

**Agriculture Plant Material Center Seed Lab Construction****FY2002 Request:****\$3,070,000****Reference No:****33952****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Development**Location:** Palmer (Palmer)**Contact:** Robert Wells**Election District:** Palmer**Contact Phone:** (907)745-7200**Estimated Project Dates:** 08/01/2001 - 09/30/2002**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Alaska State Seed Laboratory is a section of the Alaska Plant Materials Center (AKPMC). This is a state-owned and operated facility within the Alaska Division of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources. The present State Seed Laboratory is not capable of meeting the demands for seed testing and technology development. The facility is undersized, out of professional code, and under equipped to meet present day technological requirements.

**Funding:**

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$3,070,000						\$3,070,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,070,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,070,000</b>

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

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	4,800	0

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

The National Arctic Plant Germplasm Repository (NAPGR) is operated by the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The NAPGR is co-located with the AKPMC at Palmer, Alaska. The seed laboratory provides inspection services for all seed involved in intra- state and international trade. It also provides the species to the Alaska commercial seed industry and other private and government causes in Alaska.

**Agriculture Plant Material Center Seed Lab Construction****FY2002 Request: \$3,070,000****Reference No: 33952**

The seed laboratory provides inspection services for all seed involved in intra state and international trade. It also provides species to the Alaska commercial seed industry and other private and government causes in Alaska. The seed lab has been involved in developing national standards for seed germination and has been effecting improved methods of testing seed.

The seed laboratory conducts tests on true seed (grass and grain) for phytosanitary certification needed for international commerce. The laboratory itself is 25 years old and in need of improvement and upgrade. Space and equipment are limited and have not grown with demand. The NAPGR is a new program and as such must rely on the facilities at the AKPMC including the seed lab and seed cleaning equipment and facility.

We have requested a one-time appropriation to build and equip a seed laboratory for the state's and NAPGR's use to fulfill their missions as the official seed inspection laboratory in Alaska and a national level seed repository.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

Capital Improvements (engineering and construction)	\$2,220,000
Equipment and Materials	\$ 850,000
Total \$	3,070,000

The Seed Laboratory will be build on the PMC grounds next to existing facility. The current staff will operate the facility so no new positions are required. The incremental cost for utilities is estimated at ~\$5,000 to be paid for 100% by federal funds, already existing in the PMC state budget.

**Project Benefits:**

This appropriation will upgrade the official State Seed Laboratory and shared NAPGR Seed Laboratory allowing the state and ARS to better serve commercial seed growers and researchers in Alaska. The laboratory will allow Alaska to enter the national and international seed market. The new laboratory will also allow for some backup on the national level and cooperative work with seed laboratories in the Pacific northwest.

**Projected Revenue to the State:**

Revenue to the state will be realized through increased federal contracts and commercial seed sales. Revenue of the seed laboratory will also increase as cooperative work is initiated with other laboratories.

**Project Support:**

USDA-ARS, USDA APHIS, Alaska Seed Growers Inc., Farmer's Union, Farm Bureau.

**Project Opposition:**

We expect opposition from an individual at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It must be reiterated this is not a seed potato laboratory; it is a seed laboratory working with true seed problems.

**Does this project leverage other funding for the state?**

Yes. By building the new facility the state will have an asset that can in itself be marketed.

**Project History:** None.

**Annual Operating and Maintenance Costs:**

These costs can be covered by the existing PMC budget.