

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
BIOSAFETY LEVEL 4 LABORATORY CONSULTANT  
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 1:**

**If the proposal exceeds the \$40,000 cost of indirect and direct costs, will it still be considered?**

**ANSWER:**

*The RFP states that “**The total budget must not exceed \$40,000 per fiscal year inclusive of all direct and indirect costs.**” Each proposal received in response to the RFP will be reviewed and evaluated independently by at least two BPHC reviewers, based on various criteria including budget amount and items appropriate to the tasks/activities specified in the scope of service. **Any proposal with a total budget exceeding \$40,000 per fiscal year will be rejected at the evaluation stage.***

**QUESTION 2:**

**Can on-site inspections and emergency response drills be combined within the same time frame to reduce the number of on-site visits?**

**ANSWER:**

***NO. It is not feasible to schedule BSL-4/ABSL-4 lab inspections and emergency drills/exercises simultaneously/closely without placing a huge regulatory burden on BU NEIDL management, researchers and staff, and City of Boston emergency responders.***

- *Scheduling multiple lab inspections and drills/exercises involving multiple local, state and regulatory agents and emergency responders is very challenging.*
- *The BU NEIDL maximum containment facility is very complex. The facility is usually fully operational throughout the year.*
- *Multiple research projects (including work with non-human primates), routine preventative maintenance activities, and annual performance verification tasks are conducted in the biocontainment throughout the year.*
- *The CDC/USDA also inspects BU NEIDL BSL-4/ABSL-4 and BSL-3/ABSL-3 Labs annually, as specified in the federal select agents and toxins regulations.*
- *BU NEIDL is also required to conduct drills/exercises at least annually to test and evaluate the effectiveness of security, biosafety and incident response plans.*
- *The two annual (announced) BSL-4/ABSL-4 Lab inspections are normally conducted in April and October. The three annual emergency response drills/exercises are usually conducted in April/May, July/August and December.*
- *The Boston Biosafety Working Group (BSWG) quarterly meetings are normally held in February, May, and August. Some of the City of Boston emergency responders who also participate in the BU NEIDL drills/exercises also attend the BSWG meetings.*