

Kawerak Request for Proposal

Elim Contaminated Sites Assessment and Remediation Project

DUE: ~~May 1, 2026~~ **Deadline Extended to May 16, 2026**

Contaminated Sites Program

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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 residents of the Bering Strait Region have ancestral ties to the area dating back thousands of years, and many still speak Indigenous languages. Residents generally maintain a subsistence way of life and depend on fishing, gathering plants, as well as hunting for walrus, whale, seal, caribou, amongst other animals. In recent years, the changing environment has affected the viability of subsistence life ways. Normally locked in sea ice from October to June, the villages now experience reductions in ocean ice cover during the shoulder seasons, which impacts 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 the sites has leached into the soils and groundwater in the community.

- **Elim Old City Shop Buried Landfill:**

A former unlined landfill historically used by the State of Alaska and Bureau of Land Management for disposal of mixed debris and hazardous materials. Portions of the site have been previously assessed, with petroleum contamination identified. Further delineation of the landfill boundaries and leachate impacts is required.

- **Elim Old AVEC Tank Farm:**

A former power generation site with documented petroleum contamination. Previous ADEC investigations identified diesel range organics exceeding cleanup levels. Additional testing and remediation planning and implementation is required.

Kawerak, Inc.'s Contaminated Sites Program seeks a contractor to perform assessment and remediation at contaminated sites in Elim, Alaska, including:

- Elim Old City Shop Buried Landfill, this Hazard ID# 25510 is for the Elim Old City Shop site. Some testing on the buried landfill occurred within this site as the landfill is partially buried under the old city shop.
- Elim Old AVEC Tank Farm, Hazard ID# 25432

Sites are listed on the EPA Contaminated ANCSA Sites Inventory and present potential risks to human health and the environment. The community has expressed serious concerns regarding leaching contaminants into soil and groundwater, particularly given the unlined nature of the former landfill and documented petroleum contamination at the former tank farm.

The selected contractor will work in coordination with Kawerak's Contaminated Sites Program, the City of Elim, the Native Village of Elim, and the Elim Native Corporation to assess and remediate sites consistent with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and EPA Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program requirements.

The intent of this project is to assess and remediate these sites so that they no longer pose a threat to community health, subsistence resources, or future land use.

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, May 1st at 5pm Alaska Standard Time (AKST).

Address Responses To: Kawerak Environmental Program, attention Brandie Radigan, Contaminated Sites Program Manager, email to bradigan@kawerak.org

Mark Proposals as Follows: “Elim Contaminated Sites Assessment and Remediation Project.”

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

III. Project Information

Contractor will complete A through G:

- A. Contractor will meet with Kawerak's Contaminated Sites Program Manager, the Native Village of Elim, City of Elim and the Elim Native Corporation in Elim to initiate the project. Contractor will meet regularly with the Contaminated Sites Program Manager to ensure project continuity and timeline milestones are being met.
- B. Phase II environmental assessment activities, including composing a Health and Safety Plan (HASP), and soil sampling and analysis, to determine the extent of contamination.
- C. Prepare required technical documents, which include Phase II Environmental Site Assessment reports, Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), HASP and Cleanup/Remediation plans.
- D. Contractor will remediate both sites to the levels required by ADEC.
- E. Contractor will update site activities and expenses within the ACRES system. Access will be granted by Contaminated Sites Program Manager.
- F. Contractor will hire local laborers and operators when available.
- G. Contractor will obtain a Closure/Cleanup Verification Letter in compliance with ADEC's cleanup standards.

IV. Evaluation Process

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

1. A narrative will outline the contractor’s understanding of the project, how they plan to complete the project, and include an overall timeline of milestones to include details outlined in this RFP. This is the approach of 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 Responder 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, by April 27th, 2026.