

**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2006**

SUBJECT **MACAULAY POINT SEAFLOOR ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION
AWARD OF CONTRACT 06-1568**

PURPOSE

To award the Macaulay Point seafloor animal identification contract.

BACKGROUND

The seafloor trigger process for the Macaulay Point outfall requires the annual collection and identification of seafloor organisms. Every September, 28 stations are visited and 112 samples are taken. The organisms in these samples, seafloor animals, are then sorted and identified to the lowest practical group.

The sorting and identification of organisms is conducted by a private consultant. This process takes approximately seven to eight months to complete and requires the services of highly specialized scientists, trained and experienced in the identification of West Coast seafloor organisms. It is important that the identification process be consistent from year to year to ensure the accuracy of the seafloor trigger, as it will determine the need for wastewater treatment. To ensure this consistency, consultants should not change frequently. Therefore, a three-year contracting term is used for this service.

A call for credentials for consultants to provide seafloor animal identification services for the Macaulay Point outfall was advertised in the Times Colonist and on the Capital Regional District (CRD) website in February 2006. Only one company, Benthic Services Group (BSG), submitted credentials to the Scientific Programs division.

The private sector's capacity to provide seafloor animal identification services in British Columbia is currently limited. The main factors that have caused this shortage are a decline in university training of scientific experts over the past decade, coupled with resurgence in the amount of work due to new and updated provincial and federal environmental regulations. The amount of work is projected to continue to increase significantly over the coming years. Pulp mills, marine contaminated sites, sewage outfalls and fish farms are now required by government regulation to use seafloor animal identification services.

BSG's experience and qualifications were evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the call for credentials. The company was judged qualified to conduct the required work and was asked to submit a proposal according to the terms outlined in the request for proposal (RFP).

CRD Environmental Services staff members independently evaluated BSG's proposal according to criteria outlined in the RFP. The overall conclusion was that BSG is fully qualified to conduct the identification of the Macaulay Point seafloor animal samples. The submitted proposal contained information showing the company's considerable experience and qualifications in this field, including experience with the CRD Macaulay Point seafloor animal identification.

A final contract price of \$1,430 to \$1,517 per sample (see Table 1) has now been negotiated with BSG for the 2007 to 2009 seafloor animal identification. The initial price proposed by BSG was \$1,430 to \$1,591 per sample. Each year, the total number of samples identified is determined using a statistical analysis

and ranges from 84 to 112. Therefore, the annual cost ranges from a minimum to maximum. These values, as well as the cost per sample, are presented in Table 1. These costs fit within the core budget allocated for this work. These costs are similar to the previous contract. In addition, 2007 costs are the same as 2006 costs.

Table 1. Benthic Invertebrate Identification Costs 2007-2009

Year	Cost/Sample	Minimum Overall Cost (84 samples)	Maximum Overall Cost (112 samples)
2007	\$1,430	\$120,120	\$160,160
2008	1,473	123,732	164,976
2009	1,517	127,428	169,904
Total Cost for Three Years		\$371,280	\$495,040

The cost per sample is competitive. Quotes received in the past from different companies have ranged from \$1,100 to \$1,550 per sample for a lower level of effort per sample.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the contract be retendered.
2. That Contract 06-1568 be awarded to Benthic Services Group. The data are necessary to complete the yearly run of the seafloor triger, as part of the mandated Core Area Liquid Waste Managemet Plan (LWMP).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Included in the annual budgets for the northwest and northeast trunks.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

BSG is a qualified company with extensive experience in completing seafloor animal identification. The pricing for this contract is competative and the work needs to be completed to fulfill a requirement under the provincially mandated Core Area LWMP. Therefore, it is recommened that Contract 06-1568 be awarded to BSG.

RECOMMENDATION

That Contract 06-1568 for providing seafloor animal identification services for the Macaulay Point outfall for 2007 to 2009 be awarded to Benthic Services Group at a cost of \$1,430 to \$1,517 per sample.

Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee – 28 June 2006
Re: Award of Contract 06-1568
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Laura A. Taylor M.Sc.
Manager, Scientific Programs

Dwayne Kalynchuk, PEng
General Manager, Environmental Services
Concurrence

Kelly Daniels
CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS

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