

December 6, 2000

Steven D. Emerson, President
Emerson Process Management, LLC
921 North Chaparral Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Dear Mr. Emerson:

I am responding to your November 7, 2000, letter to Chairman Richard A. Meserve in which you express concern regarding the availability of information for possible subcontracting opportunities and ask for suggestions as to how your firm might propose to provide assistance to the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

In the past, NRC has included a copy of the solicitation mailing list, or source list, with each copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) when it is mailed to potential offerors. In the interest of employing electronic commerce and moving toward a paperless society, NRC now posts its solicitations on the Internet which allows interested parties to download the RFP immediately. NRC does not currently have a system for tracking the names of firms who have downloaded the solicitation from the Internet and thus cannot produce an electronic list of those firms. To the extent an NRC sponsoring office for a project includes a suggested source list with the procurement request, our contracting staff makes that information available to interested firms.

The situation you describe with respect to RFP No. RS-NMS-00-003 is unique in that NRC is seeking a contractor to provide this technical assistance for the first time and NRC did not develop a suggested source list for this requirement, relying on the Internet as the means of soliciting proposals. This situation notwithstanding, we share your concern regarding the availability of source lists for possible small business subcontracting opportunities. To enhance small business ability to identify subcontracting opportunities, NRC plans to include a statement in the Commerce Business Daily notice requesting businesses, large and small, interested in teaming or subcontracting arrangements to submit their business information (organization name, address, point of contact and phone number, and size of business) to the NRC contract specialist. We will include this list as an attachment to the solicitation when it is posted on the Internet. This will enable small businesses to contact the listed sources to market their services.

We regret that in this instance we were not able to provide you with a source list; however, we will notify you as soon as an award is made so that you may contact the awardee for potential subcontracting opportunities. I also invite you to visit our "Contracting with the NRC" website.

- 2 -

We appreciate your interest in NRC's programs and encourage you to continue to pursue contracting opportunities with the NRC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia G. Norry
Deputy Executive Director
for Management Services

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia G. Norry
Deputy Executive Director
for Management Services

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