

LDEQ ANSWERS TO PROPOSERS QUESTIONS
RFP No. 3000016517
“Analytical and Consulting Services”

LDEQ’s answers to the following questions are intended to provide information to potential proposers’ questions to RFP No. 3000016517.

Questions and answers that may potentially result in the disclosure of information from proposals of competing bidders will not be published.

Question 1: Can you provide a list of compounds for organochlorine pesticides in Attachment 2 Schedule of Prices C Other Tests?

LDEQ Response: There is no specific list for organochlorine pesticides as listed in Attachment 2 Schedule of Prices C. Exhibit 2, Analyte List for SOP B lists common organochlorine pesticides that may fall under this line item.

Question 2: Are results from subcontract labs expected to be in EDD Equis format and uploaded?

LDEQ Response: EDDs for subcontractors within the parent company’s network are expected to be in EQUIS format and uploaded. For subcontractors outside of the parent company’s network, an EDD should be provided to LDEQ through the prime contractor, but it does not have to be in the EQUIS format or uploaded.

Question 3: There are no labs listed on DEQ’s website as being certified for chlorophyll a by method 445 or 447. Can we:

- a. Use a non-DEQ certified lab for this test by method 445 or 447?
- b. Use method SM 10200 for which we do hold certification?

LDEQ Response: a.) No, a non-DEQ certified lab cannot be used. Any LELAP accredited revision of EPA Method 445 or 447 is acceptable for chlorophyll analysis.

b.) SM10200H is also an acceptable method for chlorophyll analysis.

For either method, it is important to achieve the 1.0 ug/L reporting limit. Proposers must use LELAP certified laboratories for all tests. This RFP allows for levels of accreditation contingent on contract award as per RFP Part III Proposal Preparation Instructions, Section 3.2.3 Scope of Services, Item 2 Performance of Project Tasks (i.e., percentages).

Question 4: In Attachment 2 Schedule of Prices C under Tissue Tests, there is typically a homogenization step involved in the preparation of tissue samples for analysis. There is a charge for samples requiring tissue homogenization. Can a line item be added to the pricing table for this “tissue homogenization” charge?

LDEQ Response: No, a line item will not be added to Attachment 2, Schedule of Prices C for “tissue homogenization”. LDEQ typically does not pay additional line items for preparation or additional sample processing associated with analysis. Proposer must include any necessary costs for a specific test with the proposed price for that line item in the proposal. See also footnotes in each of the Schedule of Prices documents.

Question 5: Is a sister lab of the prime contractor considered a subcontractor and therefore must be listed on the cover letter as a true subcontract lab?

LDEQ Response: Sister labs of the prime contractor are considered subcontractors for the purposes of this RFP, and must be listed on Appendix A, Proposal Cover Sheet/Certification Statement. LDEQ will only be directly involved with the prime contractor. Any lab that is referenced in the Schedule of Prices documents to fulfill the requirements of the RFP should be listed on Appendix A for LELAP accreditation verification.

Question 6: Attachment 1 Scope Of Work, section 2.3 Special Conditions regarding ammonia nitrogen, is gas diffusion technology ok to use without distillation?

LDEQ Response: Gas diffusion may be an acceptable alternative to manual distillation for ammonia samples. If data for samples analyzed using gas diffusion does not compare with historical data, then manual distillation will be required.

Question 7: Section 2.11 in Attachment 1 Scope of Work – please define appropriate storage.

LDEQ Response: Appropriate storage is dependent on sample matrix and analysis requested. Storage requirements for specific parameters may be found in applicable reference methods, 40 CFR Part 136 Table 11, or EPA SW-846 Chapters 3 and 4, and are linked in Statement of Work, Section 9.7, Other Document References.

Question 8: Can you provide specific details regarding the process for EDD uploads?

LDEQ Response: The exact details of the EDD upload process have not been determined at this time. The task of EDD upload was added to the 2021 RFP to allow for testing of this process with our contract laboratories and eventual implementation. Guidance documents can be found on:
<http://deq.la.gov/page/leadms-resource-page>.

Question 9: There is typically a charge for the upload of an Equis EDD. Can a line item be added to the pricing tables for this charge?

LDEQ Response: No, a line item will not be added for the upload of an EQUIS EDD. The EQUIS EDD upload process will be implemented as a phased approach

and in testing for part of the contract term. We anticipate that it will be automated as much as possible. Any anticipated costs should be included in the proposed prices provided in Schedules of Prices A, B, and C as stated in RFP Part III, Section 3.2.7 Price Proposal (Schedule of Prices), Item 1,(a), Rate Column. Addendum 1 to this RFP corrects the footnotes of Schedules of Prices A, B, and C to include “report generation and EDD upload”.

Question 10: The 2018 LDEQ RFP No. 3000010564 and the 2021 RFP No. 3000016517 are very similar, along with some slight changes, would it be possible for LDEQ to provide all the questions and answers related to RFP No. 3000010564 or provide the path to obtain those questions and answers?

LDEQ Response: Questions and answers related to the 2018 RFP No. 3000010564 can be obtained by submitting a Public Records Request Form found here: <https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/prr/RequestForm.aspx>. For additional information on submitting a public records request, the DEQ Records Management can be contacted at publicrecords@la.gov or (225) 219-5337.

Question 11: Section 3.3 Financial Information, provides for 3 options for Evidence with the 3rd option being “Other evidence of the Proposer’s financial capability to carry out this project.” Please give examples of “Other evidence” and advise if a signed written statement from the VP of Finance or other Officer of the proposer stating several years of revenue figures will suffice as “other evidence.”

LDEQ Response: The preferred evidence to be provided to demonstrate the Proposer’s financial capability to carry out this project are Financial Statements audited by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA) for the past 3 years, including notes to the financial statement and the CPA’s audited report for each year.

A signed written statement from the VP of Finance or other Officer of the proposer stating several years of revenue figures may be submitted with the proposal. However, per RFP Part IV, Proposal Evaluation and Selection, Section 4.8, Determination of Responsibility, Item (1)(ii), “The Department reserves the right to request additional information to satisfy financial status review requirements.”

Question 12: Section 9 Correction of Deficient Work, states “ The Contractor will be responsible for any costs associated with the re-sampling including but not limited to, re-sampling costs, administrative costs related to re-sampling, and re-sampling analysis costs of any samples when data cannot be corrected due to technical difficulties and such data are deemed unusable by the Department.” In these cases, please note – the initial analysis does not qualify for billing, the Contractor must then cover all resampling costs as well as performing the re-analysis at no charge, therefore covering all resampling costs and then performing the re-analysis for free. Please advise if LDEQ would consider paying for the successful re-analysis cost only, in these cases, as paying for the proper analysis with valid results, is the initial intent of LDEQ.

LDEQ Response: Analytical costs for one of the events will be paid by the Department. The labor and expenses for recollection would be at the expense of the Contractor.

Question 13: Will it be acceptable to report results in MPN/100mL for microbiological tests?

LDEQ Response: Yes, MPN/100ml is an acceptable unit for microbiological tests.

Question 14: Will the Contractor be notified in advance when fully supported data packages are required?

LDEQ Response: To the fullest extent possible, yes.

Question 15: Some of the Ambient Water Quality samples have a 48 hour holding time. Does LDEQ intend to sample these AWQ sites early in the week, to allow for the Contractor to have most of the sample holding time available prior to the weekend? For example, sampling these AWQ sites on Thursday or Friday, does not allow for the full holding time period over normal business days, as the samples will begin to expire on Saturday/Sunday.

LDEQ Response: LDEQ typically collects AWQ samples Monday through Thursday when possible. Rarely will we need to sample on a Friday, but it is possible if we have had other delays earlier in the month or if we have an emergency complaint or inspection. Notice will be given if Friday sampling/lab analysis is needed for short holding time tests.

Question 16: Will the Contractor be notified in advance of the AWQ sampling schedule?

LDEQ Response: Yes, LDEQ plans for the sampling year each fall. A tentative calendar will be provided to the contractor. Any changes to the schedule will also be provided.

Question 17: Section 2.6: Sample Pickup and Transport: "If Contractor is notified before 2 PM, sample pick up shall occur on the same day." What are the hours of operation at the respective LDEQ offices, as are the offices open till at least 5 PM or later for sample pick up?

LDEQ Response: LDEQ offices are open until 4:30 PM. Some may be open later depending on staffing. If a last minute sample pick needs to be made beyond normal business hours, arrangements can be made.

March 4, 2021

Question 18: Attachment 2 (Schedule of Prices A) page 3 of 3: The Reporting Limit for Volatiles by EPA 624 or 601/602 is 0.5 ug/L. The required RL appears to be at the drinking water level which should reference EPA 524.2. Method 624 or 601/602 is applicable for waste water analysis with RL typically around 5 ug/L. Can you please clarify the matrix and RL for this analyte code?

LDEQ Response: Volatiles by EPA Method 624 or 601/602 is correct to have a reporting limit of 0.5 ug/L. The matrix for samples by this test is ambient water. Historical data shows that 0.5 ug/L is achievable in this matrix.