

Seeking Availability of Environmental Consultants with Expertise in Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures in the Semi-Conductor Manufacturing Industry

Release Date: November 30, 2021

Responses Due: December 30, 2021

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Introduction and Purpose

In September 2020, the Vermont Legislature passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (Act 153 as Enacted), which created legally binding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The Act requires Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025, 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The Agency of Natural Resources is tasked with adopting regulations consistent with the Climate Action Plan, or other regulations to ensure emissions reductions are achieved, to ensure required emission reductions are achieved.

In furtherance of these requirements, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking information on the availability of environmental consultants to advise and assist the DEC in the identification and evaluation of greenhouse gas emission reduction measures for the semi-conductor manufacturing industry, both in general and with respect to the Global Foundries Fab 9 facility in Essex, Vermont.

It is DEC's intent to follow this RFI at some later time with a request for proposal (RFP). If DEC chooses to move forward with an RFP, the RFP process will be open to all parties regardless of their participation in this RFI.

Disclaimer

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This request for information does not commit the State to contract for any materials or service whatsoever. Further, the State is not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Responders are advised that the State will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if any is issued.

Statement of Need

The goal of this project is to determine the availability of qualified environmental consultants to advise and assist the DEC with the identification and evaluation of greenhouse gas emission reduction measures for the semi-conductor manufacturing industry, both in general and with respect to the Global Foundries Fab 9 facility in Essex, Vermont. While this facility is also a direct or indirect source of greenhouse gas emissions from its fossil fuel use and electric power consumption, it is primarily the manufacturing process emissions of perfluorocarbons and other high global warming potential greenhouse gases that we are seeking assistance with. Below is a list of what is requested for the RFI and the objectives we would like to accomplish from this request:

1. Please detail your qualifications and experience with the semi-conductor manufacturing sector with particular focus on the use, emission, and control of greenhouse gases from this manufacturing sector.
2. Please detail your familiarity with the manufacturing operations at the Global Foundries Fab 9 facility in Essex, Vermont.
3. Please detail your familiarity with greenhouse gas emissions from the Industrial Process sector, as it is defined in Vermont's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory¹.
4. Please indicate your availability and capacity to provide assistance to the DEC over the time period of January 1 to July 1, 2022.
5. More specifically, the DEC is seeking assistance in evaluating greenhouse gas emission reduction measures that may be planned or proposed by Global Foundries for the fab 9 facility. This assistance would include providing opinions about whether or not such

¹ https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/aqc/climate-change/documents/_Vermont_Greenhouse_Gas_Emissions_Inventory_Update_1990-2017_Final.pdf

measures planned or proposed are feasible and likely to result in the emissions reductions estimated in such proposal. Such measures are expected to include abatement devices and chemical substitutions to lower global warming potential gases. We would also be seeking assistance with determining if there are additional greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures that should be considered, both for the existing operations and any potential growth, and what those emission reduction potentials are for this facility and/or for the semi-conductor manufacturing sector generally.

6. Please provide an estimate of your billing rates and estimated staff time to complete the work described above.

Deadlines and Content of Responses

Questions: All questions are required to be submitted electronically via email to Megan O'Toole at megan.OTOole@vermont.gov by **Thursday, December 16, 2021 4:00 pm EST** using the subject line *"RFI Questions Re Environmental Consultants for Evaluation of GHG Emissions in Semi-Conductor Manufacturing."*

Submittal: All responses must be submitted electronically via email to Megan O'Toole by **Thursday, December 30, 2021 4:00 pm EST** using the subject line *"RFI Response Re Environmental Consultants for Evaluation of GHG Emissions in Semi-Conductor Manufacturing."*

To simplify the evaluation process and obtain the maximum degree of comparison under this RFI, DEC is requiring firms to submit information in the format and manner described in this section.

1. Title Page

- Request for Information – Project Title
- Name of Firm
- Address and Telephone number of Firm
- Single Point of Contact and Email Address
- Date of Submission

2. Contents of the Response

- Detailed response to the Statement of Need described above.
- Provide a brief description of your expertise with similar programs and projects.
- Provide a list of your qualifications as it pertains to this project or similar projects.

Confidentiality

After conclusion of the contracting process, Proposals are a matter of public record. If an application includes material considered by the applicant to be proprietary and confidential under 1 V.S.A., Chapter 5, the application shall clearly designate the material as such and explain why such material should be considered confidential. The Vendor must identify each page or section of the Proposal that it believes is proprietary and confidential with sufficient grounds to justify each exemption from release, including the prospective harm to the competitive position of the applicant if the identified material were to be released.

Under no circumstances shall the entire Proposal be designated as proprietary or confidential. If the Vendor marks portions of the Proposal confidential, the Vendor shall provide a redacted version of the Proposal for release to the public. Notwithstanding the above, the Secretary has an independent obligation under Vermont law to determine whether any proposal material is subject to public inspection and copying upon request, which may include material that has otherwise been designated as proprietary and confidential by the Vendor. The Vendor's designation of material as proprietary and confidential, and submission of a redacted Proposal, are provided to the Secretary for informational purposes in the event the Agency receives a public records request and will not result in withholding of materials by the Secretary unless expressly supported by Vermont law.