

Privatization of Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Laboratory Services; Modular Laboratory: Lessons Learned

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Abstract

An RFP was issued and awarded April 1997 for the privatization of the On-Site Laboratory Services of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS). Kaiser-Hill and its subcontractors are in the process of closing the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS)for the United States Department of Energy (DOE). A major objective during closure is to subcontract (under commercial terms) for as many of the functions needed on Site as possible. The purpose of the RFP was to obtain analytical services in a mobile or modular laboratory located at RFETS to support the various Site closure activities.

The subcontractor (Thermo NUtech) was required to furnish (design, build, own) a mobile or modular laboratory facility, complete required expedite installation, operate the facility, and be fully responsible for decommissioning and removal of the facility upon closure. The intent of the Contractor (Kaiser-Hill) for the Subcontractor (Thermo NUtech) was to rely on as few of the Site services as possible for conducting day-to-day business, and to purchase from the Contractor those services deemed by the Contractor to be uneconomical for the Subcontractor to provide themselves. Historically, subcontractors operating at RFETS have been provided all of the Site services at little or no cost. Because RFETS is in a period of transition from government operations to privatized closure, services and utilities provided by the Contractor to the Subcontractor will result in costs to the Subcontractor requiring reimbursement to the Contractor.

The analytical work performed are those analyses that support and expedite closure such as : (1) those analyses that are required by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations before samples can be shipped offsite for analysis; (2) radioactivity counting required to support operational constraints; and, (3) the preparation and radioactivity counting of air filters from RFETS buildings and surrounding areas.

This presentation will present the lessons learned by both the Contractor (Kaiser-Hill) and Subcontractor (Thermo NUtech). Risks associated with this project as well as creative solutions will be discussed.