

Kawerak Request for Proposal

Shishmaref Shoreline Tar Barrel Removal Project

DUE July 18, 2025

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 Shishmaref tar barrel site along the beach is spreading and potentially impacting residents and the wildlife upon which they depend.

Kawerak, Inc.'s Contaminated Sites Program seeks a contractor to test the soil on site after the barrels have been removed and to compose documentation and reports for the brownfield site known as the "Shishmaref Shoreline Tar Barrel Site". The barrels were buried by the State of Alaska in the 1950's during the construction of an airport runway and have become exposed with the erosion along the banks of the shore in recent years.

To start the project, Contractor will meet with leadership and coordinate with the Native Village of Shishmaref to determine when to conduct soil sampling, will submit samples for testing, and compose an ESA Phase II supplemental report based on those results. Upon completion of Phase II, the contractor will compose a Cleanup Verification letter in compliance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation standards. Contractor will also update the site information in the EPA's Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES). Access to ACRES will be granted by the Kawerak Contaminated Sites Program Manager.

Shishmaref Shoreline Tar Barrel Site Phase I, II and Surface Cleanup reports can be obtained upon request. Information is also available on our website at www.kawerak.org/brownfields.

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, July 18, 2025, 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: "Shishmaref Shoreline Tar Barrel Removal Project"

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

III. Project Information

Contractor will complete A through F:

- A. Meet with Shishmaref leadership to discuss the removal of barrels and soil testing of site
- B. Coordinate with Native Village of Shishmaref for soil testing after barrels are removed
- C. Conduct soil collection and testing for contaminants
- D. Compose an ESA Phase II Supplemental Report
- E. Compose Cleanup Verification Letter (no further action)
- F. Update ACRES database on site activity

A. Contractor will meet with Kawerak's Contaminated Sites Program Manager, the Native Village of Shishmaref and the Shishmaref Native Corporation in Shishmaref 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. Contractor will coordinate with the Native Village of Shishmaref to conduct the extraction of tar barrels. (The actual removal of tar barrels will be paid separately to The Native Village of Shishmaref) Contractor is responsible for coordinating this effort to ensure correct locations for testing.

C. Contractor will collect soil samples after the tar barrels have been removed and send in for analysis.

D. Contractor will compose an ESA Phase II Supplemental Report detailing the results of the testing.

E. Contractor will compose a Cleanup Verification Letter in compliance with ADEC's cleanup standards.

F. Contractor will update site activities and expenses within the ACRES system.

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 July 12th, 2025.