



Native Village of Napaimute
BRN.RFP 2024-01
Request for Proposal
Qualified Environmental Professional Services

Introduction

The Native Village of Napaimute (NVN) is seeking the services of a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP). The successful QEP will provide professional services, general technical support for the Native Village of Napaimute Brownfields Program, and will conduct site visits to a series of historic mines in the Aniak area to evaluate their current condition. We are also seeking training and mentoring for a Napaimute Staff member to obtain experience and supervision to complete similar tasks in the future.

This project is expected to be completed by November 2024 with a 30-day window for field work during July 2024.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) provides the specifications and requirements for prospective applicants to complete a proposal with cost estimates for services. This RFP is being issued in part to comply with Federal and State procurement standards including, but not limited to, 2 CFR 200 and 1500. The resulting contract will be for May 1st -December 31st. (7 months). NVN may amend or extend this contract beyond the initial 8 months to accommodate the terms and conditions of the EPA-CERCLA 128(a)-Bipartisan Infrastructure Law cooperative agreement.

Project Background

This project is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency CERCLA 128(a) Brownfields Program and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The NVN was awarded funding to conduct initial assessments on several historic mining sites in the Middle Kuskokwim Region. There are currently 16 mines in need of preliminary site assessments. This RFP is requesting proposals for preliminary site assessment for a minimum of 10 of the mines.

During World War I the Middle Kuskokwim Region was mined and became a major supplier of mercury for the war effort. Most of these mines were established, operated, and then abandoned long before strict laws or regulations were created to protect the environment. Without regulatory oversight and only minimal post-closure site investigation, it is uncertain what these mining activities may have left behind. There are currently two EPA Superfund cleanup sites in this area, the Kolmakof Mine and Red Devil Mine.

Purpose

This proposed project involves prioritizing a minimum of 10 historic mining sites from a list of 16 mines to perform preliminary assessments to determine if these mining sites were left in a safe condition and to determine if contamination is present at these locations. Evaluating potential contamination on these sites will

allow outlining some next steps to ultimately return the land to its natural condition. Transportation to the sites will be by helicopter and site visits will be performed on foot.

In addition to the field work, the QEP will provide mentoring and training to one staff member from NVN so that NVN can perform similar preliminary site assessments in the future.

Scope of Work

The following activities are expected to be part of the work conducted by the QEP:

1. Review site locations and available historic information to prioritize and select 10 sites from the list of 16 sites. Sites can be selected based on accessibility, potential environmental concerns, potential safety concerns, or other risks to human health and the environment.
2. Along with NVN Staff visit a minimum of 10 of the following 16 mines (transportation to mines will be provided via helicopter by NVN):

Mine Site	Lat AllTopo	Long AllTopo
Cinnabar Creek lode	60.78326	-158.87
Cripple Creek	60.704	-159.521
Cripple Creek lower	60.736	-159.568
Dominion Creek	60.965	-159.458
Eureka Creek	60.977	-159.557
Fisher Creek	60.82	-159.536
fortyseven creek placer	61.047	-158.16
Girl Creek	61.22436	-158.46112
Gold Run	61.4	-158.475
Julian Creek	62.20775	-157.37673
Lucky Day	60.748	-158.859
Michigan Creek Bench	62.238	-157.346
Mountain Top	61.396	-157.966
Timber Creek	61.026	-158.905
Osawalik River	61.546	-157.663
Marvel- Active	60.906	-159.621
Murray Gulch- Active	61.569	-158.587

3. At each location, the selected QEP will complete a site walkthrough with the intent of completing a Preliminary Site Assessment Report that will include: map or site diagram, photographs, general observations of the site conditions including the presence of:
 - a. Buildings and their condition (safe to enter? potential presence of hazardous materials? explosives? etc.)
 - b. Heavy equipment and their condition
 - c. Drums
 - d. Sumps/ditches, drainages
 - e. Potential sources of contamination
4. At each location, the QEP will determine if screening for potential petroleum contamination in surface soil is necessary. If determined to be necessary, the use of a photoionization detector (PID) to screen surface soil samples will be required. If PID suggests that there may be areas of contamination, samples will be collected and sent for analysis to a certified laboratory, at NVN's expense.
5. QEP may also choose to examine surface water quality parameters using a YSI meter.

6. QEP will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) as well as the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to conduct any sampling necessary. The QAPP must include methods for screening surface soil and surface water as well as collection of soil and surface water samples for laboratory analysis. The QAPP must include objectives, equipment to be used, equipment calibration, parameters to be measured, etc. and it must be consistent with the requirements in the DEC Field Sampling Guidance (2022).
7. QEP will train NVN staff on how to complete a site visit and walkthrough including:
 - a. How to approach a site
 - b. What to look for based on the project objectives
 - c. Recording and documenting findings
 - d. Prioritizing the activities that are part of a walkthrough
 - e. How and when to use a YSI water quality parameter monitor and a PID
 - f. How to use a drone for 3D Mapping and multispectral imaging
 - g. How to document any potentially hazardous materials found

Project Expectations and Approach

Proposals must demonstrate experience developing and implementing environmental sampling processes with a particular focus in remote and northern communities. The selected contractor will be expected to:

1. Attend a minimum of two meetings, as needed, with NVN. A pre- field trip and post field trip meeting will likely be required. Meetings may occur in person or virtual, depending on timing and NVN preference. If in person the meeting will take place in Aniak, AK. Please include a budget for a maximum of four trips to Aniak, AK.
2. Provide their own meals as there are no stores to purchase groceries. Lodging will be provided by NVN.
3. Record all site visit information on a laptop provided by the NVN, that contains the software needed for the drone. Contractor can bring their own laptop, if preferred.
4. Work with NVN staff to complete all mapping activities using a multispectral resources grade drone, also provided by NVN, with a base station to create a 3D map of the area and sketches for reference when needed to find a specific area of interest.
5. Work closely with NVN staff to develop a SAP and QAPP and train one staff member on how to implement the requirements of the documents. Contractor will follow the [Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation guidance](#) (DEC).
6. Provide training to a NVN staff member and sign off on project hours for this staff member towards a QEP status with the State of Alaska. NVN understands that there are other requirements to obtain QEP status and will discuss those qualifications with DEC.
7. Provide training to a NVN Staff member on how to prepare similar preliminary environmental assessment reports. This training should aim to provide the NVN staff member with techniques and knowledge required to plan and implement future preliminary environmental assessments projects independently.

Equipment and Logistics

The Native Village of Napaimute will provide logistics support, including travel by helicopter to the mines from Aniak, AK, where the project will be based out of. Equipment provided by NVN includes a YSI water probe, photoionization detector (PID), DJI Mavic 3 Multispectral Drone with a RTK kit for 3d mapping and connected laptop, and water and soil sampling kits as needed.

Based on the sites selected and the potential contaminants expected, the contractor may choose to collect

additional samples for laboratory analysis or bring additional equipment for screening (such as an XRF spectrometer or other).

Deliverables

The following deliverables will be part of this contract:

1. Monthly progress reports that contain short summaries of progress for all phases of work, data, and findings. Progress reports must also include, when applicable:
 - Any Quality Assurance/Quality Control shortcomings and corrective actions
 - Deviations from the QAPP/SAP with explanations
 - Health/Safety incidents
2. One draft and final Sampling and Analysis Plan that incorporates the approach to all 10 sites
3. One draft and final Quality Assurance Project Plan
4. Ten Preliminary Site Assessment Reports (one for each location) that include:
 - General summary of site visit- including dates, methods, weather conditions, staff present, etc.
 - Map or site diagram
 - Photographs
 - Observations of the site conditions including presence of:
 - Buildings and their condition
 - Presence of hazardous materials, explosives, etc.
 - Heavy equipment and their condition
 - Drums
 - Sumps/ditches, drainages
 - List and location of potential sources of contamination
 - Location of any environmental samples collected for screening or laboratory analysis
 - Results of any screening or sampling conducted
 - Recommendations for next steps based on the site visit and the contractor's professional opinion.

Required Qualifications

Please document within your Proposal, your qualifications related to the following:

1. Experience training individuals to become a QEP or Qualified Samplers
2. Experience in developing and implementing water quality sampling programs, especially those downstream of large mining developments.
3. Experience developing and implementing soil sampling programs for remediation, clean up and exploration.
4. Experience working in remote locations and Indigenous communities;
5. Experience with reporting findings.
6. Experience developing a QAPP.
7. Experience developing a Sampling and Analysis Plan.
8. Qualifications for QEP specific to Alaska.

Additional Desired Qualifications

9. Previous experience with Alaska Natives and Alaska Native Corporations;
10. Cross-cultural communication experience.
11. Preference given to companies based in Alaska.
12. Ability to travel to Aniak, AK when weather allows, and to travel by helicopter from Aniak to mining sites.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals will be evaluated by the parties of the NVN. At a minimum, the proposal submission should include:

1. A detailed project plan, describing the approach to be taken, including how timelines will be met.
2. A proposed budget detailing expected hours and costs associated with the preliminary site assessments design, field work, reporting, as well as expected travel costs to Aniak, AK.
3. Provide clear evidence of an understanding of the project goals, and the challenges of conducting site investigations and field sampling at remote locations under difficult environmental conditions.
4. Include references to similar past projects.
5. Statements of qualifications listed above (i.e. resumes, etc.).
6. Demonstrate its compliance with the MBE/WBE program requirements pursuant to 40 CFR Part 33.

Proposals should be a maximum of 15 pages in length, excluding cover page, table of contents, and any relevant appendices.

Conditions of Service Agreement

1. Term of Service Agreement:

All Proposers must be properly licensed to do business in the State of Alaska, With the Qualified Environmental Professional certification from Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Proposers that fail to comply with this requirement may subject their proposal to being rejected as non-responsive.

2. Cooperative Clause:

By submitting a proposal, the Proposer that is awarded a service contract agrees to allow other government entities (i.e. federal, state, cities, towns, villages, etc.) to enter into their own contract based on the terms and conditions of a contract resulting from this RFP. Service to other government entities by the Proposer will be optional and will not be considered when determining an award for this RFP.

Napaimute shall not be responsible for any problems that may arise between any other government entities and the Proposer as a result of any services. Any resulting contract is solely between the Proposer and third party government entity.

3. Term of Service:

The term of this contract shall be no more than one (1) month after notification of an award with the effective date the date of the Napaimute Representative and the Proposer Representative signatures on a service contract.

4. Payment Information:

The Native Village of Napaimute is a tax-exempt Tribal Organization and may not be required to pay sales tax.

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, you agree to accept payment via check, direct deposit, or wire transfer for all purchases made under the contract awarded from this solicitation. When preparing a price proposal, electronic payment processing fees may be included in the proposed price.

5. Federal Law Clause:

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Proposer shall comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, executive orders, FEMA policies, procedures, and directives, including but not limited to Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

6. Liability Coverage:

After entering into a service contract with Napaimute the Proposer shall maintain at all times Commercial or Comprehensive General Liability insurance, with limits on no less than \$500,000.00 USD, covering Bodily Injury, Property Damage-Loss, and Personal Injury. Coverage shall be maintained over the full duration of the contract period All such insurance shall waive subrogation against Napaimute to the extent allowed by law.

7. Grievance:

Any actual or prospective Proposer who is aggrieved in connection with this procurement, or the award of a contract resulting from this procurement, may protest to the Napaimute Executive Director (Audrey Leary). The protest shall be submitted in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days after such aggrieved person knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto provided that grievance has been made in accordance with solicitation requirements.

8. Freedom of Information Statement:

Procurement information shall be a public record to the extent required by federal law, with the exception that commercial or financial information obtained in response to a “Request for Proposals (RFP)” which is privileged and confidential if so designated by the Proposer shall be protected from disclosure. Such information must be clearly marked as “CONFIDENTIAL” by those submitting responses. Privileged and confidential information is information in specific detail not customarily released to the general public, the release of which might cause harm to the competitive position of the party supplying the information.

9. Legal Statement:

Proposers to this RFP must disclose involvement in any litigation within the last five (5) years in which a claim has been made against or on the company, other than related employment issues, or contracts not related to the Service Provided. Explain the issues in these cases (or the fact that there are none) as part of your proposal submittal.

Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposals

On the time/date established for receipt of proposals, an evaluation committee will be convened to evaluate and score proposals received. The following criteria shall be used by the committee and are weighted as shown. Proposals will be evaluated and independently scored. The award of contract will be made to the Proposer or Proposers whose proposal is deemed to be most advantageous, considering all the evaluation factors. This decision shall be the sole judgment of NVN.

Criteria for rating responses will include the following:

Demonstrated experience in conducting assessments in contaminated properties and ability to adapt to on-the-field-findings and observations	20
Demonstrated experience in successfully completing tasks/projects even under challenging conditions	15
Demonstrated experience in effectively training or mentoring	15

community members not associated with the firm	
Experience and capacity of project team/personnel	15
References	10
Cost	25
Total	100

Timeline

RFP Issuance	January 29 th , 2024
Questions Deadline	April 1 st , 2024
Proposal Due	April 15 th , 2024
Anticipated Selection	Week of
Desired Contract Start	As soon as selection is made
Final SAP and QAPP	June 14, 2024
Field Work	July 2024
Draft Preliminary site assessment reports due	End of September 2024
Final Reports Due	November 2024

Submittal Procedure

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 AKDT on **April 15th**. Proposals received after this time/date will not be considered. Proposals may be emailed (preferred) or mailed to:

The Native Village of Napaimute
 PO Box 107, Aniak AK. 99557
 Attn: Joe Kameroff, Brownfields Coordinator
 Email: napaimute.brownfields@gmail.com and dangillikin@gmail.com

The recipient must supply a statement that the consulting firm presently has no interest and shall not have any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner with the performance of the services contemplated by the agreement with the project. No person having such interest shall be employed by or associated with a consultant during the term of this agreement. The recipient must also state whether they are on the list of contractors that have been debarred from receiving Federal funding.