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?