

Kawerak Request for Proposal

Brownfields Cleanup & Planning Project

DUE March 14, 2025

KAWERAK ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, BRANDIE RADIGAN

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I. Document Purpose and Background

Kawerak, Inc., a non-profit tribal consortium located in northwest Alaska, provides a multitude of services to residents of the Bering Strait Region in one of the most remote parts of the world. Kawerak represents 20 federally recognized tribes residing within 16 communities. Most local residents of the Bering Strait Region have ancestral ties to the area dating back thousands of years, and many still speak their Indigenous language. Residents generally maintain a subsistence way of life and depend on fishing as well as hunting for walrus, whale, seal, and caribou. Recently, climate change has affected the viability of subsistence way of life. Normally locked in sea ice from October to June, the villages now experience reductions in ice cover which impact marine mammal harvests, terrestrial erosion rates, and infrastructure. Major storms bombard the land with little protection from sea ice and residents are concerned that contamination from local brownfields sites is spreading and potentially impacting residents and the wildlife upon which they depend.

Kawerak, Inc.'s Environmental Program seeks a contractor to address four sites within the Bering Strait Region and conduct a series of assessments, meetings, plans and two cleanups. This project will provide the stepping-stones needed to move these properties from contaminated to clean and will ultimately lead to the reincorporation of valuable property back into the community as well as a cleaner environment for people whose lives are extraordinarily connected to the land.

Over the course of the project the contractor will conduct one site visit to the Shishmaref Tannery site where they will host one community meeting, produce one fact sheet on the site, complete one Phase I ESA and one Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP). For Elim Old City Shop, Koyuk Native Corporation Former Tank Farm Site and Koyuk City Former Tank Farm Site, the contractor will complete for each site one fact sheet, one Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternative (ABCA) and one Cleanup & Reuse Plan (CRP). Finally, the contractor will conduct cleanups of the two Koyuk sites. Contractor will update information for all sites into the ACRES system.

The intent of this project is to assist communities in obtaining the information and documentation they need in order to pursue future cleanups which will reincorporate land into their communities and protect their environment.

II. Summary of Deliverables

To be considered, Responders must deliver proposals to the address below, on or before the deadline, and in the number of copies indicated below.

Deadline: Proposals will be accepted until Friday, March 14, 2025, at 5pm Alaska Standard Time (AKST).

Address Responses To: Kawerak Environmental Program, Attention Brandie Radigan, Brownfield Program Manager P.O. Box 948, Nome, Alaska, 99762 or email to bradigan@kawerak.org

Mark Proposals as Follows: "Brownfields Cleanup & Planning Project" – Kawerak Environmental Program"

Cover Letter: 1 page maximum
 Narrative: 20 pages maximum
 Resumes: 4 pages maximum

III. Project Information

Contractor will complete A-D:

- A. Community Involvement: contractor will complete four fact sheets and conduct one site visit, and one community meeting.
- B. Site Assessment: contractor will submit 1 ESA Phase I Assessment and compose a Sampling and Analysis Plan based on that assessment.
- C. Cleanup and Reuse Development: contractor will complete 3 ABCAs, 3 Cleanup & Reuse Plans and conduct two cleanups in Koyuk. All cleanup plans must be approved by the community leadership.
- D. All site information will be entered into ACRES by the contractor.

4 Sites: Shishmaref, Elim and Koyuk (2 sites)	
SITE	DELIVERABLE
Site 1 – Shishmaref Tannery	Phase I, community meeting, site visit, fact sheet, SAP
Site 2 – Elim Old City Shop	ABCA, CRP, fact sheet
Site 3 – Koyuk Native Corporation Former Tank Farm	ABCA, fact sheet, cleanup, cleanup verification document
Site 4 – Koyuk City Former Tank Farm	ABCA, fact sheet, cleanup, cleanup verification document

A. Community Involvement

The contractor will work with Kawerak’s Brownfields Program Manager to develop a fact sheet for each of the four sites, conduct one site visit and develop 3 fact sheets for corresponding communities.

B. Site Prioritization and Assessment

Phase I Assessment and Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) will be conducted on the Shishmaref Former Tannery. Preparation of SAP and completion of ASTM-compliant Phase I ESA will help to evaluate the extent and severity of contamination for those sites with Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs). All onsite activities will be performed in accordance with applicable EPA rules and regulations, grant requirements, state regulations, along with Kawerak and village environmental guidance. Due to the remoteness of the communities, assessment methodologies will

be selected to minimize the need for specialized equipment (e.g., excavation of test pits using community-owned equipment in place of borehole drilling).

C. Cleanup and Reuse Development

Contractor will complete 3 Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) and 3 conceptual cleanup plans (ABCA and Cleanup Plans can be combined upon approval).

The contractor will perform cleanup of the Koyuk Native Corporation Former Tank Farm site and the City of Koyuk Former Tank Farm site. The contractor can request the Phase I and Phase II Reports to utilize in determining appropriate bid.

D. ACRES

The ACRES system is an online database for Brownfields Grant recipients to electronically submit data directly to EPA. The contractor will be given access to submit updates on their projects as they occur. Including cost, contamination detected and other relevant information as per instruction.

IV. Evaluation Process

Bids will be evaluated based on contractor’s proposed narrative, experience, and the overall feasibility of the proposal.

1. A narrative will outline how contractor proposes to develop this project, including an overall timeline, an activity matrix including major projects and deadlines outlined in this RFP, and ideas for working with Kawerak staff. This is the approach to providing the services and should address who, what when, where, how, and in what sequence the work would be performed. 30 points
2. The project budget will include staff time, supplies, travel and other expenses. 20 points
3. Previous Experience: Provide a summary of projects similar in size and complexity that demonstrate relevant experience, preferably in rural Alaska. 25 points
4. Specialized Experience: Working knowledge and preferably previous experience within the fields of contaminated sites, brownfields, community engagement, and rural economic development. 25 points

Contractor Selection Criteria	Weight
1. Narrative	30
2. Budget	20
3. Previous Experience	25
4. Specialized Experience	25

Total Points 100

In the event that Kawerak cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the highest ranked Responder, staff will terminate negotiations with that Responder and initiate negotiations with the

next highest ranked Responder. This process will be followed until Kawerak and a contractor have reached agreement and a contract is executed, if at all, unless circumstances warrant otherwise.

V. Additional Information

1. Responders should be aware that the information presented in this document is preliminary, and subject to change.
2. Any costs incurred in response to this request are at the Responder's sole risk and will not be reimbursed by Kawerak or any project funders.
3. Kawerak reserves the right to define and waive informalities, and to select as deemed in its own best interest. This includes the right to decline to enter into any contracts based on this solicitation, withdraw, cancel or reissue this solicitation for any reason, or reject all proposals and proceed utilizing a different process, all at its sole discretion and without liability.

Questions:

Interested firms may submit questions in writing by email to bradigan@kawerak.org, through March 7, 2025

VI. Other

Travel

All travel costs must be outlined within the proposal's budget. Contractor and Kawerak staff can determine if it is appropriate to travel during this time or if digital meetings can be conducted.