Message

From: Scarano, Louis [Scarano.Louis@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/13/2019 2:55:42 PM
To: Bass, Nikki [Bass.Nikki@epa.gov]; Lobar, Bryan [Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov]; Camacho, Iris [Camacho.Iris@epa.gov]
CC: Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette [Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Nhan [Nguyen.Nhan@epa.gov]; Fehrenbacher, Cathy [Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov]; Barone, Stan [Barone.Stan@epa.gov]; Schappelle, Seema [Schappelle.Seema@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Existing Chemicals Task Order

All –

Sitting in contracts meeting today and just following up on this since Nikki is out today and Bryan is out (out-of-office message until 8/27/19).

Nikki – not sure who needs to weigh in on this to determine whether anything else is needed to ensure our ability to continue working with subs for asbestos through peer review meeting (anticipated December, 2019).

Regards,

Louis (Gino) Scarano, PhD
Senior Science Advisor
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From: Scarano, Louis
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Bass, Nikki <Bass.Nikki@epa.gov>; Lobar, Bryan <Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov>; Camacho, Iris <Camacho.Iris@epa.gov>
Cc: Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette <Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Nhan <Nguyen.Nhan@epa.gov>; Fehrenbacher, Cathy <Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov>; Barone, Stan <barone.stan@epa.gov>; Schappelle, Seema <Schappelle.Seema@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Existing Chemicals Task Order

All:

Nikki, thank you for pulling together the history on this issue. I agree with the facts/timeline/explanation you have provided. I am adding Stan and Seema (on detail as acting Assoc DD) to this e-mail response.

Per the contracts discussion this morning and the question posed in the e-mail below (highlighted), here are the answers:

<u>Timing and nature of the need from the SRC subs on asbestos in the coming months</u>:

1. In the next few weeks – review of the ORD work product (preliminary risk estimates for asbestos). Expected LOE – about 10 hours total (are three subs).

2. From now – December of 2019 – be available for occasional consultation as the asbestos document goes public (around November 1) – expected LOE in Oct/Nov (10 hours total). The SACC is tentatively scheduled for December. We would like the subs to be available for the SACC (could be in-person or via the phone). Expected LOE – 30 hrs per person = 90 hours total. May involve travel to and from meeting if decided they need to be here in person (which would cost more).
3. From January to June of 2020 – be available to consult on responding to public, stakeholder and SACC comments as the risk evaluation is finalized. Expected LOE – approximately 100 hours total; this is truly an estimate and will depend on how many comments/type of comments/whether re-work of the dose-response section is necessary.

Why this wasn't identified earlier:

As pointed out by Nikki below, the original draft RFTOP did include a section on epidemiologist needs and this was discussed at the time (February 7-8, 2019). Nikki correctly points out the three items that were used to take the section out (taken verbatim here from her note below): 1) the language in Task 3 was added specifically for asbestos, 2) there was uncertainty about using contract support versus internal ORD support to meet some of these needs, and 3) there was uncertainty about the duration of support if used (i.e. it may have been done before the new RFTOP went into place).

In terms of the last point, the subs were nearing completion of their work (the kickoff meeting with them was 9-4-18, they delivered draft deliverables in January and February, 2019). The subs were working with the asbestos team/ORD and finalized their document in late April. So when the February 7-8 contract RFTOP discussions were in play, we had the fruits of 3-4 months of work from the subs. Those documents were the basis of developing the dose-response chapter by our ORD colleagues with the subs providing review and comments. As we were developing the draft risk evaluation (April – June), we realized the subs should be available for the SACC meeting (whenever it was going to be). Asbestos is the only one of the first 10 risk evaluations in which external consultants were contracted specifically for their expertise (i.e., existing EPA contractors did not have the expertise). For all other REs, EPA employees or their direct contractors have done the technical work . And, so far, contractors have not been present at the first two SACC meetings. Also, around this time frame (May – August) is when I became aware of this issue about a different contract type (task order vs time and materials), the difference in subcontractor rates, etc.

I hope this is helpful and addressed the issues. Let me know if any of you have questions.

Regards,

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From: Bass, Nikki <Bass.Nikki@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 9:48 AM
To: Lobar, Bryan <Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov>; Camacho, Iris <Camacho.Iris@epa.gov>
Cc: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>; Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette <Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Nhan <Nguyen.Nhan@epa.gov>; Fehrenbacher, Cathy <Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Existing Chemicals Task Order

Hi Bryan and Iris,

I am forwarding this email with some history on the removal of epidemiologist language from the Existing Chemicals RFTOP.

On page 6 (attached), you can see my comment regarding the need for epidemiologist support for Asbestos, Perc, and TCE. I asked RAD management if we should remove "Asbestos" from the language so that the support could be applied across multiple risk evaluations. Through management review (in a meeting on February 7th), this whole section was removed from Task 3.

We discussed ongoing epidemiology needs for three risk evaluations and the comments were that 1) the language in Task 3 was added specifically for asbestos, 2) there was uncertainty about using contract support versus internal ORD support to meet some of these needs, and 3) there was uncertainty about the duration of support if used (i.e. it may have been done before the new RFTOP went into place).

By February 8th, the epidemiologist language was removed from the RFTOP but the document structure and tasks remained fundamentally the same. I believe that management thought the RFTOP flowed better without that section in the middle of Task 3 and that the more general language would enable us more flexibility.

To refer back to your email:

2) On EPA's (OAS) side: The CO would like an explanation of the timing and nature of the need, and why this wasn't identified earlier. That explanation will accompany the request for the contract modification.

This series of events is the most direct answer for what happened and explains that the need was identified earlier but that there was uncertainty regarding how the need would be met and the duration of the need. I have added Gino, Yvette, and Nhan to this thread (as the management leads for all related risk evaluations) so that they can weigh in on the explanation we provide to OAS.

Thank you for your help with this and I am available to follow up today after our 10:00 AM meeting.

Best Regards,

Nikki

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From: Bass, Nikki
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 9:49 AM
To: Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette <Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov>; Camacho, Iris <Camacho.Iris@epa.gov>; Dawson, Jeffrey <Dawson.Jeff@epa.gov>; Eisenreich, Karen <Eisenreich.Karen@epa.gov>; Fehrenbacher, Cathy <Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov>; Hasan, Jafrul <Hasan.Jafrul@epa.gov>; Nguyen, Nhan <Nguyen.Nhan@epa.gov>; Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>; Benson, Amy <Benson.Amy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Existing Chemicals Task Order

All,

I have attached a draft of the Existing Chemicals RFTOP for your review.

Best Regards,

Nikki

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-----Original Appointment-----
From: Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 3:32 PM
To: Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette; Camacho, Iris; Dawson, Jeffrey; Eisenreich, Karen; Fehrenbacher, Cathy; Hasan, Jafrul; Nguyen, Nhan; Scarano, Louis; Bass, Nikki
Subject: Existing Chemicals Task Order
When: Thursday, February 07, 2019 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: DCRoomEast6217