

# BID INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

## Fixed Price Competitive Bid Solicitation Snow Shoe Truck Stop

529 East Sycamore Road, Snow Shoe Township, Centre County, PA  
PADEP Facility ID #14-08117; USTIF Claim #1998-383(F)

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USTIF understands and appreciates the effort necessary to prepare a well-conceived response to a bid solicitation. As a courtesy, the following summary information is being provided to the bidders.

Number of firms attending pre-bid meeting: 6

Number of bids received: 5

List of firms submitting bids (in alphabetical order):

1. Alternative Environmental Solutions, Inc.
2. Converse Consultants
3. Juniata Geosciences, LLC
4. Letterle & Associates, LLC
5. Mountain Research, LLC

This was a defined Scope of Work bid so price was the most heavily weighted evaluation criteria. The range in cost quotes for the five bids received was \$72,293.66 to \$88,978.28. Based on the numerical scoring, two of the five bids were determined to meet the "Reasonable and Necessary" criteria established by the Regulations and were deemed acceptable by the evaluation committee for USTIF funding. The Claimant reviewed these bids and selected one for award of the assignment. **The selected bidder was Converse Consultants: Bid Price - \$76,355.00.**

The attached sheet lists some general comments regarding evaluation of the bids received in response to this solicitation. These comments are intended to provide general evaluative information based on the bids received in response to this solicitation and to assist you in preparing bids for future solicitations.

## GENERAL COMMENTS REGARDING EVALUATED BIDS

- When task descriptions presented in a bid response simply reference or copy the Request for Bid (RFB) task descriptions verbatim, it is not clear whether the bidder's technical personnel thoroughly reviewed the RFB relative to the historical site documents, understood the technical requirements, and developed task content that the bidder regarded as necessary and appropriate to accomplish the project objectives.
- Some bid responses did not, or inadequately addressed, one or more of the six key considerations specified in the RFB. For example, a number of bid responses did not provide sufficient information that would allow the bid evaluation committee and Solicitor to determine whether the bidder designed a project approach and schedule that periodically takes stock of whether the remedial goal of demonstrating attainment of the residential used aquifer SHS-MSCs for soil and SSS via pathway elimination for groundwater can be reasonably achieved at this site. Additionally, some bidders failed to acknowledge the requirement to express the methods and personnel it will use to complete the exposure pathway evaluation / risk assessment.
- Regarding Task 2 (Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring, Sampling and Reporting), some bidders specified treating purge water with granular activated carbon and discharging the treated water to the ground surface, apparently without verifying that this practice was acceptable to the PADEP North Central Regional Office. The RFB specified "Bidders shall manage equipment decontamination fluids and groundwater generated by well purging and sampling activities in accordance with standard industry practices, and applicable laws, regulations, guidance, and PADEP directives."
- For Task 3 (Soil Vapor Intrusion Assessment), some bidders did not specify the use of 6 L Summa canisters for collecting the soil gas samples and applying sampling flow rates not to exceed 200 ml/min. Instead, the use of a regulator calibrated for an 8-hour time-weighted composite sample was specified.
- For Task 7 (Prepare a Draft and Final RRAP [combination SSS / SHS]), some bidders did not acknowledge the requirement for addressing the PADEP's comments on the RRAP as specified in the RFB.
- Regarding Task 9 (Environmental Closure / Restoration Activities), most bidders did not specify that the Solicitor will be asked whether he wishes to maintain any of the components of the remedial system (e.g., the equipment shed) before removing them from the property for proper disposal.
- Regarding Section 5 (Additional Bid Package Requirements), some bidders inadequately described: 1) their approach to working with the PADEP from project inception to submittal of the RRAP and RACR; and 2) how the PADEP would be involved proactively in the resolution of technical issues and how the PADEP case team would be kept informed as to project status.