[SEQ CHAPTER \h \r 1] **Environmental Protection Agency** **Contract No.: EP**-W-13-015 TO

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response **Contractor: SKEO Solutions, Inc.**

TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE DOCUMENT

In accepting this technical direction, the contractor agrees that the cost and all other terms and conditions of the contract remain unchanged.

Technical Directive:_____

Task Order Project Officer: Sheila Lewis **Phone:** 202-564-0152
Task Order Technical Point of Contact: Wenona Wilson **Phone**: 206-553-2148

Region 10 is requesting technical assistance for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, who are located in Oregon. The goal of the support is to develop and provide user-friendly information to the tribal leadership and residents about the drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste systems on the Reservation, as well as facilitate discussion forums within the tribe to explore costs and a potential resident fee-based system.

ISSUE/BACKGROUND: The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon (Tribe) continues to confront a complex and persistent set of challenges associated with their community water, wastewater and solid waste systems. The Tribe has limited financial, managerial and technical capacity to address the challenges with these utilities. Additionally, the Tribe has a need for significant infrastructure improvements to address deficiencies in the existing infrastructure.

Access to clean, safe, drinking water is the top priority. The community water system serves an estimated 3,800 people. Most of the system's infrastructure was built around 1980. The aging components and inherent limitations of the original design create ongoing challenges even when the plant is operated well.

On May 23, 2019, EPA issued an Emergency Administrative Order (Section 1431) to the Tribe due to a range of issues at the community water system. The Tribe declared a state-of-emergency immediately following EPA's issuance of the Emergency Order. Over the summer of 2019, the Tribe made repairs to their water distribution system. On August 14, 2019, the Tribe lifted a boil-water notice that had been in-place (continuously) since May 2019. While the Tribe has put forth a significant effort, they have a long way to go to develop and implement an integrated action plan that addresses all the challenges. Unfortunately, without some of the utility capacity issues being resolved, such as the ability to meter and charge for residential usage, the Tribe will not be able to access the largest sources of federal infrastructure funding (e.g. USDA-RD funding).

In order to move to a residential metering and fee system, there would need to be a major paradigm shift for the Tribe. The community seems to have a mix of opinions related to this topic, although it is likely the idea of new fees would be unpopular with many. Some within the Tribe support a fee for all three utilities: drinking water, waste water and solid waste.

The purpose of this TD is to develop and provide user-friendly information to the tribal leadership and residents about the drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste systems and future systems on the Reservation, as well as facilitate discussion forums within the tribe to explore costs and a potential resident fee-based system.

Clarification or Comments: Contractor/subcontractor must have cross-cultural communication skills, education, experience, to develop effective communications and training materials for tribes and the ability to work effectively with traditional Native American groups, including Tribal Government. Experience with facilitating behavior change is desired.

Deliverables: Products would be developed to: promote understanding of where the water comes from and how it moves through the systems; understand how much water is currently being used by the community and how it compares to other similar-sized communities; convey information about why the current drinking water and wastewater systems continue to be challenged; understand current and future system operational costs and what a residential fee-based system could look like. Similarly, information about the current solid waste system, challenges and costs will also be developed. Products will be developed in advance to allow review from both Region 10 and the Tribe.

(1) Facilitate meeting/workshop for Tribal Council. The session needs to be interactive and engage the council members. Contractor will publicize the session in advance, reserve meeting space, and address other logistical issues. Date: Winter 2020.
(2) Facilitate four public meetings/workshops for the community. The sessions need to be interactive and engage the participants. Contractor will publicize the sessions in advance, reserve meeting spaces, and address other logistical issues. Date: Spring 2020.
(3) Develop presentation for Tribal Council meeting/workshop. Must meet criteria under "Deliverables: Products" above.
(4) Develop large posters with graphics of utility systems, for use in Tribal Council and public sessions. Also, make these available in handout form.
(5) Develop fact sheet for public sessions. The fact sheet must meet the criteria under "Deliverables: Products" above.
(6) Develop presentation for community public meetings/workshops. Must meet criteria under "Deliverables: Products" above.
(7) Develop method(s) for getting input from all participants on their satisfaction with current utility systems and recommendations for the future, including related to residential fees.

Timeframe: Start Date: ASAP-as soon as facilitator/contractor are available. Goal is for public sessions to take place in 1st/2nd Quarters of FY20.

End Date: June 2020

I certify that this Technical Directive Document does not request services that are inherently governmental functions and that it does not alter the (1) Statement of Work; (2) Level-of-Effort; or (3) Cost of performing the authorized work for the above-referenced Work Assignment.

TOM Signature: _____ Date:

Original to Contractor - Contractor Receipt: _____Date:
cc: Project Officer (5204P)

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