

July 31, 1998

**ENVIRONMENTAL
LABORATORY SERVICES
SOUTHERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND**

Rarely does the Southern Division have a stand alone laboratory service contract. Most lab work is done as a subcontract to a prime engineering contract for environmental investigations, site investigation in support of a facility design, or in support of a construction contract.

Almost without exception, Architect/Engineer investigation/design teams select their lab subcontractors up front and submit their credentials with their applications for a particular solicitation.

The best strategy for laboratory services type firms is to market themselves to potential prime contractors, monitor the Commerce Business Daily to identify those contractors that are winning contracts and ask them to consider you on the next project. They may even need some backup capacity for an existing contract.

The Southern Division has several major environmental investigative and remediation contracts. There may be limited lab services required for these contracts over the next several years from Small Disadvantaged Businesses. Please refer to our Environmental Subcontracting Opportunities List for prime contractor names and addresses of these contracts.

To comply with the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Navy established the Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The IRP identifies and evaluates past hazardous material disposal sites in order to control the migration of hazardous contaminants. The IRP also controls hazards that may result from these past disposal operations. The investigations typically occur several times a year and generate a massive number of samples which must be analyzed in a limited time frame.

The analytical laboratory is employed by the prime engineering firm and must adhere to the laboratory requirements of the IRP. Prior to beginning any field studies or analysis of samples from the field, contract laboratories will be required to receive Naval Energy and Environmental Support Activity (NEESA) approval. Laboratory approval is necessary to ensure that contract laboratories meet the minimum requirements for a QC program that facilitates the generation of data with legally defensible accuracy and precision.

The laboratory approval process can only begin with the prime engineering firm awarding a contract to the laboratory. The laboratory is required to prepare and submit a laboratory QA plan, to analyze and submit the results of proficiency testing, to submit to an on-site inspection, and to correct any deficiencies cited during inspection. Approval to begin work on samples is based on a combination of satisfactory QA plans and a site-specific work plan, satisfactory results of proficiency testing, and acceptable laboratory inspection. Approval may be granted to perform all or part of the methods required for a study.

For general contract administrative questions, call Mr. Mike Wells at (843) 820-5935.
For technical questions, call Ms. Pat Franklin at (843) 820-5691.