

CONTRACT CONCEPT REVIEW

National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors

April 19, 2022

Background for Review of Contract Project Concepts

NIEHS Division of the National Toxicology Program contracts support a variety of activities including data analysis, literature-based assessments, toxicologic characterization, testing, methods development, and program resources (i.e., chemistry, occupation health and safety, animal production, pathology, quality assurance, NTP Archives, etc.).

Prior to issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP), the review of a research and development contract project concept is required. These contract project concepts may consist of one or more contracts. Concept reviews for research and developments contracts are needed for new contracts, re-competitions with changes in statements of work, and contracts ongoing for five or more years since the last concept review.

The review of these contract project concepts is conducted by the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) and is open to the public so long as discussions are limited to review of the general project purposes, scopes, goals, and various optional approaches to pursue the overall objectives. The meeting will be closed to the public, however, if the concept discussion turns to the development or selection of details of the projects or RFPs, such as specific technical approaches, protocols, statements of work, data formats, or product specifications. Closing the session is intended to protect the free exchange of the advisory group members' opinions and avoid premature release of details of proposed contract projects or RFPs.

The BSC members are asked to review the contract project concepts for overall value and scientific relevance as well as for fulfilling the program goal of protecting public health. Specific areas should include:

- a. The significance from a scientific or technical standpoint of the goals of the proposed research or development activity;
- b. The availability of the technology and other resources necessary to achieve those goals;
- c. The extent to which there are identified, practical use for the anticipated results of the activity; and
- d. Where the review includes the project approach, the adequacy of the methodology to be utilized in carrying out the activity.