

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

**Request for Proposals:
Technical Assistance, Education & Outreach for Municipal Wastewater
Treatment Facilities**

Questions and Answers

- 1. The RFQ, Contents of Proposal, B-Municipal WWTF Operator Technical Assistance states that “The Consultant will provide technical assistance to “select” WWTF Operators.” – How many WWTF’s are being considered by VT DEC as “select”? For example, page 1 of 26 under Scope of Work, fourth sentence refers to “...permits with TMDL-based phosphorous limits will be issued to 59 direct-discharging WWTF’s in the Lake Champlain watershed...” However, the federal funding limit of \$130,000 and the aggressive timeline would indicate only a small percentage of the 59 might be evaluated.**

ANSWER: The expectation is that only a small percentage would be evaluated. On page 4 of 26 under “Content of Proposals” “B. Municipal WWTF Operator Technical Assistance” the consultant should suggest the number of facilities to focus on, with an expectation of the chosen facilities to have different wastewater treatment technologies.

- 2. Are the timelines and schedule listed in the RFP open to negotiation for extension? Timelines in the RFQ are very aggressive allowing less than 10-weeks for scheduling/attending meetings with WWTF operators at their facilities, retrieving and evaluating data, meeting again with operators to review/discuss optimization actions, and recommending optimizations for implementation. Then allowing only 5 more weeks for presentation of recommended optimization steps to community leaders for them to evaluate, approve, and fund optimization improvements for implementation by March 1st. Likewise, allowing only 6 months for monitoring and reporting on performance would not capture seasonal variations in plant biological activity, which affects plant performance. The stated schedule in the RFP is seeking assessments during the coldest months of the year, when process biological activity is typically at its lowest, then monitoring performance late winter, spring and early summer. At a minimum it would seem prudent to conduct the monitoring for a consecutive 12-month period to record performance during all seasons.**

ANSWER: It has been previously noted that the timelines are very aggressive. The focus should be on developing robust phosphorus optimization plans including

implementation plans and timelines projected out 5 years. As part of the proposal alternative deliverable timelines and schedules can be suggested.

3. Who will be on the selection committee for the VT DEC? and will these same individuals form the “DEC Team” throughout the project?

ANSWER: The following VT DEC individuals will be on the selection committee: Jessica Bulova, Wastewater Program Manager; Amy Polaczyk, Environmental Analyst V; and Bryn Oakleaf, Permit and Compliance Supervisor. Jessica Bulova and Amy Polaczyk will remain on the DEC Team throughout the project, along with at least one other member of the Wastewater Program Team.