

STATEMENT OF WORK - External Peer Review of OSWER Net Environmental Benefits Assessment Case Studies

Period of Performance: Work Plan Approval to March 1, 2008

Work Assignment Manager: David S. Nicholas
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

LOE: 430 hours

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

OSWER is analyzing methods for assessing environmental benefits of site cleanup. To advance this work, OSWER has undertaken a case study approach to apply the Net Environmental Benefits Assessment method at two Superfund sites to better understand the changes in ecosystems and the services they provide after site cleanup work is complete.

These two case studies should undergo external peer review. This statement of work describes the plan for that review which will enable OSWER to understand the potential relevance of the NEBA methodology to revealing benefits of restoring impaired ecosystems and the services they deliver.

Peer review is an important component of the scientific process. It provides a focused, objective evaluation of a research proposal, publication, risk assessment, health advisory, guidance or other document submitted for review. The criticism, suggestions and new ideas provided by the peer reviewers stimulate creative thought, strengthens the reviewed document and confer credibility on the product. Comprehensive, objective peer reviews leads to good science and product acceptance within the scientific community.

Under this work assignment, the contractor will receive one document (Demonstrating the Ecosystem Service Benefits of Site Cleanup: An Evaluation of Ecological and Economic Metrics at Two Superfund Sites) for peer review.

STATEMENT OF WORK:

Task 1. The contractor shall develop a work plan to address all tasks in this work assignment. The work plan shall describe the steps that will be taken by the contractor to provide for peer review, including selection of peer reviewer candidates with appropriate expertise, determining absence of conflict of interest, document and reference distribution, establishing schedules, preparing the peer review report, and submittal of the peer review package. Curriculum vitae for all persons assigned to complete this work assignment shall be provided. All P levels, hours and total costs for each task will be provided and costs greater than \$100.00 shall be itemized in detail.

- Task 2.** The contractor shall select a group of peer reviewers and determine their availability for the task and absence of conflict of interest, and establish a schedule for the peer review. The contractor is directed to assure that none of the conflicts disclosed is so direct and substantial as to rule out a particular reviewer. Three peer reviewers shall participate in the review. No single peer reviewer may charge more than 40 hours to this task. It is fully acceptable for peer reviewers to commit to less than 40 hours. The peer review will be conducted for the two Ecosystem Service Case Studies. Reviewers selected by and working for the contractor shall be approved by the EPA Project Officer in writing prior to their beginning work. Minimally, all peer reviewers shall be accomplished in environmental economics and benefits assessment methodologies. Approval submissions shall include the reviewers' names and curriculum vitae.
- Task 3.** The contractor shall arrange for the selected peer reviewers to review the EPA document. Prepare the charge to the peer reviewers based on technical direction received from the EPA WAM. Provide the peer reviewers with copies of the candidate report and all relevant references and instruct the selected peer reviewers to undertake the review. The WAM will provide the contractor with the final version of the document to be reviewed.
- Task 4.** The contractor shall monitor peer reviewers' progress to assure timely completion. The contractor shall collate peer review comments, and organize the comments in the peer review "for comments" document. The contractor shall provide the peer review document and all materials submitted by the peer reviewers to the EPA WAM.

SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES:

- Task 1. (Work Plan) 15 days after receipt of work assignment
- Task 2. 1 week after work plan approval
- Task 3. 1 week after selection of peer reviewers
- Task 4. 1 week after receiving comments from the peer reviewers

TRAVEL: No travel is anticipated under this work assignment. Any travel directly chargeable to this work assignment must be submitted and approved by the Project Officer.