



**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
101 EAST CAPITOL, SUITE 350  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201**

**455-RFQ-2001**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES  
FOR  
FLOOD RISK ANALYSIS AND  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

**CLARIFICATIONS AND  
RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**DATE  
March 3, 2020**

# CLARIFICATIONS

Below is a summary of written questions submitted to NRD regarding 455-RFQ-2001. Clarifications and responses are provided.

Additionally, please note that the following sections of the RFQ have been edited for clarity based on these questions. The revisions are noted below and incorporated in the revised RFQ attached to this document and available for download at <https://www.anrc.arkansas.gov/>.

## I. REVISIONS TO 455-RFQ-2001 [revised language in BOLD]

### Section V.C.5

Office Size: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Office size (number of employees) shall be evaluated based upon the anticipated needs for a project of this type, size and complexity. **The number of discipline-specific licensed and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed project team.**

### Section VII.B.2

**The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar projects of the type, size, and complexity.** A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 20 (equivalent to 20%).

### Section VII.B.4(a)

**The consultant should discuss the firm's use of key personnel throughout the project with respect to project management. Describe the primary licensed professionals' and non-licensed staff's roles** with regards to budget reviews, FEMA and EPA reporting requirements, production of models, attendance at project meetings with the Agency or other consultants, review of contractor submittals, review of project progress, review of proposed changes in scope of the work and review of pricing or payment requests, project observations, and project closeout.

## II. CLARIFICATIONS AND RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

### Section IV. Written Qualifications Submission Guidelines

#### **Section IV.B.7**

**Question:** Is Key Personnel experience limited to the last 5 years?

**Response:** Consultants must address experience within the past 5 years and are free to expand beyond the five-year period. Please note that evaluation committee will focus on the experience within the time period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2019.

#### **Section IV.B.8**

**Question:** Is Firm experience limited to the last 5 years?

**Response:** Consultants are encouraged to address experience within the past 5 years and are free to expand beyond the five-year period.

**Question:** Section IV.B.8 states that “Examples of other projects that demonstrate your ability to address key elements of this type of contract may be included provided the link between the key element and the anticipated application to this contract are clearly delineated.” What is the definition of “key elements”?

**Response:** Consultant is directed to use best professional judgement and past experience to identify the key elements as pertains to the type of work outlined in the RFQ.

#### **Section IV.B.9**

**Question:** Section IV.B.9 states “Provide a complete listing of all contracts that the primary firm has or had within the previous 24 months, including all current contracts.” Should the contract amount include the total contract award over the life of the contract or just the amount awarded over the last 2 years (2018-2019)?

**Response:** Consultants should include the total contract award over the life of the contract and – as applicable - the amount awarded - for all contracts awarded, completed, and/or in progress during the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Section V. Evaluation of Responses and Selection Criteria

**Section V.C.5**

**Question:** Section V.C.5 states “The number of discipline specific designer and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed design team and backup personnel.” However, this RFQ does not involve designers or design teams; in addition, no specific personnel list was provided in the RFQ. How do we respond to this?

**Response:** Consultant is directed to use their best professional judgement and past experience to identify the disciplines pertinent and required for the type of work outlined in the RFQ.

Section V.C.5 is hereby revised as follows [revisions in bold]:

Office Size: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Office size (number of employees) shall be evaluated based upon the anticipated needs for a project of this type, size and complexity. **The number of discipline specific licensed and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed project team.**

Section VII: Oral Presentations and Interviews

**General**

**Question:** Will the same evaluation committee personnel be used for the Oral Presentations?

**Response:** Yes, the same personnel will be used for both the evaluation of the written statement of qualifications and the oral presentations.

**Section VII.A.4**

**Question:** Section VII.A.4 states “In accordance with MSC § 2-106, preliminary designs or suggested designs for specific projects shall not be permitted. This includes renderings, sketches, site plans, space plans, or other graphic or pictorial representations developed for this specific project.”. As this RFQ does not involve design of any projects, how do we respond to this?

**Response:** As this RFQ does not require construction, Consultant is not expected nor allowed to provide renderings, sketches, site plans, space plans, or other graphic or pictorial representations of a physical structure. Examples of floodplain mapping, floodplain risk identification, watershed management plans, SWAT models, stakeholder engagement, and flood risk models that

have been previously prepared for other clients may be submitted. All visual presentation materials should contain an identification of the client for which that material was prepared.

**Section VII.B.1(b)**

**Question:** Section VII.B.1(b) states “The consultant shall present an overview of the total number of state agency projects submitted through NRD over the past 5-years.” Should this overview include the projects that were completed over the past 5 years or the projects that were awarded over the past 5 years?

**Response:** Consultants should include projects that were awarded, completed, and/or in progress during the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019.

**Section VII.B.2**

**Question:** Section VII.B.2 states “The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar renovation and maintenance projects of the type, size, and complexity.”, yet this RFQ does not involve renovation or maintenance projects. How do we respond to this?

**Response:** Section VII.B.2 is hereby revised as follows [revised portions in bold]:

**The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar projects of the type, size, and complexity.** A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 20 (equivalent to 20%).

**Section VII.B.4(a)**

**Question:** Section VII.B.4(a) references key personnel for “design and construction observation” and “designer’s roles”; as this RFQ does not involve design or construction, how do we respond to this?

**Response:** Section VII.B.4(a) is hereby revised as follows [revised portions in bold]:

**The consultant should discuss the firm’s use of key personnel throughout the project with respect to project management. Describe the primary licensed professionals’ and non-licensed staff’s roles** with regards to budget reviews, FEMA and EPA reporting requirements, production of models, attendance at project meetings with the Agency or other consultants, review of contractor submittals, review of project progress, review of proposed changes in scope of the work and review of pricing or payment requests, project observations, and project closeout.

**Section VII.B.6**

**Question:** Section VII.B.6 states that “Clarification Questions” are restricted to questions regarding the written statement of qualifications. Will questions be allowed during the “Clarifications Questions” time, or at other times during the interview, regarding the information that is presented during the interview?

**Response:** Clarification Questions will be restricted to questions regarding the written statement of qualifications. Consultant’s responses should be limited to clarifying the information previously provided and should not contain new information that may have been omitted to add new qualification information not previously submitted.

**END**



**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
101 EAST CAPITOL, SUITE 350  
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**455-RFQ-2001 (REVISED)**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES  
FOR  
FLOOD RISK ANALYSIS AND  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

**DATE**

**March 3, 2020**

**SUBMITTAL DEADLINE**

**2:00 PM, March 13, 2020**

<b><u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
I. Introduction	2
II. Scope of Services Requested	4
III. Proposed Schedule of Events	7
IV. Written Qualifications Submission Guidelines	8
V. Evaluation of Responses and Selection Criteria	11
VI. Selection of Consultants for Interviews	15
VII. Oral Presentations and Interview	15
VIII. Selection of Consultant for Negotiations	19

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. General

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-801 et. seq., §19-11-1001 et seq., Division of Building Authority (DBA) Minimum Standards and Criteria (MSC) § 2-100, and the Department of Finance Administration and Finance Office of State Procurement's Policies and Guidelines, the Natural Resources Division (NRD) of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture herein after referred as the Agency, is soliciting qualifications from qualified firms to provide Professional Engineering Consulting Services for Flood Risk Analysis and Watershed Management Projects. Applicants must be properly registered with the appropriate professional boards in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 17-15-101 et. seq. (Architectural), Ark. Code Ann. § 17-38-101 et. seq. (Landscape Architect), Ark. Code Ann. § 17-30-101 et. seq. (Engineering) and Ark. Code Ann. § 17-48-101 et. seq. (Land Surveyors). The MSC is available for review and download at the following website link:

<http://dba.arkansas.gov/aboutUs/Documents/Final%202012%20Revision.pdf>

### B. Objective

Agency is seeking a qualified firm to provide Professional Engineering Consultant services to produce expert technical and management assistance in flood risk analysis, watershed management, stakeholder engagement, and contract administration for a Design Professional Contract as defined in Ark. Code Ann. §19-11-1001 regarding engineering related services for Flood Risk Analysis and Watershed Management Projects. Agency intends to award this contract to a consultant having the capability to provide the required services in-house but shall consider awarding the contract to a consulting firm with outside sub-consultants. The Agency reserves the right to award one or more contracts under this solicitation if deemed in the best interest of the State.

The professional engineering services include the following areas of expertise:

1. Base Level Engineering.
2. Flood Risk Products.
3. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS)
4. FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS).
5. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nine Element Watershed Management Plans (WMPs).
6. Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Modeling.
7. Local, State, and Federal Regulatory Water Quality Standards and Guidelines.
8. Project Planning and Administration Support.
9. Stakeholder Engagement.
10. Performance Monitoring.

### C. Contemplated Projects

The following is a partial listing of projects over the past several years. It is provided to illustrate the types of projects and services the consultant may be asked to perform and shall not be construed as a commitment of work under this contract. Actual projects under this contract may or may not be similar in scope to the ones shown here. Each assignment will be issued individually in writing and the scope and fees shall be negotiated for each at that time.

1. Development and preparation of the Arkansas State Floodplain Mapping Business Plan.
2. Review of the FEMA Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) database for the State of Arkansas to identify areas (watersheds) to be updated and areas that meet FEMA criteria for study/restudy.
3. Preparation of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports for communities within Arkansas.
4. Development of new hydrologic or hydraulic data for areas identified by the State as requiring new study.
5. Development of EPA nine-element watershed management plans (WMP) for HUC8 to HUC12 watersheds within Arkansas.
6. Development of Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) models.
7. Education and outreach to stakeholders.

D. Submittal of a statement of qualifications (SOQ) in response to this request for qualifications (RFQ) does not constitute an offer to practice engineering nor does submittal of a SOQ represent a proposal to provide any level of services for any stipulated compensation. Responses to this RFQ will be used by the Agency solely to determine if the respondent has the appropriate background, experience, licenses, and qualifications to be considered for project or solicitation. The best qualified respondent will be selected for negotiation of a professional services contract. During the contract negotiation phase, the selected firm and the Agency will develop a detailed scope of services required to fulfill the needs of this solicitation and at that time the consultant will make a formal proposal to provide the requested services for a stipulated method of compensation in accordance with the Minimum Standards and Criteria.

### E. Term

The term of the contract will be annual with the option for extension or renewal for up to a maximum of seven (7) consecutive years or until the project is completed, whichever comes first.

### F. Submittal of Statement of Qualifications

Responses to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) shall be submitted to the evaluation committee facilitator identified under item IV.A. of this RFQ on or before the date stipulated.

## G. Clarifications

Prospective respondents may submit written questions or request for clarifications to the facilitator on or before 2:00 PM CST on the date shown under item III of this RFQ.

## H. Minority and Women's Business Participation

The State of Arkansas supports equal opportunity in the participation in all areas of capital improvements, therefore minority and women's business enterprises are encouraged to participate.

## I. Vendor Performance Evaluations

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-268 (ACT 557 of 2015) all vendors are subject to quarterly performance evaluations by the Agency during the life of the contract. The Professional Engineering Consultant selected for this project will be evaluated on the following broad scope categories:

1. **Customer Service:** The degree of responsiveness provided by the vendor to an agency's request for assistance in areas including but not limited to invoicing, communications, and problem solving.
2. **Delivery:** The degree with which the vendor supplied the services to the agency within the time frames identified or specified in the contract or scope of work statement.
3. **Quality:** The conformance of the services with the stated requirements, deliverables, and performance standards specific in the contract or scope of work statement.
4. **Pricing:** The level to which the vendor adheres to the project budget as outlined in the contract or scope of work statement.

Specific criteria for each category will be defined in the contract negotiation phase with the selected Professional Engineering Consultant.

Quarterly reports will be submitted by the Agency to the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and will not be copied directly to the vendor by the Agency. OSP will review the report and submit all "Below Standard" reports to the vendor.

## II. SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUESTED

### A. Flood Risk Analysis

Assist NRD with the ongoing execution and implementation of the Cooperating Technical Partnership in support of the FEMA Risk MAP program and related flood risk assessment activities.

#### 1. Program Management

Provide program management and other administrative support services, including but not necessarily limited to:

- (a) Coordinate with the FEMA Regional Office with respect to Quantities and Baseline Schedule (QBS) form.
- (b) Implement the prepared CTP Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) Plan.
- (c) Leverage reporting in the Mapping Information Platform (MIP)
- (d) Develop Status Reports.
- (e) Deliver Technical Study Data Notebooks (TSDNs).
- (f) Prepare Key Decision Point (KDP) process paperwork.
- (g) Participate in Monthly/Quarterly Coordination calls.
- (h) Develop and prepare the Arkansas State Floodplain Mapping Business Plan.
- (i) Review the FEMA Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) database for the State of Arkansas to identify areas (watersheds) that need to be updated and areas that meet the FEMA criteria for study/restudy.

## 2. Base Level Engineering

Develop Base Level Engineering meeting at least the minimum deliverable requirements outlined by FEMA Region 6 BLE Submittal Guidance, following guidance provided in Appendix A – 2D Base Level Engineering, as required. Activities may include, but are not limited to development of the following:

- (a) Base Level Engineering hydrology inputs/outputs (Basin, Sub-basins, Hydro Stream Network, Flow Change Location indication)
- (b) Base Level Engineering hydraulic inputs/outputs (stream centerline, all cross-section locations, 10%, 1% and 0.2% floodplains - minimum)
- (c) HEC-RAS modeling for 10%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 0.2%, 1%+ and 1%- annual chance events
- (d) Flood Risk Assessment (Refined) inputs and outputs
- (e) Multi-Profile Water Surface Elevation Grids (1% and 0.2% minimum)
- (f) Multi-Profile Flood Depth Grids (1% and 0.2% minimum)
- (g) Detailed Study Area polygon and Streamline file
- (h) GIS Point or polygons files indicating suggested structure inventory and data detail requirements for future Discovery data collection efforts

## 3. Discovery

Evaluate watersheds and the communities within to determine what technical support or assistance components available through a Flood Risk Project may be appropriate in later phases to support decreasing the long-term natural hazard risk throughout the watershed. Discovery may include engineering analysis and/or risk assessment, preparation of flood risk products and other hazard datasets, providing mitigation planning and/or other technical assistance, updates to regulatory

products (FIS and FIRM), or providing risk communications and outreach assistance within the defined project area.

#### 4. Flood Risk Products

Develop flood risk products based on Base Level Engineering and Hazus data set for studied watersheds. Activities may include, but are not limited to, development of the following:

- (a) HUC8 Watershed Flood Risk Report documenting and delivering local communities a summary of their watershed and local flood risk information along with best practices for risk reduction.
- (b) Flood Risk Map(s) depicting non-regulatory flood risk dataset and selected base map information.
- (c) Flood Risk Assessment Dataset including delivery of Hazus study results based on the Base Level Engineering data prepared for watershed project areas.
- (d) Flood Risk Database including Flood Risk Datasets.

#### B. Watershed Management Plans

1. Develop EPA nine-element watershed management plans (WMP) to provide stakeholders planned steps of reducing pollutants to levels that will restore, maintain or enhance the designated uses of the waterbodies within the watershed.
2. Identify applicable regulatory water quality parameters at the local, State, and Federal levels.
3. Convene, lead, and report out a minimum of four stakeholder meetings per watershed, typically in two locations within the watershed.
4. For each WMP, post a draft WMP online to allow stakeholders opportunity to ask questions, suggest changes and edits, or request more information and incorporate as appropriate all comments, request and edits into final WMP.

#### C. SWAT Model Development

Utilize, calibrate, and verify a SWAT model for each WMP, implementing a five-step approach to insure adequate and accurate WMP development.

1. **Step 1:** Data Acquisition and Review using at a minimum topography, soil characteristic, land use/cover, stream/water body, weather, point source pollutant discharge, flow and water quality data.
2. **Step 2:** Configure SWAT Model for each 8-digit HUC to a 12-digit HUC watershed, addressing sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus transport for each sub basin; surface water flows (hydrology); surface and subsurface water interaction (hydrology); climate parameters; and water quality parameters.
3. **Step 3:** Calibration and Verification of the SWAT Model.
4. **Step 4:** SWAT Model Quality Assurance Check

5. **Step 5:** Prioritize Watershed Subbasins, addressing current and projected nutrient loading for sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorous with attendant support tables, figures, and GIS maps.

Work conducted on each studied basin shall be documented in a Final Report and shall address model methodology; all data and GIS files; model configuration processes; model calibration and verification processes; model quality assurance check and verification; and recommendations of actions or activities to be implemented for the purpose of enhancing or maintain existing water quality.

### III. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- A. The following schedule of events is provided for preliminary planning and to convey the Agency and NRD understand the time critical events and proposed milestones. This schedule is in no way intended to establish an expectation or commitment for the execution or delivery of any or all of the events listed below. This schedule may be reviewed and revised and each step of the process up to and including the negotiation of the design services contract.

<u>Approximate Date</u>	<u>Procurement Event or Project Activity</u>
Sunday, February 16, 2020	Agency Advertises RFQ (first run, Pulaski County)
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	Agency Advertises RFQ (first run, Northwest Arkansas)
Sunday, February 23, 2020	Agency Advertises RFQ (second run, Pulaski County)
Tuesday, February 25, 2020	Agency Advertises RFQ (second run, Northwest Arkansas)
Tuesday, March 3, 2020	Deadline for submittal of written questions or clarifications.
Tuesday, March 10, 2020	Agency shall issue responses to all requests for clarifications
<i>(All questions will be answered and posted on the Agency websites as received.)</i>	
<b>Friday, March 13, 2020</b>	<b>Deadline for submittal of qualifications to the Agency.</b>
Monday, March 16, 2020	Facilitator pre-screens responses for consideration.
Monday, March 23, 2020	Evaluation Committee begins review of written qualifications.
Monday, March 30, 2020	Evaluation Committee meets to discuss evaluation and select firms for interview.
Tuesday, March 31, 2020	All firms are notified of short list and interviews are scheduled.
Wednesday, April 15, 2020	Oral presentations and interviews.
Monday, April 20, 2020	Draft Professional Engineering Contract(s).
Tuesday, April 21, 2020	Final Professional Engineering Contract Submitted for signature.
Tuesday, May 26, 2020	Contracts submitted to OSP portal for Legislative Committee reviews.
Tuesday, June 16, 2020	ALC Review Subcommittee Meeting.
Friday, June 19, 2020	ALC Meeting.

**Approximate Date**

**Procurement Event or Project Activity**

Friday, June 26, 2020

Contract approved by OSP and returned to the Agency.

Monday, June 29, 2020

Agency distributes approved contract(s) to engineering professional and consulting services may begin.

**IV. WRITTEN QUALIFICATIONS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**A. Submittal Information**

1. Provide six (6) copies of the statement of qualifications and one (1) in PDF file format on compact disc or flash drive addressed to the evaluation committee facilitator. All communications regarding the status of the RFQ process shall be directed to the facilitator listed below:

Shelby Schmittou, CFM  
Natural Resources Division  
Arkansas Department of Agriculture  
101 E. Capitol, Suite 350  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Office: (501) 682-3907  
[Shelby.Schmittou@arkansas.gov](mailto:Shelby.Schmittou@arkansas.gov)

2. Submittals shall be received at the above address on or before **2:00 PM on Friday, March 13, 2020**. Failure to meet this requirement shall result in automatic disqualification for consideration under this RFQ.
3. Envelopes should state “Statement of Qualifications for 455-RFQ-2001, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR FLOOD RISK ANALYSIS AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING”.
4. In accordance with the policies of the Agency and State of Arkansas concerning recycling of paper products, the statement of qualifications should be printed on recycled paper or on paper suitable for recycling. Color printing and photographs are acceptable provided they comply with the State recycling program. Do not include glossy paper in the submittal. Do not include plastic laminated sheets or covers.
5. The submittal should be bound by a plastic comb binder, tape binder, three-ring binder, or other similar method suitable for ease of removal for recycling.
6. The statement of qualifications should contain the information listed under contents below. Please note the submittal page limitations (maximum) as applicable. Unused pages in one section of the response may not be substituted for addition pages in another section.
7. A page shall consist of one typewritten, graphic, or photo representation on standard 8-1/2” x 11” stationery. Double sided print on standard 8-1/2” x 11” paper shall count as two pages. Maps, graphics or photos on one side of 11” x 17” paper shall count as two pages. Other paper sizes or blank filler pages are discouraged. It is not necessary to prepare your response to this solicitation using elaborate

brochures and artwork, expensive paper and bindings or other expensive visual presentation aids.

8. Submittal brochures shall be indexed to correspond to the numbering and labeling shown under contents below.
9. No information concerning the statement of qualification, evaluation scores, nor the identity of the evaluators shall be released by the Agency until all ratings have been summarized and approved by the appropriate procurement official of the Office of State Procurement or the Agency.

#### B. Minimal Submittal Contents

1. Transmittal Letter (2-page maximum)

This is to serve only as the document covering transmittal of the statement of qualifications. The letter should provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the official contact and an alternate. This individual(s) should be available to be contacted by telephone or attend meetings to provide clarification on the statement of qualifications as may be appropriate.

2. Proof of Registration (No page limit)

Submit evidence of proof of registration by the appropriate board having jurisdiction for each of the key personnel and the firms on the team. All individuals and firms must have a valid and current license and must be in good standing with the applicable board. Acceptable forms of proof from the Arkansas State Boards of Architects Landscape Architects and Interior Designers and the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Engineers and Professional Surveyors may be one of the following:

- (a) A copy of the Board issued wallet card showing the name of the individual or firm, the licenses number, and current expiration date. (Place multiple cards on a single page.
- (b) A copy of the individual's or firm's license from the appropriate Board.
- (c) A copy of the on-line verification of the individual or firm's license or certificate from the appropriate Board's official website. The copy should show the individual or firm's name, license or certificate number, and current expiration date.

3. Proof of Insurance (No page limit)

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance in accordance with the requirements and limitations set forth in the MSC under § 2-312 and § 2-313. The consultant selected for award under this RFQ must maintain the insurance current and effective throughout the period stipulated in the MSC. The consultant may change insurance carriers subject to notification to the Agency. Any new carrier must be acceptable to the Agency.

4. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEO) (No page limit)

The firm should submit a copy of their EEO policy or statement which is currently on file with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and the Agency. A respondent

is not required to have a formal policy but is required to disclose whether they have one or not.

5. Office Size (2-page maximum)

Provide a description of the size (number of employees), and organizational structure of your firm/team. Include a detailed description of the staffing and resources for the office from which you intend to service this contract. Indicate if all anticipated professional engineering services will be provided by in-house personnel.

If the firm intends to utilize outside consultants (such as engineering sub-consultants), provide a description of their primary office size and location, name, and services provided.

6. Office Location (1-page maximum)

Provide the physical address of the office from which the primary point of contact and response for this project will be located. Include the county in which this office is located.

If housed in multiple locations, provide a description of the staffing at each location.

7. Key Personnel of the Consultation Team (10-page maximum)

Provide a description of the key personnel to be used on the consultation team, including outside consultants. Provide a brief description of the qualifications including education and licenses. You may include an organizational chart. The descriptions should detail the role each individual will play along with brief examples of similar projects where this individual served in the same or a similar capacity. Descriptions should also indicate how long the person has been with the current firm and where the individual has worked (if other than the current firm) in the past 5 years and in what capacity.

Include a listing of the name of the firm and the key person that will provide the following services on your team:

- Base Level Engineering.
- Flood Risk Products.
- FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS).
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nine Element Watershed Management Plans (WMPs).
- Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Modeling.
- Project Planning and Administration Support.
- Stakeholder Engagement.
- Performance Monitoring.

8. Experience-General (10-page maximum)

Provide detailed descriptions of contracts of similar nature and scope that demonstrate your understanding of the requirements of this contract. Examples should be as closely matched to this type of contract as possible. Examples of other projects that demonstrate your ability to address key elements of this type of contract may be included provided the link between the key element and the anticipated application to this contract are clearly delineated.

9. Previously Awarded State of Arkansas Contracts (3-page maximum)

Provide a complete listing of all contracts that the primary firm has or had within the previous 24 months, including all current contracts. This listing should be limited to Arkansas State Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Higher Education Institutions, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and any Arkansas Constitutional Offices. Do not include public schools (K-12), county and municipal government units, or federal government contracts.

Listing should show with whom you had or have a contract, the type of contract (i.e. On-Call, or name of specific project), term of the contract (beginning and ending dates), amount of the contract, and the name, phone number and email address of the point of contact (person having operational knowledge of the contract).

Disclose all on-going legal controversies that you have with any Arkansas State Agency, Board, or Commission, including Higher Education Institutions, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and any Arkansas Constitutional Office.

10. Risk Management Plan (No page limit)

Provide a description of the prime firm's approach to managing risk on the project during all phases of the project beginning with the planning phase through the project closeout. Include discussion of how the prime firm will incorporate each sub-consultant's risk management plan into an overall comprehensive plan for this project.

Provide a description of the major risk factors that you anticipate in this project and potential solution strategies that will be implemented as needed.

## **V. EVALUATION OF RESPONSES AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **A. General**

The following provides a general overview of the evaluation process and describes the scoring criteria to be used in this evaluation process. The statements of qualifications shall first be screened to determine that the submittal meets the guidelines and requirements of this RFQ. Submittals which do not fully comply with these requirements shall be disqualified from consideration by the committee.

All compliant submittals shall be distributed to the committee members for evaluation. After each committee member has completed their evaluation and scoring, the

committee shall convene to discuss each submittal and total the scoring from all members.

The evaluation committee will be comprised of a minimum of three (3) representatives from the Agency. Voting members will have subject matter expertise in the areas of contracting, flood risk analysis, and watershed management. A representative of the DBA Design Review Section may attend the meeting as an observer and adviser for auditing purposes.

## B. Disqualification Requirements

**Submittals received after the closing date at time shown on the cover of this RFQ and in paragraph IV.A.2 will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.**

**Submittals which exceed the maximum page limits in one or more areas shown below shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.**

**Incomplete submittals shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.**

**Submittals not organized in the order prescribed in this RFQ will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.**

**Respondents who attempt to influence an evaluation team member in a manner that violates State or Federal laws or the ethical standards of the State, DFA/OSP, DTSS/DBA, or the Agency will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation. Violations of this subparagraph shall disqualify the respondent from further consideration at any point in this selection process.**

## C. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

Submittals meeting the minimum requirements defined above shall be considered for evaluation. Those submissions deemed compliant will then be evaluated and scored as stipulated in section "IV.B." of this RFQ and "V.C." below. The information provided under this subsection will be evaluated based on the criteria contained below and scored based on the maximum points assigned to each category. The following information shall be bound in the submittal under the tab number indicated.

1. Transmittal Letter: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 2 (equivalent to 2%).

This is to serve only as the document covering transmittal of the statement of qualifications. The letter should provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the official contact and an alternate. This individual(s) should be available to be contacted by telephone or attend meetings to provide clarification on the statement of qualifications as may be appropriate.

2. Proof of Registration: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

Submit evidence of proof of registration by the appropriate board having jurisdiction for each of the key personnel and the firms on the team. All individuals and firms must have a valid and current license and must be in good standing with

the applicable board. Acceptable forms of proof from the Boards of Architects, of Engineers and Land Surveyors, and of Landscape Architects may be one of the following:

- (a) A copy of the Board issued wallet card showing the name of the individual or firm, the licenses number, and current expiration date. (Place multiple cards on a single page.)
- (b) A copy of the individual's or firm's license from the appropriate Board.
- (c) A copy of the on-line verification of the individual or firm's license or certificate from the appropriate Board's official website. The copy should show the individual or firm's name, license or certificate number, and current expiration date.

3. Proof of Insurance: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance in accordance with the requirements and limitations set forth in the MSC under § 2-312 and § 2-313.

4. EEO Policy: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 3 (equivalent to 3%).

The firm should submit a copy of their EEO policy or statement which is currently on file with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and the Agency. A respondent is not required to have a formal policy but is required to disclose whether they have one or not.

5. Office Size: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Office size (number of employees) shall be evaluated based upon the anticipated needs for a project of this type, size and complexity. The number of discipline-specific licensed and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed project team.

6. Office Location: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Response and travel time by the selected consultant are determined to be important factors in the overall success of the project. Consideration shall be given to the location of the primary consultant's office as well as all outside consultants relative to the project site. In state distance will be calculated based upon the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's most current state highway map mileage chart between cities. No other source of distance will be evaluated.

7. Key Personnel: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 20 (equivalent to 20%).

Key personnel shall be evaluated on their experience relative to the capacity they will serve in on the team. Experience on projects of the same or similar nature as this contract shall be the primary consideration. If a member is designated as lead in a specific area, previous experience in lead roles is considered desirable. If this is the person's first project in a lead position, this shall not automatically disqualify

that individual but the relative importance of that position to the overall success of the project shall be considered and points may be deducted for lack of adequate experience. The length of employment with the current firm shall be considered as well as employment history during the past 5 years. Individuals should have been employed by their current employer at least 6-months and should not have had more than 3 different employers during the past 5-years.

8. Experience-General: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 30 (equivalent to 30%).

Experience shall be evaluated on its relevance to this specific contract's requirements. Experience with projects of the same or similar nature as this specific project shall be the primary consideration. Experience of a general nature demonstrating an understanding or problem-solving capability for discrete elements or functions related to this project's requirements may also be considered relevant.

9. Previously Awarded Arkansas Contracts: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

The consultant's current and recent (previous 24-months) contracting history shall be evaluated to ensure that all qualified firms have an equitable opportunity for State contracts.

10. Risk Management Plan: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

Risk management plan shall be evaluated upon the consultant's overall understanding of this type of contract and the factors that pose risk to the successful completion of projects assigned under this type of contract. Consideration should be given to the types of risk identified and the consultant's mitigation strategies to control or manage these risks.

#### D. Scoring Summary for Written Statement of Qualifications

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>	<u>Weighted Value</u>
1. Transmittal Letter	5	2
2. Proof of Registration	5	5
3. Proof of Insurance	5	5
4. EEO Policy	5	3
5. Office Size	5	10
6. Office Location	5	10
7. Key Personnel	5	20
8. Experience	5	30
9. Previous Arkansas Contracts	5	10
10. Risk Management Plan	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

#### E. Notification of Results

In accordance with MSC § 2-106, within three (3) working days after the committee has completed this portion of the evaluation, the Agency shall notify all respondents of the results. Only the names of the consultants selected for interviews will be released at this time. The scoring results and the ranking order of the consultants shall remain confidential. The time, date and location of the interviews shall be included in this notification.

### **VI. SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR INTERVIEWS**

- A. In accordance with MSC §2-106, a maximum of five (5) consultants shall be identified as the most responsively qualified and shall be selected for the oral presentation and interview phase. The total scores from all evaluators shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each submittal. The consultants having the highest average scores shall be selected for interviews. In the event of a tie score(s) for any position of ranking, the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the facilitator. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the facilitator shall notify the affected consultant's and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.
- B. The order of the scheduled times for interviews shall be determined by random drawing. The names of the consultants selected for interview shall be placed in a container and the names drawn one at a time from the container by the evaluation committee facilitator. The order of the schedule shall be as follows; the first name drawn shall have the first time slot; the second name drawn the second slot and so forth until all names are drawn. All interviews may be scheduled for the same date and location.
- C. Should the Agency receive fewer qualified responses than may be contracted under this solicitation, the Agency may request the DBA Design Review Section to waive the interview phase and proceed directly to the negotiation of a contract with the selected respondent(s) or the Agency may re-evaluate the services requested and re-advertise the solicitation. If the Agency elects to request the waiver and the request is approved, the committee shall complete the evaluation of the one respondent to ensure the consultant meets the minimum qualifications and expectations.

### **VII. ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS**

#### A. General

- 1. Each consultant selected shall be notified in writing of their selection and scheduled for oral presentations and interviews. Consultant shall be given no less than 14 calendar days to prepare for this meeting. Consultant should be prepared to answer questions concerning the qualifications and capabilities of their proposed team and

the presentation should be well prepared and concise. The consultant will be given approximately 30-45 minutes to discuss their unique qualifications and team structure and to present examples of their previous works. Approximately 15 minutes will be allocated for the committee to ask questions relevant to the proposed team and the project. After the question and answer period, approximately 2 minutes will be allocated for the consultant to make a brief closing statement regarding why he believes his firm/team is the best qualified for this project.

2. Interviews shall be conducted at the location shown in the letter of notification. The consultant may use photographic slides; power point presentations or poster board displays for visual aids during the presentation. It is the responsibility of the consultant to bring the necessary equipment including projectors, screens, stands or easels for this presentation.
3. The consultant may elect to provide paper copies of photographs or visual aids to the committee for later review. Copies shall be presented to the facilitator or committee chairperson at the beginning of the interview. Materials should be bound in a folder labeled in a similar manner to that of the initial response to the request for qualifications. The consultant may use photographic quality matte paper, color paper and other non-recyclable paper for this portion only. This material shall be used by the committee as a reference only during the evaluation. It is not necessary to prepare elaborate exhibits, displays or presentations with high end audio or graphics. No points shall be awarded or deducted for handout materials whether presented or not.
4. In accordance with MSC § 2-106, **preliminary designs or suggested designs for specific projects shall not be permitted.** This includes renderings, sketches, site plans, space plans, or other graphic or pictorial representations developed for this specific project. Failure to adhere to this requirement shall be grounds for disqualifications. This prohibition is not intended to exclude examples of projects of similar functions that have been previously prepared for other clients. All visual presentation materials should contain an identification of the client for which that material was prepared.

## B. Evaluation of the Oral Presentation

### 1. Experience-Specific

The consultant shall be evaluated on ability to provide the requested services for projects of this type and size. A maximum of fifteen (15) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 30 (equivalent to 30%).

- (a) The consultant should present an overview of previous project experiences specific to this RFQ that illustrates the capabilities and expertise of the proposed team's ability to deliver high quality, standard compliant products. Where applicable, discuss projects that the consultant has undertaken for the Agency under other contracts during the past 5-years. The range and types of challenges the firm has encountered on previous projects that might occur on this contract should be discussed as well as how the consultant overcame these challenges.

- (b) The consultant shall present an overview of the total number of state agency projects submitted through NRD over the past 5-years. Discuss the familiarity that your firm has with the current NRD processes.
- (c) The consultant may discuss or present examples of projects for which their team has received local, regional, or national recognition or awards in the past 5-years. Local awards may include society awards, industry association awards, or newspaper and periodical awards published annually. Regional and National awards may include association awards such as ASCE, ASFPM, or similar, and governmental awards such as FEMA, EPA, DOE, and similar. Awards include but are not limited to first, second, third place or honorable mention in a category or classification relevant to the subject project. For example, a project winning in the area of flood risk communication but not necessarily for overall project design may be applicable and appropriate for consideration.

Visual presentations of projects representing the consultant's style and creativity may be presented. To the maximum extent possible, these examples should reflect projects of similar size, function and complexity as those typically seen under type of contract.

## 2. Schedules

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar projects of the type, size, and complexity. A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 20 (equivalent to 20%).

The consultant's current workload shall be evaluated to determine that the team has sufficient capacity to meet the Agency's needs. Staffing patterns, staff utilization, and staff productivity of the consultant shall be evaluated to determine if an adequate number of the key and support personnel are assigned or available to execute the project in a timely manner. The organization structure of the team shall be evaluated to ensure that the appropriate mix of talent and expertise is available for each phase of the project. The consultant's use of, and approach to the team concept as well as contingency planning shall be considered.

## 3. Cost Controls

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet established project budgets. Consultant's understanding of both EPA and FEMA cost controls shall be considered. A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

The consultant should provide one base level engineering cost estimating example and one SWAT model cost estimating example from the projects referenced in the specific project experience described in item B.1 above. The consultant should discuss the firm's approach to developing estimates of probable costs for projects of the type normally seen under this type of contract. Include a discussion of the accuracy of firm's estimates on all projects of similar size and complexity over the past 3-years and, if available, provide a discussion of the factors affecting estimates that exceeded plus or minus (+/-) 10 percent of original budget at the start of the scoping phase.

#### 4. Management Plan

The consultant shall be evaluated on the firm's management approach for contracts of this nature and a demonstrated ability to acquire and disseminate the types of information required in a typical project assignment in an expedient and efficient manner to all members of the project team and the Agency. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

The consultant should present an overview of the quality control methods used to document and track the project requirements to ensure compliance with all regulatory review agency submittal and approval requirements.

- (a) The consultant should discuss the firm's use of key personnel throughout the project with respect to project management. Describe the primary licensed professionals' and non-licensed staff's roles with regards to budget reviews, FEMA and EPA reporting requirements, production of models, attendance at project meetings with the Agency or other consultants, review of contractor submittals, review of project progress, review of proposed changes in scope of the work and review of pricing or payment requests, project observations, and project closeout.
- (b) The consultant should identify the primary and secondary points of contact to be used by NRD. These individuals should be present and make this portion of the presentation. The consultant should describe the proposed organization of team members and support staff as required to meet the design challenges and delivery times for projects under this contract. Emphasis should be placed on the roles and responsibilities of each member of the team. The consultant should describe contingency plans to address the loss of key personnel, delays in production of project deliverables and extreme fluctuations in labor or data collection cost that may adversely affect the project schedule or budget.

#### 5. Contract Administration

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet the industry's standard of care as well as the NRD established criteria in this area. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

- (a) The consultant's approach to keeping NRD informed as to the progress of the assigned projects and major issues as well as the methodology used to track and resolve issues in a timely manner shall also be evaluated. The consultant's past performance with NRD may be considered in this area.

#### 6. Clarification Questions

The evaluation committee may ask questions for clarification of information provided in the written statement of qualifications. Questions will be limited to information provided in the written qualifications only. Consultant's responses should be limited to clarifying the information previously provided and should not contain new information that may have been omitted to add new qualification information not previously submitted. A maximum of 5 points will be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5%.

C. Summary of Oral Presentation Scoring.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>	<u>Weighted Value</u>
1. Experience-Specific	15	30
2. Schedules	5	20
3. Cost Controls	5	15
4. Management Plan	10	15
5. Contract Administration	10	15
6. Clarification Questions	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**VIII. SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR NEGOTIATIONS**

- A. The interview scores from each evaluator shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each consultant. These average scores shall be numerically added to the average score for the same consultant's statement of qualifications evaluations. The scores shall be ranked from highest to lowest (i.e.: highest score receives the number 1 rank position and second highest the number 2 position, etc.). In the event of a tie score(s), the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the facilitator. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The consultant having the highest total score (ranking) shall be selected for negotiations. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the facilitator shall notify the affected consultant's and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.
- B. All consultants interviewed shall be notified in writing of the rankings and the name of the consultant initially selected for negotiation. The Agency may select more than one of the qualified consultants for negotiation and enter into contract with several qualified consultants.
- C. The consultant selected for negotiation will be instructed to submit a proposed scope of basic services to be provided for this contract along with a copy of all proposed attachments to the contract. Include a schedule of the proposed fees and anticipated reimbursable expenses. If services above and beyond the customary basic services are anticipated, submit a description of the proposed services and the proposed fees. Basic services, allowable reimbursable expenses and additional services shall be as defined in the MSC. The Agency will schedule a meeting as soon as possible with the selected consultant to discuss the details and requirements of the full scope of services and contract budget. All contracts shall be on the forms approved by the DFA/Office of State Procurement and DBA. Attachments to this form are permissible and necessary to fully define the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. All attachments shall be edited as required to be in compliance with Arkansas law, MSC, Office of State

Procurement rules and guidelines governing professional service contracts and DBA's policies.

- D. In the event that the Agency cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the first consultant selected, the Agency may terminate the negotiation process and undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked consultant. If the second negotiation is unsuccessful, the Agency may terminate negotiation and move to the third ranked and so forth. If is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with any of the consultants interviewed, the selection process shall be terminated. The Agency may re-evaluate the scope of services required under this solicitation and begin the RFQ selection process over or may cancel this solicitation. Under no circumstances shall the Agency undertake negotiations with any of the consultants not selected for the oral presentation and interview phase of this solicitation.
- E. The State of Arkansas nor any of its entities shall be financially obligated for any consultants' expenses associated with the negotiation process whether successful or not. Nothing within this document shall be construed to waive the sovereign immunity of the State of Arkansas or any of its entities.

END