

Alaska Post Entry Plant Quarantine Facility Establishment **FY2002 Request: \$1,350,000**
Reference No: 33983

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Construction
Category: General Government
Location: Palmer (Palmer) **Contact:** Robert Wells
House District: Palmer (HD 27) **Contact Phone:** (907)745-7200
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Alaska agriculture and horticulture industries have been requesting the establishment of a Post Entry Quarantine Facility for over twenty years. The desire for such a facility is based on the simple fact that the present system has not served the needs in Alaska. Importation of prohibited plant species and those species with special restrictions can only lawfully enter the United States through the present USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,350,000						\$1,350,000
Total:	\$1,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	550,000	7
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	550,000	7

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is a new project request.

Project Description/Justification:

Importation of prohibited plant species and those species with special restrictions can only lawfully enter the United States through the present USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) facilities. These are located in temperate regions. Plant material that may prove to be hardy and of economic value for Alaska often does not perform well under the temperate weather conditions and shorter photo periods during the growing season at the present APHIS facilities. The plant material from the circumpolar regions often dies or exhibits characteristics associated with disease when grown at the more southerly latitude. When this occurs, the plant material is of no value to Alaska; i.e., it is dead or destroyed due to its appearance.

A Post Entry Quarantine Facility in Alaska would allow for controlled examination, evaluation and phytosanitary inspection of prohibited and otherwise restricted plant material primarily from circumpolar regions. This could be accomplished under growing conditions to which the plant materials were adapted. It will also support the national efforts by picking up material that cannot be handled by the existing USDA programs.

This appropriation will allow the Alaska Plant Materials Center (AKPMC) to assist potato germplasm introduction into the United States. The proposal has the backing of NRSP-6, the U. S. Potato Genebank at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. It will complement their existing potato introduction program and satisfy the U.S. Potato Crop Advisory Committee by insuring rapid importation, quarantine testing and release of foreign germplasm that is crucial for potato research and breeding in the U. S.

The use of approved containment and safeguard procedures coupled with Alaska's geographical isolation from the

contiguous states will add to mitigating the risk associated with the introduction of exotic plants.

Activities and procedures will be implemented to reduce the risk to acceptable risk/benefit and cost/benefit levels. Plant material to be processed by the Alaska facility would most likely be considered low risk importations.

To accomplish the goal of establishing a Post Entry Quarantine Facility in Alaska, the Alaska Division of Agriculture and the Alaska Plant Materials Center, a section of the Division of Agriculture, is offering its services and infrastructure. The AKPMC can supply mid and lower level Agronomists and skilled labor to support the APHIS Pathologist.

The AKPMC can also offer some existing laboratory and greenhouse space. Some improvements will be needed in the potential laboratory facilities, security systems and other structures. Also, a screenhouse will be needed. The presently available facility and land would greatly reduce the cost of establishing the APHIS approved facility in Alaska.

This estimate includes one time construction costs and equipment costs. The annual operating costs are estimated at \$800,000, roughly \$550,000 of which are in the State Operating Budget and \$250,000 will be used for a contract for either Federal or UoA Scientists/Pathologist. It is not clear at this time whether the \$250,000 for the contract scientist will be budgeted through the PMC or go directly to the employing entity.

Specific Spending Detail:

The following appropriation estimate could initiate the program and establish a Post Entry Quarantine Facility in Alaska:	
Construction, capital investment and equipment	800,000 CIP
Personal services (wages, etc.) for State of Alaska support	410,000 CIP/Operating
Contractual costs (utilities, etc.)	<u>140,000 CIP/Operating</u>
	Total \$ 1,350,000

(Another \$250,000 is part of this project for contract scientists)

Project Benefits:

This singular problem solved by the project will be the direct importation of prohibited and restricted crops from other arctic and subarctic regions of the world. This project is intended to assist APHIS and USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) by allowing more material to be granted entry into the United States. The project will also benefit the Alaska horticulture industry, seed potato industry and other farmers. The entire U. S. potato industry will benefit as more foreign material can be screened for testing.

Projected Revenue to the State:

The state's revenue will be measured by increased federal spending and receipts from commercial sales of new crops and produce.

Project Support: USDA-ARS, USDA-APHIS, Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union.

Project Opposition: None known.

Does this project leverage other funding for the state?

It will allow the Division of Agriculture to expand its federal funding levels and enter into cooperative agreements on the international level.

Project History: None.

Annual Operating and Maintenance Costs:

Estimated at \$800,000 annually. These costs will be covered by the federal contract.