Just What IS an RFQ?

- Several questions about what exactly a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is?
- There are basically two types of competitive research solicitations:
  - A Request for Applications (RFA, or RFP)
    - Seeks detailed individual proposals from diverse disciplines to answer a single focused policy-relevant question (e.g. does diesel exhaust exacerbate asthma; are there effects of PM below current standards?)
    - Sets overall budget and how many studies likely to be funded
    - Result: a “program” of studies from different disciplines (e.g. toxicology, clinical, epidemiology) to answer the question; similar questions asked, but not extensively coordinated approaches
  - A Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
    - Seeks Multidisciplinary Teams to conduct systematic and consistent research on specific policy-relevant questions (e.g. what are human exposures to UOGD activity across a range of locations and activities?)
    - Sets overall budget
    - Result:
      - a closely coordinated team integrated across institutions to work with the Energy Research Committee (HEI-ERC) to implement detailed, consistent, and systematic studies;
      - also once selected, can be deployed to most appropriate sites for study in a timely fashion
Just What IS In An RFQ

(This is still VERY MUCH in Development)

• What types of study(ies) might an RFQ seek:
  – Studies to test human exposures from a range of UOGD activities
  – In diverse regions (plays) across the US
  – Likely three sites ultimately chosen by HEI ERC and selected team (could change based on data availability and study opportunities)
  – For a set overall budget

• What types of disciplines/expertise might be sought:
  – Exposure measurement (air, water, other measurable stressors?)
    • Knowledge/Experience in OGD Operations/Exposure Assessment
  – Community Exposure Assessment and Study Design
  – Biostatistics
  – Experience working with communities and sources in such efforts
  – And Others

• Also an RFQ would include clear time frames, reporting requirements, etc.
Next Steps Following an RFQ
(This is Still VERY MUCH in Development)

• Following selection of a team the HEI ERC works with the team to:
  – Develop and finalize protocol, budget, timeline
  – Identify top sites for studies
  – Engage with Communities and Industry sites to be studied (this would be iterative with site selection)
  – Launch studies in each site under HEI ERC Oversight

• During studies:
  – Regular Updates to sponsors, communities, other stakeholders
  – HEI QA/QC Audits, detailed oversight

• Following Studies
  – Detailed, independent HEI Peer Review
  – Extensive strategy for communication of Results
  – Identification of remaining needs
Questions?