

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR 33 WEST STATE STREET P. O. BOX 039 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0039 https://www.njstart.gov Telephone (609) 292-4886 / Facsimile (609) 984-2575

July 25, 2022

Via Electronic Mail Only DougL@envirotrac.com

Douglass S. Lessing, Vice President EnviroTrac Ltd. 400 E Corporate Court South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Re: IMO Bid Solicitation #20DPP00481 EnviroTrac Ltd. Protest of Notice of Intent to Award T2700 NJDEP Remediation System Operations and Maintenance Services

Dear Mr. Lessing:

This final agency decision is in response to your letter of June 15, 2022, (Protest), on behalf of EnviroTrac Ltd. (EnviroTrac) which was received by the Division of Purchase and Property's (Division) Hearing Unit. EnviroTrac protests the determination that its Quote "was non-responsive and ineligible for evaluation and award because [it] did not have an administratively complete A-901 license application on file with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office at the time of Bid Opening." See Protest, p.1. EnviroTrac asserts that "the items presented in [its Protest] are sufficient justification for the reconsideration of the initial conclusion of the Evaluation Committee Report", and that its Quote "should be released to the Committee for further evaluation and scoring". Id. at 2. Accordingly, EnviroTrac requests consideration "as the Primary or Secondary Vendor under this contract." Id.

By way of background, on November 19, 2020, the Division's Procurement Bureau (Bureau) issued Bid Solicitation #20DPP00481 - T2700 NJDEP Remediation System Operations and Maintenance Services (Bid Solicitation) on behalf of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The purpose of the Bid Solicitation was to solicit Quotes to establish a term Master Blanket Purchase Order (Blanket P.O. or Contract) for the operations and maintenance services at publicly funded hazardous site remediation projects throughout New Jersey. Bid Solicitation Section 1.1, *Purpose and Intent*. The State **intended** to identify one (1) Primary Contractor, one (1) Secondary Contractor, and one (1) Tertiary Contractor for all services encompassed by this Bid Solicitation. <u>Ibid., emphasis added.</u> Bid Solicitation Section 7.2, *Final Blanket P.O. Award*, made clear not only that no minimum number of awardees was guaranteed, but also, that any non-conforming Quote could be rejected if such action was determined to be in the public interest:

> Blanket P.O. awards will be made with reasonable promptness by written notice to those responsible Vendors {Bidders}, whose Quotes, conforming to this Bid Solicitation, are most advantageous to the State, price, and other factors considered. Any or all Quotes may be rejected when the State

ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO State Treasurer

> MAURICE A. GRIFFIN Acting Director

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER *Lt. Governor* Treasurer or the Director determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

The Bid Solicitation, as first issued on November 19, 2020, made multiple references to the A-901 License. Under Bid Solicitation Section 3.1.1L, *Vendor {Contractor} Responsibilities*, it was noted that "[t]he Vendor {Contractor} and all subcontractors¹ must² maintain and comply with any and all conditions for . . . [a]n A-901 license pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-128, et. seq." Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1, *A-901 License* indicated as follows:

At the time of the Quote opening, the Vendor {Bidder} and applicable subcontractors should possess an A-901 license in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 13:1E-128, 133, and 135.

NOTE: All Vendors {Bidders} and their named subcontractors MUST possess a valid A-901 license prior to Blanket P.O. award. Vendors {Bidders} are encouraged to begin the A-901 licensing process as soon as possible and to include a copy of their A-901 application with their Quote.

Any Vendor {Bidder} which cannot supply proof of a valid A-901 license at time of award will be bypassed for the next highest scoring Vendor {Bidder}.

[Emphasis in original.]

Potential Bidders were permitted to submit questions to the Bureau using the *NJSTART* eProcurement system, by 2:00 pm eastern time on January 6, 2021. See Bid Solicitation Section 1.3.1, *Electronic Question and Answer Period*. None of the questions submitted during the initial round of Electronic Q&A concerned the A-901 License requirement specifically.³ Answers to most of the electronic questions submitted during the first Electronic Q&A period were circulated by way of Bid Amendment #2, which also alerted prospective Bidders to a second Electronic Q&A period.

During the second Electronic Q&A period, EnviroTrac submitted the following question concerning the A-901 License:

We are one of the existing O&M vendors (contractors) for the current contract, and over the term of the contract we have never hauled any solid waste. There are no specifications in the new bid document that would indicate the need to haul solid waste. Please explain the reasoning behind why the vendor (contractor) and ALL subcontractors are now being required to possess a A-9001 [sic] License for this O&M contract?

As the Bureau drafted the answers to questions submitted during the second Electronic Q&A period, on June 4, 2021, Governor Murphy signed legislation enabling the end of the COVID-19 Public

¹ Later revised to "[t]he Vendor {Contractor} and all *applicable* subcontractors. . . " in T2700 Revised Bid Solicitation 07/30/2021, circulated with Bid Amendment #6.

² As defined in Bid Solicitation Section 2.2, *General Definitions*, "Must – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement."

³ A Vendor did ask, generally, whether licenses required by the Bid Solicitation were to be held by the bidder or could be held by approved subcontractors.

Health Emergency.⁴ The same day, the Governor issued Executive Order 244 (EO 244), which ended the Public Health Emergency in the State, and reinstated certain deadlines required under environmental statutes previously tolled for the length of New Jersey's Public Health Emergency by EO 136. This included the deadlines contained within P.L. 2019 c.397 (Dirty Dirt Law), which requires business concerns engaged in "Soil and Fill Recycling Services" to register with NJDEP and obtain an A-901 License.

Accordingly, on July 30, 2021 the Bureau issued Bid Amendment #6 and circulated a revised Bid Solicitation. Bid Amendment #6 contained responses to questions received during the second Electronic Q&A period.⁵ With respect to EnviroTrac's question concerning the A-901 license requirement, the Division stated:

This Bid Solicitation seeks operation, maintenance, and monitoring services at a wide range of sites with varying complexity. Due to this complexity and the unpredictable nature of Projects for which the Vendor {Contractor} may be engaged, this Bid Solicitation requires the Vendor {Contractor} and applicable Subcontractors to apply for and receive A-901 licenses for Blanket P.O. award. This requirement originates from P.L.2019, c.397 (otherwise known as the "Dirty Dirt" legislation), which amended New Jersey's "A-901" statute, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-126 et. seq, to include a definition of broker. A "broker" is defined as one "who for direct or indirect compensation arranges agreements between a business concern and its customers for the collection, transportation, treatment, storage, processing, transfer or disposal of solid waste or hazardous waste, or the provision of soil and fill recyclable materials. Because the Vendor {Contractor} is required during the Blanket P.O. term to arrange for the lawful transportation and disposal of waste or soil and fill recyclable materials on behalf of the NJDEP (the "customer"), the Vendor {Contractor} is a broker under the statute and must possess an A-901 license.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26-1.6, solid waste includes any solid, liquid, semi-solid or contained gaseous material, including, but not limited to spent material, sludge, by-product, discarded commercial chemical products, or scrap metal resulting from industrial, commercial, mining or agricultural operations, from community activities, or any other material which has served or can no longer serve its original intended use and is discarded or intended to be discarded.

"Soil and fill recyclable materials" means non-putrescible aggregate substitute, including, but not limited to, broken or crushed brick, block, concrete, or other similar manufactured materials; soil or soil that may

O&M contractors who hire subcontractors to transport waste are considered brokers under the Amended A-901 statute and are now required to apply for an A-901 license, which means upon approval of the A-901 license the applicant is required under the Amended A-901 statute to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

⁴ P.L. 2021, c.103.

⁵ The Division also answered the general licensure question received during the first Electronic Q&A period, *supra* n.3, by stating that:

contain aggregate substitute or other debris or material, generated from land clearing, excavation, demolition, or redevelopment activities that would otherwise be managed as solid waste, and that may be returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials for further processing or for use as fill material.

Please see the revised Section 4.4.3.4.1, *A-901 License*, in the Revised Bid Solicitation, dated 07/30/2021.

As revised on July 30, 2021, Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1, A-901 License stated that:

At the time of Quote Opening, the Vendor {Bidder} <u>must</u> have submitted a valid and administratively complete A-901 license application with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

[Emphasis added.]

The revised Bid Solicitation defined "Administratively Complete Application" as follows:

An application for an A-901 license that includes the submission of all disclosure statements, fees, and all other requirements as set forth by N.J.S.A. 13:1E-127 and N.J.A.C. 7:26-16. <u>An A-901 application will not be considered administratively complete until it is deemed administratively complete by the Attorney General's Office.</u>

[Bid Solicitation Section 2.3, *Blanket P.O. Specific Definitions/Acronyms,* emphasis added.]

On September 10, 2021, NJDEP Division of Compliance and Enforcement issued a Compliance Advisory, which provided updated schedules for compliance, registration, and licensing requirements for business concerns engaged in soil and fill recycling services under the Dirty Dirt Law. <u>See</u>, Dirty Dirt Law (Law) – Updated Schedules for Compliance Registration and Licensing Requirements for Business Concerns Engaged in Soil and Fill Recycling Services N.J.S.A. 13:1E-127.1 et seq., September 10, 2021, available at: <u>https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories/2021-11.pdf</u>. Pursuant to EO 244, the new deadlines for the Dirty Dirt Law were to be as follows:

- Any business concern engaged in Soil and Fill Recycling Services as of January 21, 2020 that does not already possess an A-901 license must submit a Registration form to the NJDEP no later than **October** 14, 2021;
- Any business concern without a valid A-901 License or Soil and Fill Recycling Registration must cease engaging in Soil and Fill Recycling Services after **January 13, 2022**; and
- To obtain an A-901 License, a registrant must submit an administratively complete A-901 License application to the New Jersey Attorney General's Office no later than **April 15, 2022**.

On September 14, 2021, the Bureau issued Bid Amendment #7, which further revised the Bid Solicitation (T2700 REVISED Bid Solicitation 09/14/2021). Recognizing the importance of an administratively complete A-901 application, the Bureau amended Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1, *A-901 License* to include the following:

To ensure that Vendors {Bidders} meet the requirement of an administratively complete A-901 license application, Vendors {Bidders} are encouraged to submit applications by October 1, 2021. Additionally, Vendors {Bidders} should indicate its intention to submit a Quote in response to this Bid Solicitation T2700 in its A-901 license application as follows:

Please provide a detailed description of your company's business plan, should this license be issued. Please attach any documents you possess to support your answer, including correspondence, contracts or bids. https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/a901/bcd.pdf Page 2

If you obtain an A901 License, what work do you plan to do? Please attach any documents you possess to support your answer, including business plans, correspondence with customers or vendors, contracts, or bid submissions. □Check here if additional documents are attached. https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/a901/phd.pdf Page 10, Question 22

The bidding community was cautioned that this Bid Solicitation was designed to address current requirements and therefore, Bidders should not rely upon or use data from any prior Contract when creating its Quote in response to the instant Bid Solicitation. Bid Solicitation Section 1.2, *Background*.

On January 11, 2022, the Division's Proposal Review Unit opened three (3) Quotes received by the submission deadline.⁶ The Proposal Review Unit rejected the Quote submitted by Remington & Vernick Engineers as the Bidder failed to submit a completed Ownership Disclosure Form with its Quote as required by Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.1.2.1, *Ownership Disclosure Form*⁷. The remaining two (2) Quotes were forwarded to the Bureau for review and evaluation consistent with the requirements of Bid Solicitation Section 6.7, *Evaluation Criteria*.

After completing its review and evaluation, on June 7, 2022, the Bureau prepared a Recommendation Report that recommended that the Contract Blanket P.O. be awarded to Handex, as the two (2) other Vendors were deemed non-responsive and ineligible for award. The Bureau determined EnviroTrac's Quote to be non-responsive and ineligible for award because it did not have an Administratively Complete A-901 License Application on file with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office as required by Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1, *A-901 License*.

The Recommendation Report noted that:

Pursuant to Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1, "At the time of Quote Opening, the Vendor {Bidder} must have submitted a valid and administratively complete A-901 license application with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. An administratively complete A-901 license

⁶ Quotes were received from EnviroTrac, Handex Consulting & Remediation (Handex), and Remington & Vernick Engineers.

⁷ In the June 7, 2022 Recommendation Report, the Bureau further noted that "Remington was also nonresponsive and ineligible for award because the Vendor {Bidder} did not have an administratively complete A-901 license application on file with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office [as required by] Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1."

application includes the submission of all disclosure statements, fees, and all other requirements as set forth by N.J.S.A. 13:1E-127 and N.J.A.C. 7:26-16. An A-901 application will not be considered administratively complete until it is deemed administratively complete by the Attorney General's Office." Additionally, the State advised and encouraged potential Vendors {Bidders} "to submit applications by October 1, 2021." EnviroTrac did not have an administratively complete A-901 application at the time of Quote opening as confirmed by the Attorney General's Office and NJDEP. The Bureau noted that the Attorney General's Office received an A-901 application from EnviroTrac on January 18, 2022, that was signed and notarized on January 11, 2022, but the application was not deemed administratively complete. As a result, EnviroTrac was deemed ineligible for evaluation and award.

[June 7, 2022 Recommendation Report, p. 4.]

On June 10, 2022, the Bureau issued the Notice of Intent to Award (NOI) advising all Bidders that it was the State's intent to award a Contract to Handex consistent with the June 7, 2022, Recommendation Report.

On June 15, 2022, EnviroTrac submitted a Protest to the Division, stating that it was protesting "the intended award of the contract to a single bidder" and challenging the Bureau's determination that it was not eligible for award because it did not have an Administratively Complete A-901 Application when Quotes were opened.

EnviroTrac requests reconsideration of the finding that its Quote was non-responsive, and asks that the Evaluation Committee consider EnviroTrac for award as the Primary or Secondary Vendor, or, in the alternative, cancel and re-issue the Bid Solicitation.

In consideration of EnviroTrac's protest, I have reviewed the record of this procurement, including the Bid Solicitation, EnviroTrac's Quote and protest, the relevant statutes, regulations, and case law. This review of the record has provided me with the information necessary to determine the facts of this matter and to render an informed final agency decision on the merits of the protest. I set forth herein the Division's final agency decision.

First, EnviroTrac argues that because the Bid Solicitation contemplated a secondary and tertiary vendor, award to only a single vendor puts the Department and the public at significant risk should the Primary Vendor be unable to handle all Engagements.⁸ Protest, at p. 1. EnviroTrac states in part:

The Department's decision to award the contract to a single vendor is in direct contradiction with the stated "Purpose and Intent" of the Bid Solicitation which clearly outlines in Section 1.1 Paragraph 4 of the Bid Solicitation Document the intention to award one Primary Vendor, one Secondary Vendor, and one Tertiary Vendor. Additionally, the failure of the intended Bid Award to identify, at a minimum, a Secondary Vendor fails to comply with the terms of the Bid Solicitation with respect to items D: 1-4 in Section 3.5.1 of the Bid Solicitation document. Historically, this

⁸ As defined in Bid Solicitation Section 2.3, *Blanket P.O. Specific Definitions/Acronyms*, "Engagement – An assignment of specific task(s) tied to a Site and/or Project. There can be multiple Engagements simultaneously for each Site and/or Project."

contract (even when smaller in scope) has always been awarded to more than one vendor. By not identifying, at a minimum, a Secondary Vendor, the Department is putting public safety at risk should the Primary Vendor be unable to execute the contract due to any of the circumstances cited in D: 1-4 in the Bid Solicitation. . . . Furthermore, by awarding a contract of this size and scope with only a single qualified bid, the Department is failing to comply with the purpose of the public bidding process, which includes guarding against favoritism and securing competitive pricing. With a bid of this magnitude, failure to review multiple, qualified bids in and of itself should be grounds to re-issue the Bid Solicitation. In fact, there is precedent as the Department rejected all bids on the previous Bid Solicitation for this contract in 2015. The award, based on a single qualified bidder, is especially disconcerting when the Bid Solicitation included the requirement that each bidder have an administratively complete A-901 license application at the time of the bid opening. The recently expanded scope of the A-901 license and the uncertainty surrounding the applicability of the license with respect to whom and how it applies to the environmental consulting industry (LSRP exemptions, the definition of a broker, evolving guidance and interpretation), made the inclusion of the license an arbitrary and capricious requirement that limited the number of potentially eligible bidders.

[Protest, at p. 1-2].

The Division has consulted with NJDEP concerning this contract, and NJDEP has determined that notwithstanding that there are two Vendors currently servicing T2700, award to a single vendor is acceptable and does not present a significant risk that the work under this Contract will be negatively impacted. Furthermore, should the need arise for an additional vendor, NJDEP and the Division may determine that a supplemental Bid Solicitation is appropriate. While no supplemental solicitation is planned at this time, any potential future supplemental Bid Solicitation would be advertised in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.1.

The reference in EnviroTrac's Protest to the 2015 cancellation of a similar procurement by the Division is misplaced, because that RFP was not cancelled due to there being only one responsive Quote. As noted at that time, "the scope of work presented in the RFP was unclear and insufficient to reflect the deliverables to the State, which subsequently led to the creation of an unleveled playing field amongst the bidding community", among other unrelated issues. <u>See generally</u>, November 17, 2015 Recommendation Report.

Regarding the requirement for an Administratively Complete A-901 Application at the time of Quote opening, EnviroTrac states that it initiated the A-901 application process prior to the submittal of its Quote, as referenced in the December 28, 2021 letter. EnviroTrac argues that the Director has discretion to waive the explicit requirement of an administratively complete application because:

... this requirement was not included under the previous contracts, and EnviroTrac has no control over the license approval timeframe, we believe that our documentation of an active application is substantially compliant with the intent of the requirement in the Bid Solicitation. Additionally, while it is noted that the "State advised and encouraged potential vendors to submit applications by October 1, 2021", submittal of the application by this date was not a formal requirement of the bid. Therefore, the status of EnviroTrac's license application as "in progress" as opposed to "Administratively Complete" should not constitute a disqualifying condition in an otherwise responsive submittal. As stated, we believe the Statue allows that this requirement can be waived by the Director, especially when the requirement of the Bid Solicitation was solely to have an Administratively Complete application at the time Bid Opening and not to have an active A-901 license.

[Protest, at p. 2].

It is undisputed that EnviroTrac's A-901 Application was not Administratively Complete, as defined in the Bid Solicitation, on the Quote opening date, as required by Bid Solicitation Section 4.4.3.4.1, *A-901 License*. EnviroTrac admits as much in a letter dated December 28, 2021 and included with its Quote. The letter states, in part:

Please note that at the time of this bid opening EnviroTrac Ltd. has completed and submitted a Business Concern Disclosure Statement and Personal History Disclosure Statements with the Attorney General's office and awaiting [sic] a determination of an administratively complete A-901 Application as a Waste Broker. Envirotrac [sic] understands that our proposal may be considered non-responsive until an administratively complete A-901 Application has been granted by the Attorney General's office.

While EnviroTrac is a vendor on the current version of this contract, the recent Dirty Dirt Law "subject[s] persons or business concerns engaged in soil and fill recycling services to the same regulation and oversight [as] the solid waste industry", which necessitated a revised Bid Solicitation. <u>See Assembly Appropriations Committee Statement to S.1683(3R)</u> 1 (Dec. 12, 2019). Specifically, the Dirty Dirt Law institutes a license requirement for any "Broker", defined as "a person who for direct or indirect compensation arranges agreements between a business concern and its customers for the collection, transportation, treatment, storage, processing, transfer or disposal of solid waste or hazardous waste, or the provision of soil and fill recycling services".

The awarded Contractor will be required to act as a Broker. Accordingly, the Bureau properly determined that EnviroTrac was ineligible for a contract award because it did not have an Administratively Complete A-901 Application as of the Quote opening date as required by the Bid Solicitation. While EnviroTrac did attain an Administratively Complete A-901 Application after the Quote opening date, EnviroTrac cannot satisfy this Bid Solicitation requirement "after the fact." Because EnviroTrac's A-901 Application was not Administratively Complete at the time of Quote opening, it's Quote was non-responsive, and it was not eligible to receive an award.

In its December 28, 2021 letter, EnviroTrac conceded that its Quote was non-responsive because it did not have an Administratively Complete A-901 Application. Nevertheless, in this protest it asks that the Division deem it to have "substantially compli[ed] with the intent of the requirement in the Bid Solicitation" because it initiated the A-901 application process prior to the Quote opening. In order for EnviroTrac's Quote to be considered responsive, EnviroTrac's failure to have an Administratively Complete A-901 Application at the time of Quote opening would have to be deemed as a minor irregularity. Minor irregularities can be waived pursuant to the authority vested in N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.7(d) and Bid Solicitation Section 6.1, *Right to Waive*. It is firmly established in New Jersey that material conditions contained in bidding specifications may not be waived. <u>Twp. of Hillside v. Sternin</u>, 25 N.J. 317, 324 (1957). In <u>Meadowbrook Carting Co. v. Borough of Island Heights</u>, 138 N.J. 307, 315 (1994), the New Jersey Supreme Court adopted the test set forth by the court in <u>Twp. of River Vale v. Longo Constr. Co.</u> for

determining materiality. 127 N.J. Super. 207 (Law Div. 1974). "In <u>River Vale</u>, Judge Pressler declared that after identifying the existence of a deviation, the issue is whether a specific non-compliance constitutes a substantial [material] and hence non-waivable irregularity." <u>In re Protest of the Award of the On-Line Games Prod. and Operation Servs. Contract, Bid No. 95-X-20175</u>, 279 NJ. Super. 566, 594 (App. Div. 1995), citing <u>River Vale</u>, 127 N.J. at 216. The <u>River Vale</u> court set forth a two-part test for determining whether a deviation is material:

First, whether the effect of a waiver would be to deprive the [government entity] of its assurance that the contract will be entered into, performed and guaranteed according to its specified requirements, and second, whether it is of such a nature that its waiver would adversely affect competitive bidding by placing a bidder in a position of advantage over other bidders or by otherwise undermining the necessary common standard of competition.

[<u>River Vale</u>, 127 N.J. at 216.]

"If the non-compliance is substantial and thus non-waivable, the inquiry is over because the bid is nonconforming and a non-conforming bid is no bid at all." <u>Id.</u> at 222.

Here, EnviroTrac's lack of an Administratively Complete A-901 Application when Quotes were opened is a material deviation from the requirements of the Bid Solicitation. Without an A-901 License (or one pending approval), the State would have no assurance that the Contract would be performed and guaranteed according to the specified requirements. Moreover, if the State were to accept EnviroTrac's Quote as-is, EnviroTrac would be placed in a position of advantage over the Bidder who expended time and resources to ensure that its A-901 Application was Administratively Complete, as well as those Bidders who did not submit a Quote knowing that they could not attain an Administratively Complete A-901 Application prior to the Quote opening.

Moreover, EnviroTrac's statement that "documentation of an active application is substantially compliant with the intent of the requirement in the Bid Solicitation" is, at its essence, a challenge to the Bid Solicitation specifications. Pursuant to the Division's governing regulations, a challenge to a specification contained within the Bid Solicitation must be brought prior to the Quote opening date. N.J.A.C. 17:12-3.2(a). The governing regulations provide that:

The written protest <u>shall</u>⁹ be submitted to the Director only after the Division has formally responded to questions posed during the RFP-established question and answer period and in sufficient time to permit a review of the merits of the protest and to take appropriate action as may be necessary, prior to the scheduled deadline for proposal submission.

N.J.A.C. 17:12-3.2(b), emphasis added.

EnviroTrac did not avail itself of the opportunity to challenge the specifications as permitted by the governing regulations. Only now, after the issuance of the NOI, having not been selected as the intended awardee and finding that its submitted Quote was deemed non-responsive, does EnviroTrac raise this challenge to the specifications in an effort to have its Quote revived, the passage of time having allowed

⁹ As defined in Bid Solicitation Section 2.2, *General Definitions*, "Shall – Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement."

EnviroTrac to complete administrative steps needed to correct the deficiency contained within its Quote. EnviroTrac's challenge to the specifications is therefore out of time.

The Division encourages competition and appreciates the time and effort put forth by EnviroTrac in preparing and submitting a Quote; however, in light of the findings set forth above, I have no choice but to uphold the Bureau's determination that EnviroTrac's Quote was non-responsive, and the decision to award a single Contract to Handex in the accordance with the June 10, 2022 NOI.

Thank you for your company's continuing interest in doing business with the State of New Jersey and for registering your business with *NJSTART* at <u>www.njstart.gov</u>. I encourage you to log into *NJSTART* to select any and all commodity codes for procurements it may be interested in submitting a Quote for so that it may receive notification of future bidding opportunities.

This is the Division's final agency decision. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:12-3.1, this determination is appealable to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court in accordance with the New Jersey Court Rules (R. 2:4-1) which provide a party 45 days to appeal this final agency decision.

Sincerely,

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Maurice A. Griffin Acting Director

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c. R. Regan K. Popso J. Pastuzyn