



STATE OF INDIANA

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-87668

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

**ON BEHALF OF THE
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SOLICITATION FOR:
ON-LINE WATER DATA PORTAL**

**RESPONSE DUE DATE:
JULY 15, 2026**

Stephanie Nelson, Procurement Consultant

StephNelson@idoa.in.gov

Indiana Department of Administration

Procurement Division

402 W. Washington St., Room W478

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Request for Information/Innovation, Page 1 of 6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE RFI.....	3
RESPONSE FORMAT AND ATTACHMENTS.....	4
RFI TIMELINE	5
QUESTION / INQUIRY PROCESS	5
CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS	5
CONFIDENTIALITY.....	6
RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS	6

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-87668

INTRODUCTION

This is a Request for Information/Innovation (RFI) issued by the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) on behalf of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources regarding On-line Water Data Portal. It is the intent of IDOA to solicit responses to this Request for Information/Innovation in accordance with the specifications contained in this document and associated attachments. Neither this RFI nor any response (proposal) submitted hereto is to be construed as a legal offer.

THE STATE MAY ELECT TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN ANY FUTURE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION TO VENDORS THAT RESPOND TO THIS RFI.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE RFI

On April 21, 2025, Governor Braun signed Executive Order 25-63, directing the development of a statewide water inventory and management plan for Indiana. The order recognizes that while Indiana generally has an abundant water supply, there are regional disparities, with some areas facing constraints. Economic progress, relying on a growing demand on Indiana's water resources, will require forward-thinking strategies for sustainable water resource management.

Under direction of the Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been tasked with implementing this order, including "Creating a centralized, publicly accessible online platform to share real-time data on water resources, usage trends, and infrastructure status (Directive #4)

Directive 4 will require the development of a database system to connect available water resource data to water stakeholders via a user-friendly platform. The Executive Order states "Key features of the platform shall include insights into future water needs based on growth projections, educational resources to raise public awareness about water conservation best practices, and visual representations of groundwater and surface water data across the state."

Recently, the DNR has developed a new database system for Groundwater Well Log and Significant Water Withdrawal Facility data, which has been collected by the DNR since registration and reporting were made mandatory in 1982. The DNR also collects groundwater data through a partnership with the USGS for 60 wells throughout the state and funds the USGS to operate 35 real-time groundwater monitoring wells and 200 streamgages. As part of this Executive Order, stakeholder input regarding monitoring needs will look to expand this network. Other reference data held by the DNR is in an ESRI Portal platform hosted by the Indiana Geographic Information Office. Compatibility with these systems and with any other existing state system will be a requirement of any solution to be considered.

Data from other state and federal agencies that might be incorporated into this system is held by the USGS (Streamgage information), the National Weather Service (National Water Prediction Service) and Purdue University (State of Indiana Mesonet), among others.

To collect input from a wide range of stakeholders throughout the entire state of Indiana, the DNR arranged a series of interactive workshops. Six in-person workshops were held across the state between February 12th and May 19th. Over 300 stakeholders attended the workshops, participated in the activities, and provided a substantial amount of feedback and input related to water planning in Indiana.

Stakeholders prioritized an online water data platform that integrates data from multiple public sources in an easy-to-use dashboard and delivers near real-time information. Downloadable data, trend analysis tools, and spatial scalability are also valued capabilities of the platform. Examples of features that may be part of a solution include (in no particular order):

- Data from multiple, publicly available sources is incorporated.
- Data and information can be summarized as a “dashboard” format for ease of understanding.
- Data and information are presented at or near real-time.
- Data and information are available for download.
- The platform can display water resources trend analyses.
- The platform can allow for spatial scalability (sub-basin) within the region.
- The platform can be customizable to include future sources of data and information.

Respondents are encouraged to provide information regarding:

- Recommended technical architecture
- Experience with similar public-sector or water-resource data platforms
- Integration approaches for multiple external data sources
- Hosting and maintenance options
- Cybersecurity and ADA considerations for publicly accessible systems
- Estimated implementation timelines
- General pricing structures and licensing approaches
- Recommended phased implementation approaches
- Assurances the proposal will adhere to the State’s security and technology standards
- Optional or innovative capabilities the State should consider

This RFI is exploratory and focused on gathering information related to the development of a public-facing online water data portal and dashboard solution.

The following items are considered out of scope for the purposes of this solicitation:

- replacement of existing agency databases
- deployment of new monitoring infrastructure
- statewide water allocation or regulatory systems

The goal of this RFI is to gather general functionality and general pricing structures from vendors for the development of a potential Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting information to formalize the scope of work for a potential RFP by allowing the vendor community to apprise the DNR on information that should be considered as part of the scope of work.

RESPONSE FORMAT AND ATTACHMENTS

Respondents should submit responses to the RFI, utilizing **Attachment A**, describing how they will meet the specific requirements of this RFI and the deliverables included within. All narrative responses must be provided to the State in Microsoft Word format. Respondents must structure their response according to the sections outlined below to facilitate the State’s review of the responses. **THE TOTAL RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 15-20 PAGES IN LENGTH.**

If you would like to provide a response/feedback to this RFI for a potential RFP for DNR, you must provide your response to State as shown in the RFI Timeline and Response Submission section below.

RFI TIMELINE

The following timeline is only an illustration of this RFI process. The dates associated with each step are not to be considered binding.

Anticipated RFI Dates:

Activity	Date
Issuance of RFI	June 10, 2026
Deadline to Submit Written Questions (3:00PM Eastern Time)	June 17, 2026
Response to Written Questions/RFI Amendments	June 24, 2026
Due Date for Submissions	July 15, 2026

QUESTION / INQUIRY PROCESS

All questions/inquiries in regards to RFI 26-87668 must be submitted in writing via email using **Attachment B**, Questions and Answers Template, by the deadline of **June 17, 2026 by 3:00PM ET** to rfp@idoa.IN.gov. The email subject line should contain the following phrase:

“REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-87668, QUESTION AND INQUIRIES.”

Following the question/inquiry due date, IDOA will compile a list of the questions/inquiries submitted by all Respondents. The responses will be posted to the IDOA website as soon as possible. Only answers posted on the IDOA website will be considered official and valid by the State. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any State employee.

Please note that Stephanie Nelson is the State’s single point of contact for this RFI. **Inquiries are not to be directed to any other staff member of the Department of Natural Resources.** Such action may disqualify respondent from further consideration in this RFI and any subsequent RFP process.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFI prior to the due date for submissions, an addendum will be posted on the IDOA website.

CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The State reserves the right to request clarifications on information submitted to the State. The State also reserves the right to conduct discussions, either oral or written, with the Respondents. These discussions could include requests for additional information, requests for cost information or technical requirements response attachment revision, etc. Additionally, in conducting discussions, the State may use information derived from the responses submitted by competing Respondents only if the identity of the Respondent providing the information is not disclosed to others. The State will provide equivalent information to all Respondents which have been chosen for discussions.

The Procurement Division will schedule all discussions. Any information gathered through oral discussions must be confirmed in writing.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is important to note that all information submitted in Respondent's proposals to this RFI will be kept confidential and will not be made available to the public unless this RFI does not result in the release of a solicitation at a later date. If a solicitation results from this RFI, then the information contained in the proposal submissions for this RFI must be made available to the public once the resulting solicitation has been awarded and the protest period has ended.

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 et seq., and, after award, the entire solicitation file may be viewed and copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors.

Please note citing "Confidential" on an entire section is not sufficient. The Public Access Counselor (PAC) provides guidance on APRA. Respondents are encouraged to read guidance from the PAC on this topic as this is the guidance IDOA follows:

- [18-INF-06; Redaction of Public Procurement Documents Informal Inquiry](#)

Respondents claiming a statutory exception to the APRA must indicate so on a separate attachment labeled "**Confidential Documentation Listing**". That document should include the following information:

- List all documents where claiming a statutory exemption to the APRA;
- Specify which statutory exception of APRA that applies for each document;
- Provide a description explaining the manner in which the statutory exception to the APRA applies for each document.

When claiming confidential information, respondents should submit two versions of their response:

- 1) A confidential version (for the State's review and evaluation)
 - a. Confidential Information must be clearly marked in a separate folder.
- 2) A redacted version (for public records requests)

If the Respondent does not identify the statutory exception, the Procurement Division will not consider the submission confidential. The State also reserves the right to seek the opinion of the PAC for guidance if the State has doubts the cited exception is applicable.

Prices are **NOT** confidential information.

RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Firms interested in providing information to IDOA should submit responses via email to rfp@idoa.IN.gov. All responses must be received no later than **July 15, 2026 by 3:00PM ET**. The subject line of the email submission must clearly state the following:

"RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-87668"

Any information received after the due date and time may not be considered.

No more than one proposal per Respondent may be submitted.

Templates outlined in this document should be returned in their native file format.

The State accepts no obligations for costs incurred by Respondents in anticipation of being awarded a contract.