



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 401
Post Office Box 3278
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278
Phone: (501) 682-2242
Fax: (501) 682-1029
<http://www.state.ar.us/dfa>

September 10, 2014

Senator Bruce Maloch, Co-Chair
Representative Stephen Meeks, Co-Chair
Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Request to Review Funding a Proposed Lab Information Management System (LIMS) Through the Environmental Settlement Trust Fund – Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 36 of Act 274 of 2014, please find attached a request from ADEQ to use funds from the Environmental Settlement Trust Fund for the purchase of information technology goods and services. This item has received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Weiss".

Richard A. Weiss
Director

RAW:jmb

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Mike Beebe, Governor

ADEQ

ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

July 2, 2014

Mr. Richard Weiss, DFA Director
1509 W. 7th Street
Room 401
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Please consider this request for utilizing funds from ADEQ's Environmental Settlement Trust Fund to purchase a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). This purchase qualifies as an Information Technology (IT) procurement as it involves a commercial software package along with tablet computers for the analysts in the lab and a new standalone server in the computer services division here at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

Our current LIMS has proven insufficient to accomplish the needs of the Department. The software package has few of the features we need for laboratory performance and to insure quality control. Any and all changes or additions to the current system requires new software coding at a cost to us of \$1,000 to \$5,000 which is in addition to the annual maintenance fees of \$10,000. We feel this level of expense related to this existing system is not cost effective for the Department and we will benefit from a new system.

The purchase of a new LIMS will allow the laboratory to operate in a much more efficient manner. Data will be tracked and available for search and recall in all aspects of the laboratory from sample receipt to analysis, reporting to quality control and from data retention to validation for legal defensibility. Analysts would use tablet computers to manage all their data notebooks and supplies used eliminating the need for retaining paper bound lab notebooks, instrument maintenance log books, and standards notebooks. Data from the tablets will upload to the LIMS making manual transcription unnecessary therefore reducing the chance for error. The new LIMS will be compatible with the EPA's Water Quality database (WQX) and with the ADEQ website to make data more readily available to the public.

I anticipate the cost of the new LIMS to be approximately \$200,000. This includes implementation and training, the new server and 8 tablets. I would appreciate approval of this request. Please let me know if you require additional information or if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Teresa Marks
Director

Request in compliance with approved
IT plan on file with DHS, DFA, IGS

State Technology Planning

Harry Wang
Signature

Sep 23, 2014
Date

*OK
BRS*

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 320
Little Rock, AR 72201

The Honorable John Charles Edwards
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 350
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: ADEQ IT Plan Amendment


Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

The 06/24/2014 amendment to the FY14/15 IT Budget and Expenditure plan for the Arkansas Department Environmental Quality Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) project is approved. The Department of Information Systems acknowledges the business need that will allow the laboratory to operate in a much more efficient manner. However, based on the IT plan submitted, the software vendor and tablet vendor have not been identified. ADEQ is undergoing a process to select the best qualified solution and vendor. DIS approves the project request, but reserves the right to evaluate the solution once a vendor has been selected.

As the project is formalized, please be reminded of the requirement to adopt the state's enterprise architecture. We will work with you throughout the process to incorporate the architecture. Additionally, the project must be compliant with the accessibility requirements as defined in Act 308 of 2013.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Claire Bailey
Chief Technology Officer, State of Arkansas
Director, Department of Information Systems