

## QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The following questions were received by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) from potential responders to the Request for Information (RFI). The intent of this document is to ensure that all prospective responders have the same information to use in preparing their responses to the RFI.

**1. Was the study on Analysis of Cancer Risks near Nuclear Facilities congressionally mandated?**

The study was not congressionally mandated. It was requested by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S.NRC).

**2. Is there a guarantee that there will be a phase 2 pilot execution step?**

There is no guarantee that there will be a phase 2 pilot execution step. The decision about whether to proceed with the phase 2 pilot execution step is the responsibility of the U.S.NRC. In making this decision, the U.S.NRC will consider a number of factors, including cost and priority of addressing public concerns about cancer risks near U.S.NRC-regulated nuclear facilities versus other agency priorities.

**3. When do you anticipate that the U.S.NRC will make a decision about whether to carry out the phase 2 pilot execution step?**

At a September 30, 2014, public meeting in Erwin, Tennessee, U.S.NRC staff reported their expectation that it would take approximately six months for the agency to make a decision whether to proceed with the pilot execution step following receipt of the study proposal and the associated budget from NAS.

**4. Who knows about the request for information (RFI)?**

NAS made an effort to advertise the RFI by:

- Placing a link to the RFI on the study website here: <http://nas-sites.org/cancerriskstudy/>.
- Informing the listserv of interested parties about the issuance of the RFI.
- Placing an advertisement of the RFI at <http://www.epimonitor.net/>.

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- Sending emails to a list of qualified individuals/organizations that was drawn upon a vast network of contacts and resources, informing them about the RFI.

**5. Why is NAS asking for a task-by-task breakdown of cost in the RFI?**

NAS is asking for a task-by-task breakdown of cost in order to gain insight from the responders to the RFI on their estimates of how much each of the tasks is expected to cost. This information will help NAS with budgeting for the pilot and finding alternate ways to complete a task for a lower cost, if possible.

**6. Will NAS issue an award directly from the request for information (RFI)?**

No. The NAS will not issue an award directly from the RFI. Provided that the U.S.NRC funds the phase 2 pilot execution step, NAS will issue a request for proposal (RFP) in which it will announce that funding is available for investigators to provide research support for the pilot study and will outline the bidding process and contract terms.

**7. Will the content of the RFP be different from the content of the draft presented as Attachment A to the RFI?**

It is possible that there will be some changes to the content of the RFP. These changes can range from minor (such as updates to the information on data availability to carry out the study) to substantial (such as changes in the technical specifications for carrying out the study).

Substantial changes to the RFP may be guided by the NRC Committee on Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations near Nuclear Facilities (the "Committee"). The Committee will issue a brief report that provides its advice to NAS on the methods and process for carrying out the pilot. The report is currently expected to be released to the public in December, 2014. Substantial changes to the content of the RFP may also be guided by decisions made by the U.S.NRC.

**8. How will NAS advertise the RFP?**

NAS will advertise the RFP in similar ways as it advertised the RFI. (See response to question 4).

**9. How long will NAS release the RFP for?**

It is estimated that the RFP will be open for about 6-8 weeks.

**10. How much money is available to carry out the pilot? This information would be useful to the RFI responders to guide their cost estimates.**

At this point NAS cannot provide additional guidance to the RFI responders about the funding level available for carrying out the pilot. The budget for carrying out the pilot will

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be informed by the responses received to the RFI and is subject to approval by the U.S.NRC. With this RFI, NAS requests that responders provide their best current estimates for carrying out the tasks listed in the RFI.

**11. How long after selection of the successful RFP bidder(s) do you expect work will start?**

As soon as possible.

**12. Will NAS give special consideration to small businesses that respond to the RFP?**

Positive efforts will be made as part of the RFP process to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women's business enterprises, whenever possible consistent with contractual requirements.

**13. Does the detailed budget requested by the RFI need to be part of the 5-page response? *NEW!***

If the responders find that a detailed budget does not fit in the 5-page limit response to the RFI, we suggest that they provide a high level summary of the budget in the five-page response to the RFI and more details as an appendix.