

March 30, 2022

Joshua Lamonde
Sourcing Specialist
Office of Management and Budget
City of Pittsburgh
joshua.lamonde@pittsburghpa.gov

RE: 2022-RFP-018 Lead Dust Sample Lab Award
EORC Participation

Dear Joshua,

The following language was included in our proposal:

“The work covered by this RFP will be done under our AIHA certification (EPA NLLAP) and subcontracting the work to another lab is restricted under the scope of accreditation. RJLG will not use any subcontractors for this work and a waiver of the requirement is requested based on the scope of work and restrictions related to accreditation. We were not able to locate any MWDBE/VOSB vendors that supply the materials and media needed to meet RFP requirements. Per our quality system and policy in place, supplies can only be purchased through approved vendors.”

The use of suppliers and subcontractors is governed by RJLG Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) QSP.005 Approval and Use of Suppliers: Subcontractors and Service Providers. Our accreditations including the one from and AIHA-LAP, LLC that this will work be performed under, dictates the need of such procedure when dealing with subcontractors and vendors.

As stated in QSP.005, “Approval of subcontractors may be based on the receipt of all or some of the following information (as applicable): Adequate proof of current accreditations and certifications, including scopes and certificates (required for regulated environmental work such as NELAC and AIHA-LAP, LLC).

Our approved supplier list was cross referenced with the DBE list of local laboratories and none of the currently approved subcontractors are DBE and AIHA LAP, LLC certified. Therefore, the request for an exemption is requested because it would not be possible to subcontract the work under the scope of this proposal and remain in compliance with our internal quality system and external accrediting bodies. RJLG searched the PA Unified Certification Program (PAUCP) for such DBE laboratory and only one PA-based laboratory was identified (Conti Testing Labs). However, while Conti Testing Labs is an approved lab it is not an AIHA LAP, LLC accredited laboratory offering this kind of testing.

RJLG also searched the PA Department of General Services (DGS) for a suitable DBE firm to support us in this contract, but again, no Pittsburgh-region laboratory with AIHA accreditation was identified.

Laboratories outside the Pittsburgh region could not be considered for subcontracting analytical work, because the sample shipping costs would likely have made our cost proposal non-competitive.

RJLG reached out to two different DBE businesses we have collaborated with in prior projects (ISO-Pacific in Richland WA and Terra Graphics, in Pasco WA), outside of the State of PA, to handle the project management aspects of this contract. Both contacted outfits indicated they could not support the project management needs of this Contract.

As a result of the above efforts to identify a suitable subcontractor, and the restrictions placed by our current accreditations and processes a waiver/exemption is requested.

Please let us know if there any questions, on any of the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lykourgos Iordanidis". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Lykourgos Iordanidis, Ph.D.
Laboratory Manager, Analytical Services (Chemistry)