



Procurement Services – Ottawa
200 Kent Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

November 3, 2023

Subject: **Request for Standing Offer 30004115** - Environmental Site Assessment Services for Various Locations in Quebec

ADDENDUM #4

Further to the above-mentioned Request for Proposal, this **Addendum #4** is issued to answer questions received to date.

1. Questions and Answers

Q1

Could you confirm that the analysis of mercury (soils and sediments), when required, will always be requested in addition to the other 7 metals and not individually? In fact, the prices provided by the laboratories are not the same for an additional analysis to the other metals or for an individual analysis.

A1

Unless otherwise stated, mercury will be requested along with other metals. However, it is important to ensure that the analysis achieves detection levels that are equal to or lower than the applicable guidelines or criteria.

Q2

We have a question regarding the laboratory fees for which certain rates must be provided in the financial offer: We understand that, for samples for which analyses are requested, the laboratory management fee must be included in the unit rate provided for each of the analytical parameters. However, the costs associated with the management of samples submitted to the laboratory, but for which no analysis is requested, do not appear in the tender form. For example, in the case of continuous soil sampling in a borehole where a dozen soil samples are collected and sent to the laboratory, but only three samples are selected for analysis in the basic analytical program, the laboratories will charge a management/disposal fee for the remaining seven unassayed samples. How should the cost schedule of the call for tenders include the costs of handling samples submitted to the laboratory but not analyzed?

A2

As with tests not specified in the RFSO, the management fee for retained and unanalyzed samples may be charged at the laboratory price.

Q3

Section 3.5 calls for detection limits for surface water, groundwater, and water leaching tests to be less than or equal to the most stringent surface water quality criteria (MELCC) and the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life (CCME). We would like to point out that for several metals, the criteria vary according to hardness and/or pH and could therefore be extremely low in some situations.

In this context, does DFO expect the prices provided for mercury and other metals to be ultra-trace analysis?



A3

Ultra-trace analyses should only be required in very rare exceptions. It is therefore understood that the costs presented in the tables in Attachment 2 to Part 4 are for more standard analyses (hardness of 50 mg/L or greater, pH between 6 and 8) and that ultra-trace analyses will be considered as distinct analyses. Their costs do not need to be presented in the tables in Attachment 2 to Part 4.

All other terms and conditions remain the same.

Regards,

Mazen Obeid

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