

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

WESTERN REGIONAL AIR PARTNERSHIP

CAUSES OF HAZE REPORT

May 6, 2002

INVITATION TO BID

DATE: May 6, 2002

RETURN BID TO:

Western Governor's Association

BID NO: 02WGA119WRAP

1515 Cleveland Place

DIRECT INQUIRIES TO: Rich Halvey

Suite 200

PHONE NO: (303) 623-9378

Denver, Colorado 80202

DATE BID DUE: June 11, 2002 2:00 PM Mountain Daylight Time

Bids properly marked as to BID NO., DATE, and HOUR of opening, subject to the conditions herein stipulated and in accordance with the specifications set forth and/or attached hereto, will be accepted at the address listed above, prior to the date and time listed for the bid opening. All bids shall be quoted F.O.B. destination, unless otherwise specified, to the delivery location or jobsite listed herein.

SEALED COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL FOR:
Causes of Haze Report

**WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION
1515 CLEVELAND PLACE
SUITE 200
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-**

Prices shall be quoted F.O.B. destination and include delivery to the Western Governors' Association. SEE ATTACHED PAGES FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.

IMPORTANT: Bidders should read the entire document before submitting bid.
BIDS MUST BE SIGNED IN INK

TYPED OR PRINTED SIGNATURE

TERMS

Terms of less than 30 calendar days will not be considered

Handwritten signature by Authorized
Officer or Agent of Vendor

VENDOR _____

ADDRESS _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____

PHONE # _____

The above bid is subject to Terms and Conditions on attached sheets

RETURN THIS COPY

PROPOSER COST SUBMITTAL

PROPOSER'S NAME

PROPOSER'S ADDRESS STREET AND NUMBER

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL (PRINT OR TYPE)

OFFICIAL TITLE

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

TOTAL COST _____

RFP Terms and Conditions

1. LATE BIDS/PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR CONSIDERED. It is the responsibility of the bidder/proposer (hereinafter “bidder” or “proposer”) to ensure that the bid/proposal (hereinafter “bid” or “proposal”) arrives prior to the time and at the place indicated in the bid. Telephone or facsimile responses will not be accepted.
2. Specifications are provided to identify product/service required and to establish an acceptable quality level. Bids on products of equal quality and usability will normally be considered unless otherwise stated. The Western Governors’ Association (WGA) will be the sole judge in determining “equals” in regard to quality, price and performance. Samples of product(s), when required, must be furnished free of expense to the WGA, and, if not destroyed by tests, may upon request at the time the sample is furnished, be returned at bidder’s expense. Failure to furnish brochures, specifications, and/or samples as requested may be sufficient cause for rejection of bids.
3. Bidders shall furnish all the information required and are expected to examine the drawings, specifications, schedule of delivery and all instructions. Should the bidder find any part of the listed specifications, terms and conditions to be discrepant, incomplete or otherwise questionable in any respect, it shall be the responsibility of the bidder to call such matters to the attention of the WGA immediately. Failure to do so will be at the bidder’s risk. All official changes to this bid will be furnished, in writing by the WGA.
4. The bidder shall furnish the products and/or services in strict accordance with the specifications, and at the price set forth for each item. In case of error in extension, the unit price will prevail. All products quoted shall be newly manufactured and of the manufacturer’s current model, unless otherwise specified.
5. Bidders must furnish all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any chemicals or hazardous materials. Awards may not be made if MSDS are not received by the WGA.
6. The bid should be returned in an envelope sealed and properly marked as to bid number and opening time and date.
7. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of less than sixty (60) calendar days subsequent to the opening of the bids, unless otherwise stipulated by the WGA.
8. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements. The vendor assures that, at all times during the performance of this contract, no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of that disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of services, programs, or activities performed by the vendor or be subject to any discrimination by the vendor.
9. Independent Contractor. The contractor shall perform its duties herein as an independent contractor and not as an employee. Neither the contractor nor any agent or employee of the contractor shall be, or shall be deemed to be, an employee or agent of the WGA. Contractor shall pay when due all required employment taxes and income tax withholding, shall provide and keep in force workers compensation (and show proof of such insurance) and employment compensation insurance in the amounts required by law, and shall be solely responsible for the acts of the contractor, its employees, and its agents.
10. Bidder agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and policies, as amended, including those regarding discrimination and unfair labor practices.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- A. ISSUING OFFICE: This Request For Proposal (RFP) is issued by the Western Governors' Association (WGA). The WGA is the sole point of contact concerning this RFP.
- B. INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS: The WGA is hereby contacting prospective offerors who have an interest or are known to do business relevant to this RFP. All interested offerors who were not contacted are invited to submit a proposal in accordance with the rules, procedures and dates set forth herein. In the event of "No Bid", please sign the Invitation for Bid form, indicating "No Bid" and return it to the WGA.
- C. PURPOSE: This RFP provides prospective offerors with sufficient information to enable them to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by the Western Governors' Association to satisfy the need for expert assistance in the completion of the goals of this RFP.
- D. SCOPE: This RFP contains the instructions governing the proposal to be submitted and the material to be included therein; mandatory requirements which must be met to be eligible for consideration; and other requirements to be met by each proposal.
- E. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1.	RFP PUBLISHED	<u>05/06/02</u>
2.	PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE	<u>05/20/02</u>
3.	PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS WRITTEN INQUIRY	<u>05/21/02</u>
4.	PROPOSAL SUBMISSION	
	SUBMIT 8 HARD COPIES INCLUDING	
	ORIGINAL AND ONE ELECTRONIC COPY	<u>06/11/02</u>
5.	BIDDER INTERVIEWS (OPTION OF THE WGA)	<u>06/17/02</u>
6.	PROPOSAL SELECTION (ESTIMATED/WEEK OF)	<u>06/17/02</u>
7.	CONTRACT FINALIZED (ESTIMATED/WEEK OF)	<u>07/01/02</u>
8.	CONTRACT PERIOD	<u>07/02-12/02¹</u>
- F. INQUIRIES: Unless otherwise noted, prospective offerors may make written inquiries concerning this RFP to obtain clarification of the requirements. No inquiries will be accepted after the date/time indicated in the Schedule of Activities. Send all inquiries to:

Western Governors' Association
1515 Cleveland Place
Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202
Attn: Rich Halvey
Or e-mail at rhalvey@westgov.org

Response to offerors inquiries will be made in writing in a timely manner to all prospective offerors. Any oral interpretations of clarifications to this RFP shall not be relied upon. All changes to this RFP must be in writing to be valid.

¹ WGA is unable to obligate contract funds beyond December 31, 2002 until such time as new grant funds are received. It is fully expected that such funds will be awarded for 2003 and beyond. At such time the contract will be extended to cover the full performance period

- G. MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS: Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by the offeror prior to the established due date and time.
- H. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: Proposals must be received on or before the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Activities. Late proposals will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the offeror to ensure that the proposal is received by the WGA on or before the proposal opening date and time. Offerors mailing their proposals shall allow sufficient mail delivery time to ensure receipt of their proposals by the time specified. The proposal package shall be delivered or sent by mail to:

Western Governor's Association
 1515 Cleveland Place
 Suite 200
 Denver, Colorado 80202
 Attn: Rich Halvey

The WGA Invitation for Bid form must be signed in ink by the offeror or an officer of the offeror legally authorized to bind the offeror to the proposal.

Proposals which are determined to be at variance with the requirement may not be accepted.

Proposals must be submitted and sealed in a package showing the following information on the outside of the envelope:

OFFEROR'S NAME
 RFP-NO.
 PROPOSAL DUE DATE AND TIME

- I. ADDENDUM OR SUPPLEMENT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: In the event that it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, an addendum will be provided to each offeror who received the original RFP. It is the responsibility of offerors, prior to the bid date, to enquire as to addenda issued, to ensure their bid reflects any and all changes. WGA will maintain a register of holders of this RFP. Any party receiving this RFP other than from the WGA should inform the WGA of its interest in order to ensure receipt of any addenda.
- J. BIDDER INTERVIEWS: Offerors who are deemed most qualified after initial evaluation may be asked to interview with the selection committee.
- K. ACCEPTANCE OF RFP TERMS: A proposal submitted in response to this RFP shall constitute a binding offer. Acknowledgment of this condition shall be indicated by the signature of the offeror or an officer of the offeror legally authorized to execute contractual obligations. A submission in response to this RFP acknowledges acceptance by the offeror of all terms and conditions, including compensation, as set forth herein. Any offeror shall identify clearly and thoroughly any variations between its proposal and this RFP. Failure to do so shall be deemed a waiver of any rights to subsequently modify the terms of performance.
- L. PROTESTED SOLICITATIONS AND AWARDS: Any actual or prospective offeror or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract may protest to the Executive Director of the WGA. The protest shall be submitted in writing within seven working days after such aggrieved person knows, or should have know.
- M. COST DATA/BUDGET: Proposals for \$10,000 or more must include Cost/Data/Budget providing factual information concerning the cost of labor, material, travel, overhead and other cost elements which are expected to be incurred.
- N. CONFIDENTIAL/PROPRIETARY INFORMATION: Any restrictions on the use or inspection of material contained within the proposal shall be clearly stated in the proposal itself. Written requests for confidentiality shall be submitted by the offeror with the proposal. The offeror must state specifically what elements of the proposal are to be considered confidential or proprietary. Confidential and proprietary

information must be readily identified, marked and separated/packaged from the rest of the proposal. Co-mingling of confidential or proprietary information and other information is not acceptable. Neither a proposal in its entirety nor proposal price information will be considered confidential or proprietary. Any information that will be included in any resulting contract cannot be considered proprietary.

The WGA will make a written determination as to the apparent validity of any request for confidentiality. The written decision of the WGA will be sent to the offeror.

- O. RFP RESPONSE MATERIAL OWNERSHIP: All material submitted regarding this RFP becomes the property of the WGA. Proposals may be reviewed by any person after the "Notice of Intent to Award" letter has been issued. The WGA reserves the right to use any and all information and material presented in reply to the RFP, subject to the limitations outlined in (N) Confidential/Proprietary Information. Disqualification of an offeror does not eliminate this right.
- P. PROPOSAL PRICES: Estimated proposal prices are not acceptable. Best and final offers cannot be considered in determining the apparent successful offeror. All work toward a deliverable task will be billed on a time and materials basis subject to a not to be exceeded budget for each deliverable task or contract. All work will be performed consistent with the schedule specified in the contract.
- Q. SELECTION OF PROPOSAL: All offerors will be notified in writing regarding the results of the RFP evaluation. Upon review and approval of the evaluation committee's recommendation for award, the WGA will issue a "Notice of Intent to Make Award" letter to the apparent, successful offeror. A contract must be completed and signed by all parties concerned on or before the date indicated in the Schedule of Activities. If this date is not met through no fault of the WGA, the WGA may elect to cancel the "Notice of Intent to Make Award" letter and make the award to the next most responsive offeror.
- R. AWARD OF CONTRACT: The award will be made to that offeror whose proposal, conforming to the RFP, will be the most advantageous to the WGA, price and other factors considered.
- S. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL CONTENT: The contents of the proposal, including persons specified to implement the project, of the successful offeror will become contractual obligations if acquisition action ensues. Failure of the successful offeror to accept these obligations in a contract may result in cancellation of the award and such offeror may be removed from future solicitations.
- T. STANDARD CONTRACT: The WGA reserves the right to incorporate standard WGA contract provisions into any contract resulting from this RFP.
- U. RFP CANCELLATION: The WGA reserves the right to cancel this Request for Proposal at any time without penalty.
- V. WGA OWNERSHIP OF CONTRACT PRODUCTS/SERVICES: Proposals upon established opening time, become the property of the WGA. All products/services produced in response to the contract resulting from this RFP will become the sole property of the WGA. The contents of the successful offeror's proposal will become contractual obligations.
- W. INCURRING COSTS: The WGA is not responsible for any cost incurred by offerors prior to the issuance of a legally executed contract or procurement document. No proprietary interest, of any nature shall occur until a contract is awarded and signed by all concerned parties.
- X. MINORITY PARTICIPATION: It is the WGA's goal to achieve maximum participation of minorities in the procurement process. Accordingly, minority enterprises are to be utilized whenever possible. By the submission of a proposal, the offeror shall agree to utilize the maximum amount of minority business firms that the offeror finds to be consistent with the efficient performance of any resulting contract.
- Y. NON-DISCRIMINATION: The offeror shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations involving non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, or sex.

- Z. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS: The WGA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received and to accept any portion of a proposal or all items proposed if deemed in the best interest of the WGA.
- AA. PARENT COMPANY: If an offeror is owned or controlled by a parent company, the name, main office address and parent company's tax identification number shall be provided in the proposal.
- BB. NEWS RELEASES: News releases pertaining to this RFP shall not be made prior to execution of the contract without prior written approval of the WGA.
- CC: CONTRACT CANCELLATION: The WGA reserves the right to cancel, for cause, any contract resulting from this RFP, by timely written notice to the contractor.
- DD. CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION:
1. By submission of this proposal, each offeror certifies, and in the case of a joint proposal each party thereto certifies, as to its own organization, that in conjunction with this procurement:
 (a) The prices in this proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other offeror or with any competitor;
 (b) Unless otherwise required by law, the prices which have been quoted in this proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the offeror prior to opening, directly or indirectly to any other offeror or to any competitor; and
 (c) No attempt has been made or will be made by the offeror to induce any other person or firm to submit or not submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.
2. Each person signing the Invitation for Bid form of this proposal certifies that:
 (a) He is the person in the offeror's organization responsible within that organization for the decision as to prices being offered herein and that he has not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to (1)(a) through (1)(c) above; or
 (b) He is not the person in the offeror's organization responsible within that organization for the decision as to the prices being offered herein but that he has been authorized in writing to act as agent for the persons responsible for such decision in certifying that such persons have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to (1)(a) through (1)(c) above; and as their agent does hereby so certify; and he has not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to (1)(a) through (1)(c) above.
3. A proposal will not be considered for award where (1)(a), (1)(c), or (2) above has been deleted or modified. Where (1)(b) above has been deleted or modified, the proposal will not be considered for award unless the offeror furnishes with the proposal a signed statement which sets forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure and the head of the agency, or his designees, determines that such disclosure was not made for the purpose of restricting competition.
- EE. TAXES: The WGA, as purchaser, is exempt from all federal taxes (designated as a 501(c)(3) organization) and from all state and local government use taxes. Seller is hereby notified that when materials are purchased in certain political subdivisions, the seller may be required to pay sales tax even though the ultimate product or service is provided to the WGA. This sales tax will not be reimbursed by the WGA.
- FF. ASSIGNMENT: Except for assignment of antitrust claims, neither party to any resulting contract may assign any portion of the agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.
- GG. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: Financial obligations of the WGA payable after the current fiscal year are contingent upon funds for that purpose being appropriated, budgeted, and otherwise made available. In the event funds are not appropriated, any resulting contract will become null and void, without penalty to the WGA.
- HH. INSURANCE: If the proposal so states, the contractor shall procure at its own expense, and maintain for the duration of the work, the following insurance coverages; the WGA shall be issued certificates as an

additional insured.

1. Standard Worker's Compensation and Employers' Liability, as required by State statute, including occupational disease, and covering all employees at a work site.
2. General Liability (PL & PD) (Minimum)
 - a. Combined single limit - \$600,000 written on an occurrence basis.
 - b. Any aggregate limit will not be less than \$1 million.
 - c. Contractor must purchase additional insurance if claims reduce the annual aggregate below \$600,000.
 - d. WGA to be named as additional insured on each comprehensive general liability policy.
 - e. Certificate of Insurance to be provided to the WGA within 10 working days of the receipt of the award.
 - f. Insurance shall include provisions preventing cancellation without 60 days prior notice by certified mail to the WGA.
3. Automobile Liability (minimum). The Contractor shall carry a minimum of \$600,000 combined single limit auto insurance.
4. Additional coverages may be required in specific solicitations.

For any insurances that are required by this RFP, a completed Standard Certificate of Insurance form shall be provided to the WGA by the potential contractor prior to the date of any contract.

II. INDEMNIFICATION: To the extent authorized by law, the contractor shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the WGA, its employees and agents, against any and all claims, damages, liability and court awards including costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred as a result of any act or omission by the contractor or its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees pursuant to the terms of the contract resulting from this RFP.

JJ. VENUE: The laws of the State of Colorado, U.S.A. shall govern in connection with the formation, performance and the legal enforcement of any resulting contract.

ACTIVITY	DATE
PUBLISH RFP	05/06/02
FORMAL BIDDERS CONFERENCE	05/20/02
COMMENT PERIOD CLOSURES	05/21/02
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE	06/11/02
PROPOSAL EVALUATION	06/11/02 – 06/17/02
BIDDER INTERVIEWS	06/17/02
PROPOSAL SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT	06/24/02
CONTRACT FINALIZED	07/01/02

1.0 Background

The Regional Haze Rule requires that states (and tribes where appropriate) prepare Implementation Plans (SIPs or TIPS) that use monitoring data to track progress toward the federal visibility goal of reducing existing and preventing future impairment in visibility-protect Federal Class I Areas (FCIAs) caused by man-made emissions. Visibility provisions of the SIPs & TIPS must be revised every 10 years and reviewed at the 5-year midpoints of the Implementation Plan cycle.

EPA has issued draft guidance on several topics related to the development of visibility SIPs and TIPS, including Tracking Progress, Estimating Natural Visibility Conditions, and Modeling. Analyses of ambient pollution and meteorological data are fundamental to each of these topics, but in addition these data are the best source of information to address the broader question of the causes of haze.

In order to meet its obligations with respect to the Regional Haze Rule to member states, tribes, and other participants, the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) is seeking a contractor to conduct data assessments and to prepare a report that addresses the **goal of determining the cause of haze¹ in FCIAs in the WRAP region**. The first of these assessments is the subject of this request for proposals and should be based on data collected between 1988 and the end of 2001 (the period of available IMPROVE data)². Updated versions of the report commissioned every five years will incorporate data gathered since the previous report as well as additional assessment methods that show promise with respect to meeting the overall goal.

1.1 WGA Authority

The WGA is responsible for the initial design, implementation, and overall performance for this RFP and any subsequent contract. The WGA is authorized to enter into a contract with a contractor to provide the services outlined below. Determination of the successful completion of the contract tasks and assignments shall be at the sole discretion of the WGA.

1.2 RFP Terminology

Any firm that submits a proposal to the WGA pursuant to this RFP is hereinafter referred to as “Proposer”. Any proposal in response to this RFP submitted by a Proposer is hereinafter referred to as a “Proposal”. Any Proposer with which the WGA contracts for the program is hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor”. The contract between the WGA and the Contractor with respect to any tasks outlined in this RFP is hereinafter referred to as the “contract”.

The use of “shall”, “must”, and “will” in this RFP indicates a requirement or condition from which a material deviation may not be made. A deviation is material if, in the WGA’s sole discretion, the deficient response or action is not in substantial accord with the RFP requirements, provides an unfair advantage to one proposer over another, or has a potentially significant adverse effect on the quality or quantity of items or services proposed or on the cost to the WGA. However, proposers are encouraged to propose innovative or creative designs or features that would tend to have a favorable impact on program costs or technical integrity. Such designs or features, however, must be in substantial accord with the RFP requirements.

¹ For this document, the word “haze” refers only to the haze metric as determined from aerosol speciation monitoring and as defined by EPA for the Regional Haze Rule and further specified in the Tracking Progress guidance document.

² Not all assessment methods require data collected over this long a period. For those methods that don’t, the most recent data for a period of up to 5 years should be used.

2.0 Work Tasks

2.1 Required Characteristics of the Assessment

To vigorously address the goal of determining the causes of haze, the WRAP wishes to have the maximum possible information concerning the causes of haze at each FCIA extracted from the available ambient monitoring data, excluding the use of regional scale air quality modeling which is being separately conducted for WRAP. To do this will require the application of many different data analysis methodologies coupled with an extensive effort to reconcile their results and a synthesis to generate broadly supported findings.

The assessments must generate information on each of the WRAP visibility-protected FCIAs as well as develop a broader understanding of the significant causes of haze by sub-region and time of year. The Regional Haze Rule metrics for tracking haze reduction progress for each FCIA are the 5-year averages of haziness in deciview units of the annual 20% best and 20% worst visibility days determined by IMPROVE aerosol speciation data. Therefore assessments must focus, when possible, on the causes of haze as they affect these specific extreme days at each of the FCIA monitoring sites.

Much, though certainly not all, of the data required to conduct the assessments for the causes of haze report are readily available through the WRAP data archive and assessment web page at <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/wrap/>. The web site identifies all of the FCIA's best and worst days using procedures detailed in EPA's guidance document on Tracking Progress Under the Regional Haze Rule. This web site includes data for all of the IMPROVE and IMPROVE Protocol aerosol and optical monitoring, as well as related types of data from other locations in the WRAP region. Excel spreadsheets that summarize the 1996 WRAP emissions inventory by state and county for point, area, and mobile source types are also available via link on the WRAP web site. The web site also includes searchable standard data products for each site year of data at IMPROVE sites including graphical and statistical summaries, and back trajectory maps corresponding to worst-case haze days. The selected Causes of Haze Assessment contractor is expected to use the web site whenever it facilitates cost and time efficiency.

The following list of questions need to be addressed by the contractor selected to perform the Causes of Haze Assessment for each of the visibility-protected FCIAs within the WRAP region. A variety of assessment methodologies will be needed to meet this requirement and it is likely that some of the results will be inconsistent and/or inconclusive. Results of all of the assessment methods used need to include some measure of the uncertainty of the results. In some cases this might be quantitatively expressed and result from error propagation approaches, while in others cases uncertainty estimates may be qualitative and the result of expert judgments based on prior experience. The Causes of Haze Assessment contractor is expected to reconcile inconsistent results from alternate analysis methods where possible, to elucidate alternative explanations for irreconcilable results, and to suggest what additional measurements or other data analysis activities could be done to resolve remaining issues.

While the assessment must address the causes of haze in each of the visibility-protected FCIAs in the WRAP region, significant insights may result from efforts to identify groups of FCIAs with various common haze-related characteristics (e.g. coincident best & worst haze days). Some degree of class I area grouping has already been done in the selection of the IMPROVE monitoring sites, where some monitoring sites were selected to gather data that would be used to represent haze conditions at two or more neighboring FCIAs. In spite of this, the WRAP region contains a large number of monitoring sites with a substantial range of exposure to common emission sources (i.e. varying distances, elevations, terrain blocking, etc) that may provide useful insights into the horizontal and vertical gradients of source influences on haze under a variety of meteorological conditions. These insights could then be applied to evaluate the adequacy of the monitoring network for tracking haze trends.

2.2 Causes of Haze Questions:

Implicit for each of the following questions is the need for separately identifiable answers specific to each FCIA with monitoring data. As indicated in the discussion in the preceding section, this requirement should not discourage the use of analysis methods that group sites or use distinctions between data at various sites as a part of the analysis methodology, however the results of any such analyses must be organized in a manner that makes it simple for users to understand the results separately for each FCIA monitoring site.

1. What are the aerosol components responsible for haze?
 - a. What are the aerosol components on the best, typical and worst haze days, and how does the relative contributions of the aerosol components differ from the best to typical to worst haze days?
 - b. How consistent are the relative and absolute aerosol component contributions to haze from each

- sample period to the next, episodically, seasonally, from year to year?
 - c. Are there geographic, land-use, elevation, or other site characteristics that group sites with similar patterns of responsible components?
 - d. How do the relative contributions of aerosol components of haze compare to relative emission rates of primary pollutants and precursor gases for secondary pollutants near the site, in the sub-region and region?
2. What is the role of meteorology in the causes of haze?
- a. What are the differences in meteorological conditions for best, typical, and worst case haze days?
 - b. What are the empirical relationships between meteorological factors and haziness and do they depend on time of year, the dominant aerosol components, or other factors?
 - c. How well can best and worst haze days be predicted by meteorological factors?
 - d. Are there geographic, land-use, elevation, or other site characteristics that group sites with similar relationships between meteorology and haziness?
 - e. How well can the yearly variations in haziness be accounted for by variations in meteorological conditions?
3. What are the emissions sources responsible for haze?
- a. Are there one or more geographic areas that are often associated with best, typical, and worst haze days when air is transported across the area on its way to the visibility-protected FCIA's?
 - b. What are the emission characteristics (from emissions inventories) within transport areas associated with hazy conditions, and are they consistent with the aerosol components responsible for the haziness?
 - c. What do aerosol characteristics on best, worst and typical days indicate about emission sources (i.e. source types or specific sources)?
 - d. What can spatial and temporal pattern analyses indicate about the locations and time periods associated with sources responsible for haze?
 - e. What evidence is there for haze impacts from urban sources and what are the magnitude and frequency of those impacts where evident?
 - f. What connections can be made between sample periods with unusual relative species concentrations and the activity of highly sporadic emission sources (e.g. dust storms & large forest fires), and how can this be used to estimate the impacts of the sporadic emission sources?
 - g. In light of the results addressing previous questions (a to f), what can be inferred about the magnitude of impact from emissions outside of the US, within the US but outside of the WRAP, and from states outside of the FCIA's home state?
 - h. What refinements to the default natural visibility levels (Refer to Guidance for Estimating Natural Visibility Conditions Under the Regional Haze Rule) are justified for any FCIA or group of FCIA's based on ambient monitoring and emissions data and the technical literature (i.e. without doing air quality modeling)?
4. Are there any detectable and/or statistically significant multi-year trends in the causes of haze?
- a. Are the aerosol components responsible for haze changing?
 - b. For any detectable changes in aerosol components responsible for haze, are the changes the results of meteorological changes and/or emissions changes?
 - c. Where emissions are known to have changed substantially (based on emission inventory data) is there corresponding change in haze levels?

2.3 Assessment Approach:

The Causes of Haze Assessment will involve a wide variety of data analysis methods, some of which are neither trivial to apply and interpret, nor are they available in standard software packages. It seems unlikely that any single individual or organization will have the requisite expertise required to adequately apply all of the methods that are needed. Thus the use of cross-organizational teams is anticipated to conduct the assessment.

It is reasonable to expect that results from the individual data analysis methods (here-after called components) will be completed over an extended period of time (i.e. 12 to 18 months). Results from some of the components may be needed to assist in the design or implementation of other components. To assure timely communications and tracking of progress of the Causes of Haze Assessment, the WRAP Ambient Monitoring and Reporting Forum and their designees will conduct separate technical reviews of draft reports on the individual components of the assessment. The WRAP Ambient Monitoring and Reporting Forum will ensure that the reviews are conducted in a timely fashion (within a month) and will work to reconcile seemingly conflicting review comments so that these reviews do not slow the assessment process unnecessarily.

To facilitate these component assessment reviews, the contractor will need to establish a plan that lays out the order

of analysis and a target schedule for their completion. The information for each component analysis to be reviewed will include written draft descriptions of the method, its application, and results; as well as summary presentations by the authors during conference calls set up by the Ambient Monitoring and Reporting Forum for that purpose. Presentation material for each conference call review will be prepared using PowerPoint files and distributed via email to all participants by the contractor prior to the calls.

When a component result report has been finalized following the review process, it will be posted on the WRAP web site. When all of the data analysis methods (i.e. components) required to address an assessment question are completed, the contractor will develop a draft response to the question that is based upon the results from the data analyses and include a reconciliation of results where appropriate. The Ambient Monitoring and Reporting Forum will also review this question response document by the same process used for the components. Final versions of the responses to the questions will be posted on the WRAP web site. In this way, the overall Causes of Haze Assessment report will be reviewed and posted in increments as it is developed.

The report on the Causes of Haze Assessment is intended for the use of states, tribes, Federal Land Managers, EPA and other organizations with an interest in or responsibility for Regional Haze Rule implementation. These organizations are anticipated to use sections of the report as needed with little or no changes in the material. Therefore all material produced by the report must be understood to be in the open literature, free of copyright restrictions, so that the use of an appropriate acknowledgement is all that is required for subsequent use of the material. However, this should not be seen as any attempt to discourage the authors from submitting their work for technical publication.

As indicated above, the report will be posted as a virtual document on the WRAP data archive and assessment web page. The contractor is responsible for generating all text, figures, and tables in a format that makes it easy for users to cut and paste to produce user-defined custom reports or presentations. The electronic report structure should also anticipate the users needs by having an internal linking capability to allow quick navigation from general summary information (e.g. the response to a question for a class I area) to the more detailed technical information that supports the summary statements (e.g. results of individual data analysis methods). The contractor must demonstrate these performance characteristics for each separately posted virtual report components on their own system before submitting them to the WRAP web site for posting.

3.0 The proposal

3.1 Proposal Requirements

Proposers shall submit bids for all tasks listed. Based on the availability of funds, the WGA reserves the right to prioritize tasks or delay completion of tasks until such time as funds may become available.

Any response to the RFP must contain:

- a. Task completion requirements. Proposals should indicate the level of effort required, the approach to be taken, and include an estimate of hours and cost by task. The proposal should contain a cost matrix which shows actual hours and cost by individual personal, and travel, other direct, administrative and indirect costs for each respective task.
- b. Related experience with similar types of projects.

The technical approach response needs to include each of the following items:

- a. List all assessment methods and reconciliation approaches that would be used to address each question, with examples where useful to illustrate the methods.
- b. Assessment plan including the order in which assessment methods should be done; the priority and likelihood of success of each method; ways to characterize result uncertainties for each; the estimated time to conduct them; and which team members would work on them.
- c. Management plan that indicates lines of communications and responsibilities among the contractor team and with the WRAP Ambient Monitoring and Reporting Forum.
- d. Report format and preparation plan including features designed to facilitate users interested in one or a small group of class I areas as well as those interested in broader issues or regions; and use of internal links and search capabilities to easily navigate in the report.
- e. Identify assessment team members, their responsibilities and qualifications

The schedule for individual task completion and development of any milestones shall be developed by the

proposer.

The budget for the proposal needs to be linked to the assessment plan in such a way that the cost associated with each assessment method can be separately identified. The reason for this budget breakout is to cope with the possibility of insufficient resources for all of the proposed methods. If that were the case some assessment methods would either be dropped from a negotiated contract or included as optional tasks that might be funded with incremental resources. Up to \$190,000 is available for this contract through December 31, 2002. For the period beyond December 31, 2002, the contract amount will be negotiated with the winning proposer and will be based on the submitted bid.

Proposal responses are limited to 30 pages, exclusive of key staff resumes and budgets, for all required submissions. Eight (8) copies of each proposal must be presented

It is anticipated that several meetings and a number of collaborative conference calls will be needed to meet the goals herein and that bidders should clearly specify how collaborative efforts will occur.

3.2 Contract duration and renewal

The WGA intends to sign the contract within 30 days or as soon as possible after notification to the successful proposer. The provisions of the contract will remain in force for a period not to exceed one year following the execution of the contract.

3.3 Amendments to the RFP

The WGA reserves the right to issue amendments in the form of addenda to this RFP prior to the date for proposal submissions. All persons known by the WGA to have received RFP's will be sent any and all amendments to the RFP. Failure to acknowledge receipt of the amendments in accordance with the instructions contained in the addenda may result in proposals being rejected. The WGA will allow a reasonable time for the acknowledgment of receipt following issuance of the amendments.

The WGA reserves the right to issue amendments after the date of proposal openings. All persons submitting proposals will be sent any such amendments. The failure to acknowledge receipt of amendments provisions stated in the previous paragraph will apply to post-opening amendments as well.

3.4 Submission of proposal

All proposals must be received by the WGA, 1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80202 on or before 2:00 PM on June 11, 2002. The proposals will be publicly acknowledged at that time.

Proposers must submit their cost proposal, rounded to the nearest dollar, on the proposal form which accompanies this RFP and sealed in an envelope. The acknowledgment of the proposers' submission will occur on June 12, 2002 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Telephone, telegraph, e-mail, or fax proposals will not be accepted.

A late proposal will not be eligible for consideration and will be returned unopened, with notification of the reason for its refusal.

3.5 Modification of proposal

Proposal modification by amendment will be accepted on conditions that:

- 1) the amendment arrives before the deadline for proposal submittal;
- 2) the amendment is in writing and signed by the proposer; and
- 3) the proposal, as amended, conforms in all aspects to the requirements in this RFP.

3.6 Withdrawal of proposal/mistakes in bid

A proposal may be withdrawn at any time prior to the proposal opening.

3.7 Disqualification of proposers

The WGA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in writing, before or after the opening, for evidence of conditions including but not limited to collusion with intent to defraud or other illegal practices on the part of the proposer.

3.8 Non-conformance

Any proposal which does not conform to all of the requirements of the RFP may be rejected. The WGA will so notify the affected proposer in writing of the rejection and the reason for the rejection.

3.9 Proposers conference/questions and answers

A proposers telephone conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time on May 20, 2002. The call in number is (312)461-9324, access code 341048.

All questions for the proposers conference must be submitted in writing. The WGA will accept written questions through the close of business May 21, 2002. The WGA will provide a list of questions and the answers thereto, as expeditiously as possible after this conference to all persons and entities known to have received this RFP. The responses to questions will become a part of the RFP.

Any corrections or necessary revisions that are identified will result in a formal amendment to this RFP, which will be provided to all persons and entities known to have received this RFP.

3.10 Award of contract

The contract shall be awarded to the responsible proposer determined to be the most advantageous to the WGA based on the evaluation factors set forth in Section 3.13 of this RFP. After RFP's are opened, meetings may be held with the proposers determined to be the most responsive. Discussion may be held to clarify requirements and to make minor adjustments in services to be performed and in related costs. Any change to the proposal shall be submitted/confirmed in writing by the contractor.

Before an award can be made to a proposer, the WGA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or waive any minor nonsubstantive irregularity in proposals received. Upon selection of a proposal, the WGA will issue a Letter of Intent specifying a date by which a contract must be executed.

In the event the proposer the evaluation committee has determined to be the most advantageous withdraws their proposal, the award shall be given to the next declared most advantageous as determined by the evaluation committee.

3.11 WGA Preference

Any or all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part if the executive director determines in writing that such action is in the WGA's best interest.

3.12 Confidentiality

The contents of all proposals, correspondence, working papers, or any other medium which discloses any aspect of the proposal shall be held in the strictest confidence until notice of intent to award.

All proposals will be publicly opened. A register of proposals will be developed by the evaluation committee, providing a proposer name and description of that proposal. This register of proposals will be made public only after the contract is awarded. Confidential information submitted with proposals shall be readily separable and accompanied by a written request of confidentiality.

3.13 Evaluation of proposals

An evaluation committee will be established to evaluate all proposals in accordance with the evaluation factors stated in this RFP. After the initial review of the proposals by the evaluation committee, the

proposers may be asked to make an oral presentation in support of their proposals. This oral presentation is scheduled for the week of June 17. It is likely that the oral presentation will be done by telephone conference. A final announcement regarding the oral interviews will be made at the bidders conference on May 20. Upon final consideration, the evaluation committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Director of the WGA. The Executive Director will make the final decision.

The evaluation committee is responsible for developing a final ranking of each proposal and recommending that the proposer with the best score be awarded the contract.

The committee will:

- 1) Rate each proposal on the criteria
- 2) Develop a final ranking of each proposal with a narrative that addresses pertinent points and issues.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) technical strength of the assessment teams (20%)
- 2) experience of the assessment teams with similar projects (20%)
- 3) background and experience of the project manager, the senior team, and the management plan feasibility (20%)
- 4) completeness, clarity, and feasibility of the technical proposal (20%)
- 5) cost (20%)

The committee will also qualitatively evaluate offers of in-kind (no cost to the WGA) services from the bidder's organization, which will be reviewed under established WGA procedures

4.0 Prime contractor responsibilities

If the proposal includes services supplied by other contractors, it will be mandatory for the successful proposer to identify them and to assume responsibility for their performance.

4.1 Subcontracting

The Contractor's use of subcontractors shall not diminish the Contractor's obligations to complete the work in accordance with the contract. Each contractor shall control, coordinate and be responsible for the work of subcontractors. The contractor shall be responsible for informing all subcontractors of all terms, conditions, and requirements of the contract. The WGA reserves the right to approve all subcontractors prior to their assumption of duties on behalf of the Contractor. The Contractor shall forward to the WGA a listing of each designated subcontractor which indicates their purpose or area of participation.

4.2 Patent and copyright infringement

The Contractor shall defend, protect, and save harmless the WGA, its officers, agents, and employees, against all suits at law or in equity and from all damages, claims or demands for actual or alleged infringement of any patent or copyright by reason of the Contractor's use of any equipment or supplies in connection with the contract.

4.3 Conflict of interest

The Contractor and/or subcontractors must affirm in writing that he/she currently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would pose a conflict of interest in any manner or degree with the performance of services required by this RFP for the life of the contract.

5.0 Contract general terms

A Proposer's response to this RFP shall be considered as the Proposer's formal offer. The WGA reserves the right to negotiate additional contract terms within the scope of the RFP. The signing of the contract by the WGA shall constitute the WGA's written acceptance of the successful proposal.

6.0 Statement of financial condition

- 1) A firm shall provide a statement regarding its financial viability. All proof is subject to review by the WGA and acceptance or rejection is at the discretion of the WGA.
- 2) The WGA reserves the right to ask for additional information concerning financial responsibility. If a proposer unreasonably fails to provide such information, the WGA may find the proposer to be non-responsive.

7.0 Related experience statement

The proposal must also contain a proposer's experience statement as described below:

- 1) The proposer must provide a list of previous and current contracts of a similar nature, if any, which were awarded to the proposer by a governmental agency and/or the private sector. A statement should provide details on its management ability as well as its technical expertise, and a listing of its projects and accomplishments.
- 2) The proposer must include the following in each list described above:
 - a. Contract duration, including dates;
 - b. Geographic area served;
 - c. Name, address and telephone number of the contracting agency which may be contacted for verification of all data submitted.