 5 –

- No, this does not apply as the contractor is not sampling Whittier and Valdez. The sites identified to be sampled can be found in the Sample Schedule attachment. A task in the current RFP is updating the QAPP.

❖ Question 6 –

- Would the state please clarify the sampling schedule for Valdez sites: VA01, VA02, VA03, VA04, VA05 and Whittier sites: WH01, WH02, WH03, WH04, WH05, WH06?

- Answer 6 –

- The contractor is not expected to sample sites in Whittier and Valdez. DEC will sample those sites. The sites to be sampled by the contractor can be found in the Sample Sites attachment.

The proposal documents require individual acknowledgment of all addenda to the drawings and/or specifications. This is a **mandatory requirement**, and any proposal received without acknowledgment of receipt of addenda may be classified as being a non-responsive proposal.

**End of Addendum**