

Questions and Answers
RFQ for Transport and Recycling of Vapes
Quotes are due to OCRRA on October 9th, by 2 P.M.

Question 1:

Is this a non-DEA regulated waste from HHW and non-direct manufactures and non-distributers waste?

Answer 1:

See "Services Requested" section of the RFQ, page 2 (excerpted below):

Services Requested:

OCRRA is soliciting quotes for transport and management of household vape products in accordance with Federal, State, and Local environmental regulations. OCRRA encourages submissions from Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses for all quotes, proposals, and bids.

OCRRA does not currently have a program to collect and manage vape products from households. However, vape products incidentally are deposited in OCRRA's Household Battery Drop Off kiosks and are not accepted by OCRRA's battery recycling vendor. Over the past year, we have separated about a 15-gallon size container of vape products from material that was dropped off in OCRRA battery kiosks.

Vape Products include:

- E-Cigarettes: Disposable, prefilled or refillable - No tank or pod, cartridge attached to pen containing battery
- Tank / Mods: Designed for multiple uses, can be filled with different substances and modified to vary voltage
- Pod Mods: Prefilled OR refillable pod OR pod cartridge with modifiable pod system; comes in many sizes, shapes, colors; contain nicotine, THC or CBD - with or without flavors
- E- Liquids: Typically, a mixture of water, flavoring, choice of nicotine levels or cannabis.

As indicated in the "Services Requested" section shown above, this RFQ is targeting vape devices that may contain various substances, including but not limited to nicotine and cannabis.

Items are coming in through a household drop-off program for batteries. They are not being solicited, but we get them regardless, in small volume. Materials are not coming in from manufacturers nor distributors.

Question 2:

How does the County expect the contractor to manage CBD when it is an illegal substance at the Federal level?

Answer 2:

OCRRA is new to the vape management landscape and is hoping to find a way forward as we see other NY entities (e.g., Monroe County and NYC Department of Sanitation) are managing these devices. We are not experts in this field and are seeking guidance. While the current volume of vape devices we receive is small, as they are incidentally acquired through our battery collection program, we anticipate expanding this program in the future and look forward to finding a vendor that can work with our unique system to find a solution for this growing, challenging, waste stream.