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## Maryland Port Administration seeking environmental consultant for Port of Baltimore



*File photo*

The Maryland Port Administration submitted a request for proposals April 15 looking for companies that could advise the port on environmental issues. The request highlights the Port of Baltimore's need to address concerns about dredged material and its "deep water seaport industry."

The Maryland Port Administration is looking for a consulting firm that it hopes will improve the Port of Baltimore's environmental image.

The agency submitted a request for proposals on April 15 looking for companies that could advise the port on environmental issues. The consulting firm, according to the request, would help the Port of Baltimore enhance its dredged material management program, assist with evaluating air and water quality and support the Port Administration's efforts with various regulatory agencies.

The contract is worth \$800,000 over three years, said Richard Scher, a spokesman for the Port Administration.

The request highlights the Port of Baltimore's need to address concerns about dredged material and its "deep water seaport industry."

Dredged material is potentially hazardous substance scooped up from the bottom of a body of water in order to deepen shipping channels to accommodate larger cargo vessels.

The consultant agreement will help the port communicate the need for dredging, Scher said. It will possibly help the port write grant applications that will help finance environmental cleanup, he said.

“This is a need that is certainly not going to go away,” Scher said.

Some of the hazardous material mentioned in the request for proposals included chrome ore processing residue and emission associated with seaport activity.

The port made an offer in February to acquire the Coke Point peninsula in Sparrows Point for future use as a dredged material containment facility. Environmental Liability Transfer Co., the St. Louis-based company that owns Sparrows Point, has so far declined to sell Coke Point to the Maryland Port Administration.

According to the request for proposals, the port is looking for a consulting firm that will “increase its understanding and awareness of perceptions and concerns by environmental interests regarding the environmental impacts of seaport activity.” The firm will also help assess “how those concerns impact both public support for Maryland’s deep water seaport, and commercial and maritime interests in moving cargo through and doing business at the Port of Baltimore.

The Maryland Port Administration estimates the consulting group will work an estimated 5,000 hours over the life of the contract. Terms of a potential deal, as well as the length of the contract, were undisclosed.

Bids are due to the Maryland Port Administration by May 6. The port conducted a pre-proposal meeting on the contract on April 22.