

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section IV. Technical Assistance / Professional Services

Commercial farms that have DACF-confirmed unsafe levels of PFAS may apply to DACF for no-cost technical assistance to help guide their response to the discovery of PFAS and/or to implement mitigation strategies. Eligible producers may work with service providers to obtain expert advice, estimates, drawings, plans, research, and technical or professional assistance related to modifying their operations in response to PFAS contamination. Service providers may be marketing consultants, accounting firms, farm and/or business support organizations, engineering firms, law firms, and other organizations that DACF determines may provide valuable services that support sustained farm viability. Technical Assistance is governed by rule 01-001 CMR c. 402 (2024).

Questions about no-cost technical assistance may be directed to Beth Valentine, PFAS Fund Director, at [Beth.Valentine@maine.gov](mailto:Beth.Valentine@maine.gov) or 207-313-0962.

#### Documents to Attach and Submit with Section IV:

The following information must be submitted with this Section of the application:

- A. Section I. Applicant General Information with all specified attachments;
- B. An estimate, invoice, or receipt from a service provider describing the scope of work and the total cost;
- C. If requesting a direct reimbursement, provide Proof of Payment.
- D. Any additional supporting documentation requested by DACF that DACF determines is necessary to review the request for assistance.

#### Please provide the following information:

TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUPPORT REQUESTED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATED START AND END DATES OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL / PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

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OVERVIEW OF GOAL(S) SERVED BY THESE SERVICES:

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NEXT STEPS AFTER OBTAINING THE INFORMATION SOUGHT:

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## **Payment Restrictions**

DACF may pay for technical assistance costs directly related to a commercial farm's response to PFAS contamination. DACF will not pay for a commercial farm's technical assistance costs that are associated with routine operations that are unrelated to PFAS response.

## **Technical Assistance Application Review**

Evaluation criteria may include but not be limited to the degree to which the farm has been negatively impacted by PFAS, likelihood of success, return on investment, total cost, timing, alternative options, level of risk, producer's demonstrated lack of available financial capacity, number of other requests for DACF support by the applicant and by other producers, and the farm's capacity and commitment to continue farming on the impacted property.

Evaluation criteria will also include an assessment by DACF of whether a given service provider is appropriately qualified to provide the particular type of technical assistance being sought.

DACF reserves the right to limit the amount of funding for all requests based on available resources and the evaluation criteria listed above.

Applications for technical assistance and professional services will be reviewed by DACF's PFAS Fund Director. The Director may request input from members of the DACF PFAS Response Program, including Agricultural PFAS Specialists (APS) and specialized consultants acting on the Program's behalf and that have worked with the farm and have knowledge of the applicant's operations. DACF will rely on all available information about the farm to assess the request. DACF reserves the right to request any additional supporting documentation that is necessary to evaluate the request for assistance. Decision-making authority rests with the PFAS Fund Director.