Request for Statement of Interest (SOI) for a Conceptual Model of the Movement of Selenium in the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem

Purpose and Intent:

The Utah Division of Water Quality is soliciting proposals from environmental consulting firms or other interested parties to develop a conceptual model of selenium in the ecosystem. This study will be the basis of determining the qualitative movement of selenium to and from natural and anthropogenic sources associated with the Great Salt Lake. This qualitative conceptual model will then be the basis to add kinetics and flux between each qualitative component. This model and its subsequent kinetics component will be the guiding model for additional studies necessary to develop a site specific Selenium standard for the Great Salt Lake.

Background Information:

Recent concerns dealing with the ultimate fate of Selenium in the aquatic environment of the Great Salt Lake has surfaced. This concern was initiated when the Division of Water Quality issued a UPDES permit to the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District for discharge of waste water from a reverse osmosis unit to the Jordan River. Although a wasteload analysis of the proposed discharge showed that there would be no exceedance of water quality standards in the receiving water, the public raised concerns. The concern became further focused as duck club owners and others realized the additional selenium carried by the Jordan River would eventually reach their facilities and ultimately the Great Salt Lake itself.

The Great Salt Lake is a terminal lake, i.e., there is no outlet and therefore the concentration of various salts accumulates and precipitates to the sediments. Therefore, there was scientific dialog on the ultimate fate of Selenium. This proposal will be the first step in attempting to reach a conclusion to this question.

Work Elements and Deliverables

1. Compile, review, validate and evaluate all pertinent knowledge in the literature and from experts in the field dealing with the movement and ultimate fate of selenium in the ecosystem.
2. Identify methods or protocols to be used and determine any gaps in the data needed for this assessment.
3. Create a qualitative “flow chart” of the various movements of selenium in the aquatic environment.
4. Create tables showing references, dates of literature publication, literature abstracts, contacted scientists and a summary of that communication, and any known gaps in the basic flow information.
5. Recommend procedures to be utilized to move this qualitative model to one that is quantitative in nature to identify kinetics and flux components for further studies.

This work element will be completed within the first 60 days of the contract.

Evaluation Report

The contractor shall provide a draft written report to the Division of Water Quality that includes the deliverables within 60 days from the start of the contract.

Final Report

Upon Division approval of the revisions to the draft report, the contractor shall provide a master copy of the final report suitable for duplication along with 30 copies of the final report incorporating all elements of the draft report with suggested changes and modifications provided from the Division's review of the draft. Any changes needed to GIS or electronic information identified in the Division's review of the Draft Report shall be modified to meet the comments from the Division and provided in the Final Report. The final report and all associated materials required to complete the work elements described herein shall be provided to the Division by **July 30, 2005**.

All information, reports, maps, tables, data, and supporting documents shall become property of the Division upon delivery.

Cost Reimbursements

1. The contractor shall submit monthly billing statements to the Division for payment of actual costs incurred for work required in this contract.
2. The Division may authorize payment of the billed amount up to a maximum of 50% of the total contract amount.
3. Upon the contractors fulfillment of the draft report requirements, the Division may authorize payment of up to 70% of the contract.
4. Upon the contractors satisfactory fulfillment of the final report requirements, the Division may authorize payment of any remaining balance (30%) up to the total contract amount.

Bi-Monthly Status reports

The contractor shall submit written status reports every other week with the monthly billing that describes the work completed in the preceding month. The report will identify the progress made to date the work elements and the draft and final reports.

Proposal content

Each proposal shall not exceed 40 typed pages and contain at a minimum, the following elements:

1. Identification of the contractor and qualifications
   - -Name of firm
   - -Office location (s)
   - -Description of firm's general background and capabilities
2. Experience information
   - -Description of the specific point and non-point source pollution projects, TMDL projects, and closely related water quality projects that the contractor

has worked on. This element shall include a contact person and phone number for each project that can verify work completed. An explanation of how each project relates to the proposed work and the environmental issues specific to the geographic study area described under this request should also be included.

3. Description of the proposed project team
   - This element shall include a detailed description of staff that will work on specific elements of the project, including their academic and professional credentials. Any sub-contractors that will be utilized must also be identified along with their credentials.Description of approach and methodology-This element shall describe the proposed approach and methodology to be used to fulfill the work elements identified in this RFP. A description of how each work element will be accomplished should be provided.
4. Time Commitment
   -This section shall itemize the number of hours for each project member and the total hours committed to each work element.

Key dates

Proposal Due Date and Time:	**May 15, 2005**
Notification of Contract Award	**June 1, 2005**
Project start date:	**June 15, 2005**
Project completion date:	**September 1, 2005**

Administration Information

Proposal Due Date, Time and Location

Four (4) copies of your written proposal must be received by **May 15, 2005** at:

State of Utah
Division of Purchasing and General Services
3150 State Office Building, Capitol Hill
PO Box 1410161
Salt Lake City UT 84114-1061

Late proposals will not be considered.

Contract Term

The contract start date will be within 15 days of contract award, through September 1, 2005

Inquiries

For technical content-related questions you may contact William O. Moellmer, Utah Division of Water Quality, (801) 538-6329, FAX (801) 538-6016 Email wmoellmer@utah.gov

For procurement questions you may contact Lois Wiesemann, Division of Purchasing and General Services, (801) 538-3144

Evaluation Criteria:

<u>Contract Terms</u>: (qualifying/disqualifying)
Firm is able to meet the terms and requirements of the contract.

1. <u>Quality and suitability of written SOI package</u>: (6%) (25 points possible)

Package is clear, concise, and responsive. (Weight = 5)

2. <u>Scientific and Technical Content</u>: (40%) (160 points possible)
   a. Package shows an understanding of the goals of the Division. (weight = 7)
   b. Package shows a sound overall understanding of the scope of work. Shows a working familiarity with the selenium and requirements needed to gain EPA and local stakeholder buy in and approval. (weight = 7)
   c. Package shows an understanding of the issues to be studied and the issues to be addressed by the study. (weight = 8)
   d. Hours allocated for each work element reflect realistic understanding of the work elements, and needed staff time to adequately complete each work element. (weight = 10)
3. <u>Specific Staff Experience</u>: (27%) (105 points possible)
   a. Academic qualifications of "directly involved staff" (i.e. staff that will actually be working on the project in more than just an "oversight" capacity) to complete this project. (weight = 3)
   b. Suitability and technical backgrounds of "directly involved staff". (weight = 4)
   c. Experience and expertise of "directly involved staff.
4. <u>BMP & BAT Experience and Expertise</u>: (20%) (80 points possible)
   a. Academic qualifications of "directly involved staff" to design and compile requisite qualitative flow chart and recommendations to move to a kinetic flux model (weight = 10)
   b. Direct experience and expertise in design and engineering of "directly involved staff". (weight = 10)
5. <u>Prior Experience with DWQ in Contracts</u>: (6%) (25 points possible)
   a. Prior contracting experience with DWQ for previous studies resulted in good quality and timely work products with minimal oversight from DWQ. *(Firms with no prior TMDL contract experience with DWQ will score a 5 out of a possible 5 for this category)*