

Based on your RFP I have some questions/clarifications which I would like to address to you before moving forward. The RFP describes a tool that will be used, but without knowing what the tool is supposed to do the right tool might not be offered. **You are welcome to visit the area or view maps from the Army Corps and/or Maine Geological, and we will provide someone to guide you to the sites we have identified as needing dredges. Also, attached is some of our local planning commission report that served as our initial guideline. We believe this RFP provides all the detail needed to provide us a quote.**

Dredge operation

- 1 The RFP describes that the county wants to mine packed sand with the 100hp cutter head, can you share the calculation how the 100hp was selected? **We used a consultant who came onsite and specified a dredge that would be most effective in the majority of channels and shorelines that require dredging.**
- 2 Can you share with us a soil analysis, with grain-size distribution and SPT value? **No soil analysis was performed, as there is a variety of channels and coastal zones that would be dredged.**
- 3 The RFP calls for a 14” pump and pipe, why was the 14” pipe diameter selected? **Best fit for our needs, and larger than smaller dredge 12” pipes of course**
- 4 It is indicated the material is moved by a 14” pipeline to a placement site. Can you describe the pipe line path, elevation and length? **It will vary from job to job; the terrain differs from site to site**
- 5 What amount of soil do you intend to move and how do you anticipate your operating profile to be? **Will depend on municipality and private entity demand Hours per day, days per week, weeks per year ... weeks per year, November 15 to April 15**
- 6 The dredge needs to be able to dig 33’, what is the maximum depth it will leave a cut, assuming tide, fill in, overcut, etc.? **Varies from job to job**
- 7 What maximum and minimum channel width do you intend to dredge? **200 feet would be the maximum but we would likely not do the entire width of the channel**

Environment

- 8 I noticed you intend to operate the dredge in rivers/harbors close to the coast. Do you anticipate any waves/swell in the area of operation? If yes, to which wave-height/period? **There are normally minimal waves in our channels but storms can cause the wave height to reach several feet on the ocean.**

9 What are the temperature limitation ? The dredging season is November 15-April 15. It encompasses the winter season in Maine.

Technical

- 10 From our experience dredges in this size have the dredge pump under the water line to prime, eliminating the need for a flap valve, as this is a high wear item that leads to a lot of downtime if it is not functional. What is reason for specifying the flap valve? You can specify a dredge design in your bid. The RFP Guidelines are our specs.
- 11 If a dredge pump was proposed that does not require adjustment during normal operation, would that be OK? Justify that in your bid
- 12 The manual clutch required seems to contradict the required safety features, can this be automatic, controlled from the operator cab with an electronic override? You can specify in the bid and offer an explanation and to why
- 13 The RFP calls for a CAT C18 as the prime engine on the dredge, which rating is expected? Bidder would specify

Other

- 14 The supplier is to hold stock for all parts on the dredge, excluding the diesel engine. How quickly is the dredge builder required to supply these parts to the County? You need to tell us what parts you stock and their availability. Does this include major parts like pontoons, gearboxes etc.? Yes Does the supplier need to prove to the port is has all parts on stock at all time? It is the supplier's responsibility to have access to parts to limit any downtime. What would be the end date of this stock keeping agreement? We would anticipate a maintenance agreement that could run from one to three years. Part of that agreement would include stocking those parts.
- 15 Training is to be provided on site, what is the skill level of the personnel supplied by the buyer? The skill level would vary but the training would be primarily for harbormasters. Most of them have never operated a dredge, A professional crew will be hired for projects, with these people assisting. Would offsite dredge training of the operator and crew on a simulator be preferred to reduce the risk of errors with an inexperienced crew? We would not be able to provide a travel budget to get these people offsite. Boat familiarity would be a plus by doing it onsite.
- 16 As there are a lot of unknowns here, is it possible to discuss this in person

with the port and get an extension on the RFP? We are trying to get this done by the end of the month (June). We cannot see an extension.