



Request for Proposals Concerning Assessing Reasonable Progress for Regional Haze in the Mid-Atlantic North Eastern Class I Areas

A. Background and Purpose

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Air Association, Inc. (MARAMA) plans to hire a contractor or contractors to prepare technical support documents to help assess reasonable progress for regional haze in the Class I areas in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States of New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine and to help assess reasonable progress in Class I areas outside MANE-VU affected by emissions from within MANE-VU.

Section 169A of the Clean Air Act states that, "Congress declares as a national goal the prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution." States are required to "make reasonable progress toward meeting the national goal." In determining whether a given implementation plan provides for reasonable progress, states shall consider the following four factors:

- (1) costs of compliance,
- (2) time necessary for compliance,
- (3) energy and non-air quality environmental impacts of compliance, and
- (4) remaining useful life of any existing source subject to such requirements.

In addition, in its 1999 visibility rule, USEPA required consideration of a fifth factor (i.e., uniform rate of improvement needed to attain the visibility goal by 2064). EPA has also issued draft guidance for implementing the reasonable progress requirement (dated 11/28/2005).

MARAMA requires contractor assistance to examine the four factors to help states determine reasonable progress goals for regional haze for the initial implementation period (i.e., by 2018). This examination will focus on (1) the Class I areas in the MANE-VU States of New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine (Brigantine Wilderness Area, Lye Brooke Wilderness, Presidential Range/Dry River Wilderness, Great Gulf Wilderness Area, Acadia National Park, Roosevelt/Campobello International Park, and Moosehorn Wilderness Area) and (2) the nearby Class I areas potentially affected by emissions from within MANE-VU (Shenandoah, Dolly Sods, and James River Face).

Some of the work required in EPA's draft reasonable progress guidance has already been done and this would not be repeated under this contract. To date, MANE-VU has identified key pollutants and source categories affecting visibility and identified possible control measures. MARAMA would like the

contractor to continue this work by refining the list of priority sources and source categories and evaluating, based on the four statutory factors, appropriate control measures for the identified sources and source categories. This report will support the states' selection of reasonable progress goals.

The primary objective of this project is to prepare a report summarizing previous work and documenting control strategy analysis to support setting reasonable progress goals. This can be achieved by: (1) summarizing previous reports identifying pollutants, source categories, and sources, (2) listing the control options considered (for key source categories and sources), (3) quantifying costs of control options, (4) estimating the time necessary to implement control options, (5) identifying (qualitatively) energy and non-air quality environmental impacts of compliance, and (6) considering the remaining useful life of any existing source subject to such requirements. Steps 3 and 4 are the most important outcomes of this project and should be the primary focus of the contractor's work.

Interested parties should review existing information, including the regional haze rule and available guidance documents and available relevant technical analyses (links to these documents will be provided):

- [“Draft Guidance for Setting Reasonable Progress Goals Under the Regional Haze Program,”](#) by EPA dated November 28, 2005,
- [“Additional Regional Haze Questions,”](#) by EPA dated August 24, 2006,
- [“Approaches for Meeting Reasonable Progress for Visibility at Northern Class I Areas,”](#) draft document by Larry Bruss of Wisconsin, Bruce Polkowsky of the National Parks Service, and Mike Koerber of LADCO dated September 29, 2005,
- [“Regional Haze and Visibility in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States,”](#) by NESCAUM dated January 31, 2001,
- [“Trajectory Analysis of Potential Source Regions,”](#) by NESCAUM dated February 2002,
- [“Review of STN and IMPROVE Monitoring Data,”](#) by NESCAUM dated March 2003,
- [“A Year in Review,”](#) by NESCAUM dated December 2004,
- [“Contribution to Regional Haze in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States,”](#) by NESCAUM dated August 2006 (especially Appendix B),
- The [“Reasonable Progress Goals”](#) presentation by Paul Wishinski of Vermont given in Pittsburgh on May 10, 2006 at the MANE-VU Board Meeting,
- [“OTC Control Measures Summary Sheets”](#) by OTC dated 2006,
- [“Assessment of Control Technology Options for BART-Eligible Sources,”](#) by NESCAUM dated March 2005,
- [“Control Analysis and Documentation for Residential Wood Combustion in the MANE-VU Region”](#) draft document dated October 5, 2006,
- [“MANE-VU Open Burning in Residential Areas, Emissions Inventory Development Report”](#) dated January 2004,
- [“Controlling Fine Particulate Matter Under the Clean Air Act: A Menu of Options,”](#) by STAPPA/ALAPCO dated March 2006, and
- [“LADCO white papers,”](#) by LADCO dated 2005-2006.

The contract(s) will be issued by MARAMA and managed by MARAMA's Executive Director. MARAMA will award a fixed price contract or contracts as a result of this solicitation.

It may be necessary to utilize more than one contractor to provide the expertise needed to complete the project. Proposals covering only parts of the work are welcome. Minority- and women-owned contractors or subcontractors are encouraged to identify themselves, since MARAMA seeks to meet EPA goals for utilizing these businesses.

Funds available for this contract are federal funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and contractors must meet requirements associated with the use of federal funds. Information and data delivered under this contract will be in the public domain. Approvals to proceed with work assignments will be dependent on availability of funds and the results of the initial assignments.

B. Project Funding

Approximately \$50,000-\$80,000 is budgeted for this project. Proposals should identify work that could be performed for up to this level of funding and should include participation in up to 6 one-hour long conference calls and travel to attend up to 3 consultation meetings in the region. If applicable, the contractor should separately identify work that could be performed above this level of funding. The total cost will be one factor in selecting contractor(s) for this project.

C. Schedule

The period of performance is approximately six months. Work is expected to start in early December 2006, with draft products available beginning in late December 2006. A draft final report should be available in January 2007, in support of inter-RPO consultation meetings and should be accompanied by a draft PowerPoint presentation summarizing the report to be used at meetings. The contractor should also be available for the anticipated inter-RPO consultation meeting expected to be scheduled in winter 2007. The final report should be available in May 2007 for the MANE-VU Policy Advisory Group and the MANE-VU Directors meetings and should be accompanied by a final PowerPoint presentation. The final report and presentation should incorporate appropriate comments from MARAMA and its technical support committee in reference to the previously submitted technical memoranda. Work is expected to start as soon as possible. Proposals should present a schedule that provides two to three weeks for state review and comment on each draft deliverable.

D. Payment

Contractors will be paid for work completed and deliverables received, not on the basis of hours worked. Payment of the final 10% of all services will not be made until the agreed products are delivered and approved by MARAMA.

E. Scope of Work

Proposals should present an approach to assess reasonable progress for reducing regional haze in the Class I areas of the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States.

1. Summarize and Define Appropriate Emission Control Scenarios

Identify and summarize the rationale for the identification of priority source categories. This step will rely largely on prior analysis. We anticipate identification of source categories will be based primarily on a review of the MANE-VU Emissions Inventory and the MANE-VU Contribution Assessment. MARAMA will provide a list of emissions inventory categories with significant emissions of visibility impairing pollutants. A preliminary list of priority source categories consists of the following:

- Electric Generating Units
- Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers
- Residential wood combustion and open burning
- Home heating oil
- Cement kilns
- Lime kilns
- Other major sources from the inventory analysis

Suggestions for alternative priority source categories are welcome. Identify appropriate emission control options for priority source categories and individual sources. Significant work has already been undertaken to identify potential control measures, and the contractor should not repeat that effort. Limit detailed analysis to the most important source categories and sources.

Identify control options for approximately 30-50 major individual sources. The priority individual facilities will be determined by MARAMA in consultation with the contractor and the project technical support committee. MARAMA expects that the level of review for individual facilities will be constrained by the amount of available funding.

The contractor will summarize the process used to select the sources and identify the control options. (See the discussion of methods below).

The geographic scope of the strategies to be examined will be determined by MARAMA in consultation with the project technical support committee. Preliminary information suggests that sources in the following states are important contributors to visibility impairment in the Mid-Atlantic northeastern Class I areas: West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, Georgia, Missouri, New Jersey, Tennessee, Maryland, and Eastern Canada. Additional analyses are underway to provide further contribution information.

Modeling of selected control strategy options will be performed by NESCAUM to estimate the expected visibility impacts; thus the contractor is not asked to do any modeling.

Deliverable: Provide a draft technical memorandum summarizing work done previously and under this contract to a) identify priority source categories and individual sources, and b) identify emission control scenarios for the priority source categories and for 30-50 major individual sources (due December 2006). The draft technical memorandum will be reviewed by MARAMA and its technical support committee, and the contractor will incorporate response to appropriate comments into the final report and PowerPoint presentation.

2. Define Methods for Evaluating Statutory Factors

Develop and describe a methodology for conducting appropriate economic and engineering analysis to assess the costs, compliance timeframe, energy and non-air quality environmental impacts, and remaining useful life for affected sources (i.e. the four factor analysis).

For source specific analysis of specific EGUs, at minimum, the contractor will identify the EPA CAIR program prediction for key sources, compare it to MANE-VU's CAIR+ analysis, and request information from the permitting authority concerning anticipated controls. Additionally, the contractor will estimate the cost of source-specific controls to provide a specified percentage reduction at these sources.

For source specific analysis of other point sources, the contractor may use EPA's AirControlNET as a preliminary indication of control costs for major sources but should provide additional cost information based on more updated sources.

Deliverable: Provide a draft technical memorandum describing the methodology for evaluating the four factor analysis for individual sources and for key source categories (due early-January 2007). The draft technical memorandum will be reviewed by MARAMA and its technical support committee, and the contractor will incorporate responses to appropriate comments into the final report and PowerPoint presentation. Comments will be reflected in the methods used in applying the statutory factors.

3. Apply Statutory Factors to Potentially Affected Sources

This is the primary focus of new work under this contract. Apply the four statutory factors to each control measure for each source category. Evaluate control strategy options (see number 1) by applying the methodology for the four factor analysis (developed in number 2). The result of this evaluation will be information on the four factors for each control strategy option. Appropriate comparisons and summaries of this information should be provided.

Deliverable: Provide a draft technical memorandum describing the four factor analysis for each control strategy option (due late-January 2007). The draft technical memorandum will be reviewed by MARAMA and its technical support committee, and the contractor will incorporate responses to appropriate comments into the final report and PowerPoint presentation.

4. Final Report and Presentation

The contractor will prepare draft and final reports and presentations as follows. This report should not simply reference the previous technical memoranda, but should include all information relevant to the final results of the project. It should be a stand-alone report suitable for use as a technical support document for State Implementation Plans (SIPs). The final report should integrate into a unified, concise report the results of the project and document methods used to assess reasonable progress goals for regional haze. The documentation should allow a reader to be able to retrace each step taken to assess reasonable progress goals.

- 1) Draft final report (due mid-March 2007). Responses to appropriate comments about the previous three technical memoranda will be incorporated into the report. The draft final report will go through a three-week review by MARAMA and its technical support committee.
- 2) The draft final report should be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the methods used in the project and the results. The contractor is expected to attend up to two consultation meetings to present and respond to questions.
- 3) Final comprehensive report (due May 2007). The final report should address all comments and questions from the draft final report. All information used in the report should be referenced in the report and provided on a CD along with hard copies of the report.
- 4) Revised PowerPoint presentation summarizing the methods used in the project and the results. Attend, present, and respond to comments at consultation meetings.

All preliminary and final work products must be submitted electronically. The Final Report must be submitted as a PDF file, Microsoft Word file, and as a camera-ready hard copy along with 15 hard copies and 15 data CDs.

5. Project Management

The contractor will participate in up to 6 one-hour conference calls with MARAMA, monitor the project schedule and budget, and prepare progress reports. The contractor will also attend up to 3 consultation meetings in the region. Progress reports are required monthly with each invoice sent to MARAMA.

The contractor will work with the MARAMA Project Manager and a technical support committee, and will be required to contact individual states (a contact person for each state will be provided) to obtain or confirm certain information or data.

Estimated costs should be divided between each deliverable of the project. General project management should be included in all sections.

F. Intellectual Property

The funds available for this contract are federal funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the contractor must meet requirement associated with the use of federal funds. All information and data developed under this contract will be in the public domain.

Any programs (or “tools”) developed pursuant to this project shall also be delivered to MARAMA’s Executive Director upon completion of the project.

G. Evaluation of Proposals

Depending on the nature and scope of proposals received, MARAMA may request the preparation of follow-up proposals from one or more contractors. MARAMA may adjust the scope of work depending on the proposals received.

MARAMA will only select experienced contractor(s). Selection criteria will include 1) the experience, expertise, and other qualifications of personnel assigned to the project, 2) technical evaluation of proposed approach, 3) completeness of coverage with respect to the statement of work, and responsiveness to the available project resources, 4) ability to leverage previous and current work for EPA or other regions, 5) price, 6) percentage of MBE/WBE participation, and 7) the level of effort proposed for the personnel and firm.

MARAMA is not required to select the lowest cost bid, but will consider the cost and the other factors listed.

Proposals will be evaluated based upon estimated expenditures for the listed assignments. Work assignments will be authorized on a fixed price basis.

H. Submittal of Proposals

If you are interested in being considered for this project, please submit the information listed below to MARAMA by 5:00 pm EST, November 30, 2006. No late offers will be accepted. Ten paper copies and one electronic copy of the complete proposal must be submitted (MARAMA uses Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, so electronic copies must use these programs). Electronic copies may be submitted to acrenshaw@marama.org. Paper copies may be submitted to Susan S.G. Wierman, Executive Director, MARAMA, 711 W. 40th Street, Suite 312, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Proposals should be limited to 25 (single-spaced) pages typed with 12 point font size with a margin of 1" on all four sides, and should address the following:

- **Technical Proposal and Draft Work Plan.** Summarize work to be done (proposed approach) for the work described above. Include a schedule (a time chart) for completing the project, showing support you will need from project sponsors and subcontractors, review periods for draft documents, and other relevant information. Include information about any work already completed or underway, or funded by another source, that could satisfy MARAMA's requirements.
- **Qualifications and Responsibilities.** Identify key personnel for performance of the work under this RFP. Short resumes of major personnel and the roles each would play in this project should be included. Specify the amount of time that the key personnel will dedicate to the project. Indicate the responsibilities each will have in this project. Any change in key personnel associated with the project shall be made only with prior written approval of MARAMA's Executive Director. These conditions pertain to both prime contractor and subcontractor personnel.

- Cost. Proposal costs must be linked to deliverables so that billing and payment can be linked to the delivery of products.
- References. Studies or projects referred to should be identified and the name of the customer shown, including the name, address, email address, and telephone number of a responsible official of the customer, company or agency who may be contacted as a reference.
- Non-Disclosure/Confidentiality. Indicate willingness to enter into a non-disclosure and/or confidentiality agreement(s) regarding access to potentially state confidential and/or company proprietary information.
- Small and Disadvantaged Business. Indicate the percentage of small business, Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE), and/or Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) participation. MARAMA seeks to meet EPA goals for utilizing these businesses under 40 CFR 30.44 (b).
- Eligibility. Proposals must certify that the contractor is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by a Federal department or agency. In addition, contractors are prohibited from awarding subcontracts of \$25,000 or more to persons (individuals or organizations) that have been debarred, suspended, or excluded by a Federal department or agency.

Any questions about this RFP should be sent in writing via email to Angela Crenshaw at acrenshaw@marama.org. Questions and answers will be posted on MARAMA's website at www.marama.org under "Requests for Proposals." No further questions or answers will be posted after (November 20, 2006).