



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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TO: Steve Alexander
Section Head TCP – NWRO

THROUGH: Joe Hickey
Unit Supervisor TEC Unit

FROM: Roger Nye
Project Manager, Sea-Tac Airport Groundwater Study

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR CONTRACT SERVICES**

The Port of Seattle is conducting an extensive study of groundwater flow and contaminant transport via groundwater flow at Sea-Tac Airport. The study is being conducted under an Agreed Order with Ecology. The purpose of the groundwater study is to evaluate whether or not contamination in groundwater at Sea-Tac Airport poses a risk to surface waters and public water wells in the vicinity of the airport.

The approach of the study is to (1) develop a conceptual model of groundwater at Sea-Tac Airport and surrounding vicinity, (2) perform computer modeling of groundwater flow and contaminant transport, and (3) conduct subsequent field work to verify the modeling and monitor for contamination as appropriate.

The purpose of the contract services is to provide technical assistance regarding these elements of the study. The use of contract services is needed because:

(1) There is keen interest in this project by state representatives, citizen's groups, communities, and public water districts local to the airport as per the many comments received during the public comment period for the Agreed Order. A significant element of the comments was that Ecology must independently evaluate all work performed by the Port of Seattle and its consultants.

(2) The technical aspects of the modeling will be sophisticated. The time and/or expertise (in terms of working with this technology routinely) of in-house Ecology staff to adequately evaluate this extensive modeling in a timely manner are limited.

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The specific scope of work for the contract services would be as follows:

- (1) Provide technical assistance to evaluate the conceptual model of groundwater at Sea-Tac Airport developed by Port of Seattle consultants.
- (2) Provide technical assistance to evaluate three-dimensional MODFLOW computer modeling and contaminant transport modeling done by Port of Seattle consultants.
- (3) Provide technical assistance to perform independent simulations utilizing elements of the models done by Port of Seattle consultants.
- (4) Provide technical assistance to evaluate fieldwork to confirm the model and monitor for contamination as proposed by Port of Seattle consultants.

In short, the use of contract services would be to help evaluate the product of others rather than to produce a product, which hopefully, would not be an excessive cost.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The Port of Seattle will be presenting the conceptual groundwater model during the first week in July.