



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**INVITATION TO BID # 34301-13696  
MACROINVERTEBRATE TO SPECIES TESTING;  
HEALTH QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**DATE: AUGUST 13, 2025**

**1. State responses to questions and comments in the table below amend and clarify this RFP.**

Any restatement of RFP text in the Question/Comment column shall NOT be construed as a change in the actual wording of the RFP document.

RFP SECTION	PAGE #	QUESTION / COMMENT	STATE RESPONSE
Specifications		1. In the Specifications documents the turn time is stated as 30 to 60 days, but in the response to questions posted (question 10) it looks like the turn time is actually 6 months from the date of sample receipt. Please confirm.	The contracted turnaround time between the laboratory and our client is 6 months from the time the laboratory receives the sample. The expected turnaround time between the laboratory and the subcontractor is 30-60 days from the time the subcontracted laboratory receives the sample. This expectation allows the state to plan for receiving the data, processing it, and billing our client
34301-13696 Questions and Comments Attachment		2. In the response to questions (Question 24) it is stated that the 156 SQSH samples and 792 QH samples are for the duration of 5 years...however in text in the specifications document it still states this is for the initial 3 years of the contract. Please confirm which is correct.	For the duration of the 5 years.
		3. Is the Voucher collection to start over annually, or may it be one continuous collection over the course of the 5-year contract?	Continuous
34301-13696 Questions and Comments Attachment		4. Response to question 5 states "Sorting QC may be completed internally but Identification QC is to be completed by an outside entity. (State Lab or private lab)." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the bidder responsible for the cost associated with this external taxonomic QA/QC? I'm assuming we are since there is a line item for it in the Event Details.</li> <li>Does the State choose the external QA/QC taxonomy lab or do we? If the state chooses, we will need the name of the vendor to obtain a quote for the line item for taxonomic QA/QC.</li> </ul>	The vendor is responsible for the cost associated with the external taxonomic QA/QC.  The vendor chooses the taxonomy laboratory.

RFP SECTION	PAGE #	QUESTION / COMMENT	STATE RESPONSE																																							
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is processing time for the external QA/QC contract lab included in our turn-time expectations or is it separate?</li></ul>	QA/QC is included in turnaround time expectations.																																							
		<p>5. Can you please provide a table including a proposed 5-year sample timeline and estimated sample shipment size? I cobbled a draft timeline below from the responses to questions (question 10), but please edit as appropriate and confirm accuracy.</p> <table><tr><th>Estimated Shipment Date</th><th>Number of Samples and type</th><th>Expected Turn Time</th></tr><tr><td>Initial Shipment (Spring 2026?)</td><td>22 SQSH 100 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>June/July 2026</td><td>14 SQSH 70 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-Dec 2026</td><td>14 SQSH 70 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>June/July 2027</td><td>14 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-Dec 2027</td><td>14 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>June/July 2028</td><td>13 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-Dec 2028</td><td>13 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>June/July 2029</td><td>13 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-Dec 2029</td><td>13 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>June/July 2030</td><td>13 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-Dec 2030</td><td>13 SQSH 69 QH</td><td>6 months</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>156 SQSH 792 QH</td><td>5 contract years (60 months)</td></tr></table>	Estimated Shipment Date	Number of Samples and type	Expected Turn Time	Initial Shipment (Spring 2026?)	22 SQSH 100 QH	6 months	June/July 2026	14 SQSH 70 QH	6 months	Nov-Dec 2026	14 SQSH 70 QH	6 months	June/July 2027	14 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	Nov-Dec 2027	14 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	June/July 2028	13 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	Nov-Dec 2028	13 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	June/July 2029	13 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	Nov-Dec 2029	13 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	June/July 2030	13 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	Nov-Dec 2030	13 SQSH 69 QH	6 months	TOTAL	156 SQSH 792 QH	5 contract years (60 months)	<p>The only issue is the number of samples at a time, it can vary according to how many QH samples they are able to collect at the sampling event. The SQSH would be 11 to 13 at a time</p> <p>We do not know the exact time of shipment. An estimated guess would put Spring samples around the first of June for shipment. The Fall samples would be around the end of November to first of December.</p> <p>We currently have 11 SQSH and 49 QH samples that can be sent out (which would be all of the Spring samples). They will be collecting the Fall later this year, so I cannot give an exact number on this one.</p> <p>Since those are shipping later than normal, we would need results no later than the end of January for the Spring samples and the Fall would need to have by the first of June.</p>
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2. **RFP Amendment Effective Date.** The revisions set forth herein shall be effective upon release. All other terms and conditions of this RFP not expressly amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.