

Environmental Studies Program: Studies Development Plan | FY 2020–2022

Title	Responding to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s (NAS’s) Comments on the Air Quality Modeling in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM)
Administered by	Headquarters
BOEM Contact(s)	Holli Ensz (holli.ensz@boem.gov)
Procurement Type(s)	Contract; sole source
Performance Period	FY 2020–2021
Date Revised	March 25, 2019
PICOC Summary	Write one or two sentences for each of the following elements, as appropriate.
<i><u>Problem</u></i>	Because of the delay in awarding the NAS Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract and the 12/22/2018–1/25/2019 U.S. Federal government shutdown, the NAS will be providing comments to the <i>Air Quality Modeling in the GOM</i> OCS Region study by December 2019. This modeling study has a period of performance that ends in August 2019. BOEM needs a sole source contract so that ERG/RAMBOLL can respond to the NAS comments and other comments.
<i><u>Intervention</u></i>	Conduct a separate study so that ERG/RAMBOLL can respond to the NAS concerns of the Air Quality Modeling Study that was conducted by ERG/RAMBOLL.
<i><u>Comparison</u></i>	The NAS comments with the ERG/RAMBOLL response will complete all aspects of the modeling study.
<i><u>Outcome</u></i>	Under the original study, BOEM will have the <i>Air Quality Modeling in the GOM</i> study report. NAS will finalize a report with their comments to the study. BOEM will have a separate report with responses to the NAS comments (this proposed study) and other comments.
<i><u>Context</u></i>	GOM

BOEM Information Need(s): BOEM needs a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) peer review of the *Air Quality Modeling in the GOM Region* study (M14PC00007) because the study is deemed “highly influential”. The NAS peer review document will be finalized after the date of conclusion of the Air Quality Modeling in the GOM study, so a separate study is needed to respond to NAS and other comments.

Background: The *Air Quality Modeling in the GOM Region* study has a period of performance that ends August 31, 2019. Because of the delay in awarding the NAS IDIQ and the 35-day government shutdown, the NAS cannot provide their peer review of the modeling report by August 31, 2019 deadline. Therefore, a separate sole source contract will be required so that ERG/RAMBOLL (the contractor for the Air Quality Modeling study) can respond to the NAS comments and other comments.

Objectives: Since ERG/RAMBOLL conducted the modeling and drafted the *Air Quality Modeling in the GOM* study, ERG/RAMBOLL will need to respond to NAS peer review comments (and any other comments received) of the modeling study.

Methods: BOEM will finalize the *Air Quality Modeling in the GOM Region* study report under the existing contract. BOEM will receive NAS peer review by December 2019. BOEM will award a sole source contract to ERG/RAMBOLL (the modeling contractors) to respond to the NAS peer review comments and other comments. Therefore, there will be a separate report of response to NAS peer review.

Specific Research Question(s):

1. Did NAS agree that the methodology, approach, and the results are of sound science?
2. How does BOEM respond to the NAS peer review?

References: <https://marinecadastre.gov/epis/#/search/study/100048>