

Responses to Questions for IFB#1029
Site Clearing and Vegetation Control

Q1	<p>In connection with the following bid solicitation: New York State - Office of Children & Family Services Site Clearance and Vegetation Control Questions by 5/20 Bid number: 1029 Due date: 06/16/2020 Due time: 04:00 pm 04/10/2020 Please furnish a bid package including specifications and instructions.</p>
A1	<p>Unfortunately, OCFS does not provide hard copies of this information. However, the entire IFB including the solicitation and reference documents can be found on the NYS Contract Reporter, in addition to the OCFS Website.</p> <p>Please Note: The IFB was last amended on April 10, 2020 and the submission deadline has been extended. See Section 1.3 Calendar of Events for additional information.</p>
Q2	<p>For deliverable #1 (mechanical mowing along roadway), would it be acceptable to provide a bid for mulching the cut vegetation in place using a commercial mulching head to reduce the clippings to short cuttings? This would retain nutrients on site instead of removing valuable nutrients from the site, and we believe this would be better for the long-term health of the site.</p>
A2	<p>Yes, NYS-OCFS will accept leaving short cutting debris on-site with the following limitations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clippings resulting from mowing along access roadway shoulders, shall be mulched to reduce clipping size. b. Mulched clippings from mowing of access roadway shoulders shall be left in place and must be evenly spread over roadway shoulders. c. Mulched clippings from mowing unpaved driveways shall be left in place and must be evenly spread over roadway shoulders on driveway. d. First of two events each year resulting in clippings from brush-hog vegetation control shall be removed from both cells of landfill mounds to a level not exceeding four inches high from the ground, and the remainder clippings evenly spread on each landfill mound. Clippings from the second of two events associated with brush-hog work each year shall be left in place and shall be evenly distributed over the cells.
Q3	<p>For deliverable #4 (selective tree removal) please expand on the criteria used to select the trees to be removed.</p>
A3	<p>Please Note: There are only 3 deliverables for this project.</p> <p>Criteria to be used for deliverable #3 - selective tree removal include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Trees that are hazardous leaning more than 20 degrees (from the vertical) into or towards access roadway, roadway shoulders, footpaths, and/or unpaved driveways leading to remote test wells; b. Fallen trees and trees that can be reasonable anticipated to fall resulting from severe weather that protrude into access roadway, roadway shoulders, footpaths, and/or unpaved driveways leading to remote test wells;

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	<p>c. Trees that create impediments and obstructions in unpaved driveways/pathways for vehicular access to remote test wells located;</p> <p>d. Tree branches that project into access roadway, roadway shoulders, and/or unpaved driveways/pathways where significant parts of the bottom canopy of such branches are lower than 10 feet above ground level;</p> <p>e. Tree branches that project into access roadway, roadway shoulders, unpaved driveways and pathways where in the event of detachment of such branches, they will fall into access roadway, roadway shoulder, and pathways.</p>
Q4	For deliverable #4, if the task takes longer than 400 hours on year one, would additional hourly payment be made?
A4	<p>Please Note: There are only 3 deliverables for this project.</p> <p>For deliverable #3 selective tree removal, 400 hours is the cap for bidding purposes. While it is possible additional hours might be required, it is not guaranteed. NYS-OCFS reserves the right to increase the number of hours that can be billed under the resulting contract on an as-needed basis.</p>
Q5	For deliverable #4, trees that have been down on the ground would likely be unable to be moved (we expect they would fall apart due to being rotten if we attempted to grapple them). Would it be acceptable to use a mulcher/grinder to reduce them to powder and leave the ground shavings on site?
A5	<p>Please Note: There are only 3 deliverables for this project.</p> <p>For deliverable #3, fallen trees and tree branches/limbs on the ground that match the criteria described in A3 and shall be removed. Mulching is considered an acceptable means of removal.</p> <p>Decomposing felled trees and tree branches in roadways, on roadway shoulders (within 10 feet from roadway pavement), near pathways and unpaved driveways shall be cleared to the sides to remove obstacles and hazards that impede pedestrian and/or vehicular travels.</p> <p>Please Note: Felled trees and stumps that have resulted from other ongoing project work is considered part of a separate contract and are not to be removed under this contract's deliverables.</p>
Q6	Can we bid on just 1 section of the RFP (i.e. the lawn-clearing) or do we have to bid on all of it?
A6	<p>No, NYS-OCFS consideration and acceptance of eligible bids shall be limited to those bids that address the entire work scope as indicated in Section 1.1 Overview and Section 3.2 Product/Service Specifications of the IFB.</p> <p>Please Note: This opportunity is an Invitation for Bids (IFB), not a Request for Proposals (RFP).</p>

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Q7	What is the overall square footage of the entire contract?
A7	Approximately ninety-two (92) total acres consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Three (3) acres, for deliverable #1 b. Forty-three (43) acres, for deliverable #2 c. Forty-six (46) acres, for deliverable #3
Q8	What is the total square footage for the brush clearing work?
A8	The total square footage, corresponding to deliverable #2 for the brush cleaning work, is approximately forty-three (43) acres.
Q9	What is the total number of trees that need to be cleared?
A9	There isn't a set number of trees to be cleared. The total number of trees and tree branches to be removed shall be based on selection criteria indicated in A3 and shall be determined by the contractor and the facility director's representative.
Q10	Do we need to haul off the felled trees?
A10	Felled trees and tree branches can be disposed of on-site with the following limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Felled trees and branches shall be cut-down to manageable sizes approximately five-to-six feet length; b. Cut-down tree trunks and branches hauled to designated locations on-site as directed by the director's representative. Cut-down tree trunks and branches shall be stacked neatly at one or more designated areas. c. Leaves and twigs from felled trees shall be mulched and disposed of on-site, spread evenly at designated locations indicated by the facility director's representative.
Q11	Do we need to cut the felled trees into manageable sizes? If so, what size?
A11	Please see A10 a.
Q12	If we are hauling the limbs and trees off where are we taking them?
A12	Please see A10 b.
Q13	For the tree-cutting, what are the reconnaissance survey formats? (i.e. pictures, surveys, etc.)
A13	Regarding tree-cutting, reconnaissance surveys will be based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual observation during a walk through with the facility director's representative; • Markings of tree and tree-branches to be removed; • Variations of width of access roadway shoulders to be mowed; • Visual overview of unpaved driveways and pathways to remote test/sampling wells. <p>Please Note: The scale of a survey map for the entire landfill site will be of extremely limited use or no use at all in relationship to individual tree cutting work. Contractor may take photographs as deemed necessary to document quantity and scope of prospective and completed work.</p>
Q14	Where are we required to dump? If so, fees will need to be discussed or worked into contracts.
A14	Dumping will be done on-site for selective removal of trees and tree branches and shall be disposed of on-site at locations designated by the facility director's representative at no additional cost to contract awardee. Designated locations will be manageable for equipment access and stacking operations; and will be away from wetlands.

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Q15	Do you recommend any specific equipment?
A15	NYS-OCFS does not recommend any specific equipment. Work performance means, sequences, and methods are the contractor's responsibilities in executing the work within the contract parameters, except for the use of a brush hog as specified for deliverable #2.
Q16	Is there a space on site to store our equipment?
A16	<p>Yes, on-site locations for storage of equipment shall be designated and agreed upon between NYS-OCFS facility director's representative and the Contractor. Storage of equipment shall be limited to equipment used for implementing the work and shall be for a limited timeframe, as agreed upon between the Contractor and the facility director's representative.</p> <p>The safety and security of equipment stored on-site shall be the Contractor's responsibility; NYS-OCFS shall not be held responsible for any damage, loss, or theft of equipment stored on the site. Contractor's access to such equipment shall be subject to applicable facilities' protocols for access into the project site.</p>
Q17	What are the confined spaces permit requirements?
A17	Based on current site conditions associated to the services to be delivered under this contract, there are no existing confined spaces. Should the Contractor create such confined space conditions resulting from configuration of equipment and/or vehicles used to execute the work, the Contractor shall obtain the required permit and comply with applicable regulations.
Q18	Is a Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator required for the contract?
A18	Yes, a certified commercial pesticide applicator(s) is/are required in compliance with Federal laws and New York State regulations, should the Contractor choose to use pesticide or vegetation killer (chemical or combination of chemicals) for implementing all or part of the mowing-component indicated in deliverable #1.
Q19	Due to COVID-19 can we submit the bid via email?
A19	No. Bids submitted in response to this IFB must be submitted by mail, hand delivery, overnight carrier or certified mail in a sealed package or envelope. Refer to IFB Section 2.0 Bid Submission for additional information. Electronic bid submissions will not be accepted or considered. Due to COVID-19, NYS-OCFS does not recommend hand delivery.
Q20	What is the prevailing wage for this work?
A20	Prevailing wage rates for this contract work are published by NYS Labor Department and can be found at https://apps.labor.ny.gov/wpp/publicViewProject.do?method=showIt&id=1492400# under corresponding Prevailing Rate Case (PRC) # 2020000739.