

Just What IS an RFQ?

- Several questions about what exactly a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is?
- There are basically two types of competitive research solicitations:
 - *A Request for Applications* (RFA, or RFP)
 - Seeks detailed individual proposals from diverse disciplines to answer a single focused policy-relevant question (e.g. does diesel exhaust exacerbate asthma; are there effects of PM below current standards?)
 - Sets overall budget and how many studies likely to be funded
 - Result: a “program” of studies from different disciplines (e.g. toxicology, clinical, epidemiology) to answer the question; similar questions asked, but not extensively coordinated approaches
 - *A Request for Qualifications* (RFQ)
 - Seeks Multidisciplinary Teams to conduct systematic and consistent research on specific policy-relevant questions (e.g. what are human exposures to UOGD activity across a range of locations and activities?)
 - Sets overall budget
 - Result:
 - a closely coordinated team integrated across institutions to work with the Energy Research Committee (HEI-ERC) to implement detailed, consistent, and systematic studies;
 - also once selected, can be deployed to most appropriate sites for study in a timely fashion



Just What IS In An RFQ

(This is still VERY MUCH in Development)

- What types of study(ies) might an RFQ seek:
 - Studies to test human exposures from a range of UOGD activities
 - In diverse regions (places) across the US
 - Likely three sites ultimately chosen by HEI ERC and selected team (could change based on data availability and study opportunities)
 - For a set overall budget
- What types of disciplines/expertise might be sought:
 - Exposure measurement (air, water, other measurable stressors?)
 - Knowledge/Experience in OGD Operations/Exposure Assessment
 - Community Exposure Assessment and Study Design
 - Biostatistics
 - Experience working with communities and sources in such efforts
 - And Others
- Also an RFQ would include clear time frames, reporting requirements, etc.



Next Steps Following an RFQ

(This is Still VERY MUCH in Development)

- Following selection of a team the HEI ERC works with the team to:
 - Develop and finalize protocol, budget, timeline
 - Identify top sites for studies
 - Engage with Communities and Industry sites to be studied (this would be iterative with site selection)
 - Launch studies in each site under HEI ERC Oversight
- During studies:
 - Regular Updates to sponsors, communities, other stakeholders
 - HEI QA/QC Audits, detailed oversight
- Following Studies
 - Detailed, independent HEI Peer Review
 - Extensive strategy for communication of Results
 - Identification of remaining needs



Questions?

