

RFP 5P300-21-0135-A

Questions and Answers #1

Bidder's Conference: Ontario Waterways Water Soldier Treatment 2021

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Q. How are the estimated times for herbicide application determined?

A. The estimated times for herbicide application can be found in the Request for Proposal, Project Areas section. During the 2020 treatment, the contractor recorded the start and end time for each treatment polygon. These times were then added up for each project area and a buffer of time was added for project areas with additional treatment polygons this year. This time represents the estimated time for herbicide application; it does not include time for mobilization of equipment and personnel to site. It is provided as an example for bidders. The actual time required could be determined by the bidder depending on their own equipment and process.

Q. Does Parks Canada Agency have the budget for the complete treatment and the treatment herbicide? From current calculations the herbicide amount should be closer to 1050 jugs?

A. Parks Canada currently has 715 jugs or 178.75 cases of herbicide in storage. The treatment will be for this amount.

The total treatment area displayed in the preliminary maps would require 1395 jugs or 348.75 cases of herbicide. This was calculated using the average depth data from July and August 2021, which may be deeper than the water depths in the fall. Therefore, the rate of application would decrease from 29.2 to 18.3 L/ha in some of the treatment polygons. Also, the treatment areas H13, H15, and H21, which were calculated to require 150 cases of herbicide have not been monitored in detail this year because they are difficult to access due to the aquatic vegetation community in those areas. It is understood that water soldier is not present throughout those entire bays and that the successful contractor may not be able to treat the entire bay depending on their equipment.

Several of the more difficult to access areas have been monitored via remote imagery collected by a drone. The mapping is currently being refined and will need to be adjusted to accommodate these conditions. The detailed treatment maps will be provided to the successful contractor.

This is why the basis of payment is requested on a per hectare rate.

Q. Bid closes Wednesday, September 29, 2021 and treatment starts Monday, October 4, 2021. How much time will have elapsed before bid is awarded?

A. Bids will be assessed and awarded on October 1, 2021 with the intention of the successful bidder starting work the following week.

Q. Should the contractor anticipate getting permits for treatment areas prior to treatment?

A. Parks Canada Agency permits have been completed. Parks Canada will also apply for the MECP permit. This will be acquired prior to the award date and the name of the exterminator will be submitted once the contract is awarded. **Note this is an amendment from the request for proposal.**

Q. Is subcontracting of the signs for pesticide notifications allowed?

A. Subcontracting is permitted; however, it still has to be included in the bid price.

Q. Is contractor responsible for posting pesticide notifications at treatment locations?

A. The signs that are required are the:

- Door-to-door notifications (Parks Canada Agency responsibility)
- Notification signs at public access boat launches (Parks Canada Agency responsibility)
- Herbicide signs for storage and transportation to treatment location (Contractor responsibility)

These signs will satisfy the notification to people within the area of treatment. No additional signs are required.

Q. Is there Guaranteed payment? Will this still happen if turned away at the border?

A. There is no penalty to the contractor for non-performance. If the contractor is turned away at the border, the contract would be Terminated by Mutual Consent. Payment will only be issued for tasks performed as described in the contract.

If the contractor is not willing to sign a Termination by Mutual Consent, we would then issue a Termination for Convenience of Canada.

Q. Has border services signed a new contract?

A. The Government of Canada reached a tentative agreement with representatives of border services officers in early August 2021: <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-reaches-tentative-agreement-with-representatives-of-border-services-officers.html>