



1001 G Street NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20001
Ph: 202-775-8400
www.sebac.org

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Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC)

Judy Lopez, Director of Environmental Directorate (CZ), (judy.lopez.1@us.af.mil)

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC)

Gregory Santiago, Director, Small Business Programs Office, AFIMSC/SB,
(gregory.santiago.2@us.af.mil)

Terry Bashore, Small Business Specialist, AFIMSC/SB (terry.bashore.1@us.af.mil)

772 Enterprise Sourcing Squadron (ESS)

Naomi Alvarado, Flight Chief, Environmental Contracting, 772 ESS/PKB
(naomi.alvarado@us.af.mil)

Juan Martinez, 772 ESS Director of Business Operations (juan.martinez.2@us.af.mil)

Kevin Meyer, CO for AEES 2023, 772 ESS/PKS (dkevin.meyer.8@us.af.mil)

Christina Villanueva, CO for AEES2023, 772 ESS/PKS (christina.villanueva.1@us.af.mil)

RE: Architect-Engineering Services to Support the U.S. Air Force Mission and AFCEC Environmental Program Worldwide AEES2023 (follow on to AE13ES)

Thank you in advance for review of this letter. I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Small Environmental Business Action Coalition, Inc. (SEBAC), www.sebac.org. SEBAC serves as a voice for the small business community providing environmental engineering, remediation, and related support to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and other Federal agencies throughout the country. A key part of our mission is to support and promote opportunities for small businesses by monitoring the federal government's goals, policies, and regulations regarding small business participation.

This letter is being sent to express our concern regarding the inclusion of Large Business contractors as Primes for the Architect-Engineering Services to Support the U.S. Air Force Mission and AFCEC Environmental Program Worldwide AEES2023 (follow on to AE13ES).

It is our understanding that there has been pushback from Large Business contractors—and possibly the 772nd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron—about soliciting this acquisition, which is for all Continental United States and Outside the Continental United States installations, as an all-Small Business (NAICS <750 people, soon to be <1,000) contract. Under the current NAICS 562910 AE13ES, Small Businesses make up 60% of the contract holders and have executed over 500 actions totaling over \$189 million of work, which equates to 36% of the actions and 43% of the dollars. This proves Small Business have the capacity, capability, and ability to execute the full scope of environmental remediation services required under the AEES2023.

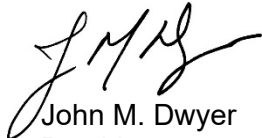
Small Business NAICS 562910 contractors have provided substantial market data showing they are fully capable of performing **all** four Functional Areas planned for the AEES2023 suite of

Services: (1) Emerging Contaminants (EC); (2) Defense Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants (POL); (3) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and (4) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). We are providing multiple Sources Sought responses to the recent AFCEC Market Research requests showing there is both sufficient capacity and capability within the Small Business community to perform **all** four Functional Areas in support of the AEES2023 contract.

Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) 19.203(e) states that, “small business set-asides have priority over acquisitions using full and open competition.” FAR 19.502-2(b) further clarifies the requirements for establishing total Small Business set asides using what is commonly referred to as “The Rule of Two.” FAR 19.502-2(b) states, “The contracting officer shall set aside any acquisition over \$100,000 for small business participation when there is a reasonable expectation that (1) offers will be obtained from at least two responsible small business concerns offering the products of different small business concerns [...]; and (2) award will be made at fair market prices. Total small business set-asides shall not be made unless such a reasonable expectation exists (but see 19.502-3 as to partial set-asides).” The attached Sources Sought responses from NAICS 562910 Small Businesses clearly show that the “Rule of Two” has been met for this solicitation. As such, we are requesting that the AEES2023 contract be set aside for eligible Small Businesses.

We appreciate your consideration for this request, and I would kindly ask that you provide an acknowledgement of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if I can be of any further service or provide additional information in support of our position on this matter: I can be reached at jdwyer@sebac.org or at (404) 229-3807. We look forward to engaging you in a dialogue, and we thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



John M. Dwyer
President