MAKAH TRIBE
MAKAH INDIAN RESERVATION

Request for Qualifications

Makah Watermain Assessment

PO-24-N67

Qualification Submittal Due Date:

December 2, 2026

Attn:
Leanne Ellis, Interim General Manager
Makah Tribe
PO Box 115
Neah Bay, WA 98357

Indian Health Service Project PO-24-N67

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Synopsis

The Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation (hereinafter referred to as the Tribe) owns and operates a potable water distribution system in Neah Bay, WA. The water system serves approximately 660 connections (predominantly residential connections) and has asbestos cement (AC) water lines installed in the early 1970's. The Tribe is seeking a qualified firm (hereinafter referred to as the Consultant) to perform a non-destructive, non-invasive assessment of the condition and integrity of the AC watermains and provide an existing condition report and estimated remaining useful life (RUL) of those water lines

The Tribe requests interested Consultants to submit Statements of Qualifications with estimated costs for consideration of an award of a contract for services.

This is a critical project with an expedited timeline. The Tribe desires to have the assessment and estimated RUL completed before May 2027. Consultants should therefore should be available and have the capacity to perform the work within this timeline.

Background Information

The majority of the distribution system was built during the 1970s as a grid of 6", 8", and 10" AC distribution mains. The system has approximately 2,450 LF of 10" AC main, 6,200 LF of 8" AC main, and 14,600 LF of 6" AC main, a portion of which is shown in Figure 1



Figure 1 – Central Portion of Neah Bay Water Distribution System

Project Objective

This project proposes to assess the condition and integrity of the 6”, 8” and 10” AC watermains of the system including an estimation of the remaining useful life (RUL) of said watermains in order to anticipate, plan for, and prioritize replacement of the aging watermains. The assessment will use non-invasive; non-destructive means to assess the service condition of the pipe and provide a final detailed report of findings & estimated RUL. The assessment will anticipate and correct for typical conditions often encountered in operational watermains that may interfere with the assessment, including any effects of dissolved gases, changes in pressure and/or changes in water temperature present in the system while testing. The condition assessment and estimation of RUL will include an inventory of leaks, air pockets, tuberculation, wall thickness, wall strength, wall stiffness, decalcification and remaining structural thickness. Consultants shall detail in their proposal their ability to accurately report on these criteria using their proposed methods.

Questions and Clarifications

All inquiries relating to the RFQ/RFP process *must* be directed to:

Leanne Ellis
Interim General Manager
Makah Tribe
Email: leanne.ellis@makah.com
Office 360-645-3122
Cell 360-640-5415

All questions must be received no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the RFQ deadline. It is the Consultant's responsibility to verify emails have been received if there is a delayed response. Substantive questions and answers will be made available to all known RFQ recipients; when appropriate, revisions, substitutions, or clarifications shall be issued as official addenda to this RFQ.

Statement of Qualification (SOQ) Final Submission Requirements

Three copies (if hard copy) of the SOQ must be received by 4:00 p.m., local time, on December 2, 2026. A duly authorized representative empowered to bind the Consultant must sign the SOQ. SOQs shall be submitted to the following; email subject line must include the project name and number.

Leanne Ellis
Interim General Manager
Makah Tribe
Project PO-24-N67 Makah Watermain Assessment SOQ
Email: leanne.ellis@makah.com
P.O. Box 115
Neah Bay, WA. 98357

Mis-deliveries or late submittals will be considered non-responsive.

Public Records

Information provided in a SOQ will, to the extent allowed by the law, be held in confidence and will not be revealed or discussed with competitors.

Minimum Consultant Qualifications

The evaluation process established by this RFQ/RFP is intended to enable Consultants to demonstrate their qualifications to perform the Project. At minimum, Consultants are to have the following qualifications:

A. Must have provided AC watermain condition assessments for at least five similar water systems in the past 5 years
B. Minimum percentage of the work to be completed by the Consultant with in-house staff is 95%.

Format for Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)

Concise responses are appreciated. It is requested that the SOQ does not exceed approximately twenty (20) pages, excluding the cover sheet and any tabs or indexes.

One page is defined as: one side of a single 8-1/2"x11" page, with 12-point minimum font size for substantive text. Each section shall be separated by numbered tabs, with the following sections; (1) Letter of Submittal; (2) Proposed Team; (3) Relevant Experience; (4) Project Approach; (5) Timeline and Availability; (6) Estimated Cost Range; (7) Licenses/Certifications

Statement of Qualification Requirements

This section describes specific information that must be included in the SOQ. The Tribe reserves the right to conduct an independent investigation of any information, including prior experience, identified in a SOQ by contacting project references, accessing public information, contacting independent parties, or any other means.

Letter of Submittal

Provide a Letter of Submittal on the Consultant's letterhead identifying the official representative and point of contact for the Consultant. The letter shall identify such representative's title, address, phone, and e-mail addresses. An authorized representative of the Consultant's organization shall sign the letter. Consultants must also verify that they have current workers compensation and professional liability insurance including the policy limits.

Proposed Team

Describe the proposed project team.
The submitted information will be evaluated to determine how well the Consultant identifies and demonstrates that its key personnel meet or exceed minimum qualifications necessary for the design and construction of the Project. The selection committee will evaluate how well the Consultant demonstrates that it has sufficiently experienced, qualified personnel within its organization to effectively manage the project, implement quality control, and perform the work in an expedited manner.

Relevant Experience

Provide a minimum of five individual project profiles in North America demonstrating the proposed team's relevant experience similar to this project.

For each project profile, identify:

A. The name of the project and the owner's contract or project number.
B. Owner's name, address, contact person, current telephone number, and email address.
C. Dates of testing and report submission.
D. Description of the work or services provided.
E. Which proposed project team members delivered services for the project.

The Selection committee will evaluate how well the Consultant demonstrates that it has sufficient experience in the design and construction of projects that are similar and comparable in scope to this Project.

Project Approach

Describe your overall approach to delivering the project, including:

A. Crew size.
B. Production Rate in miles of assessment per day.
C. Access point requirements, proposed spacing, spatial resolution, and descriptions or examples from previous projects.
D. Capability and accuracy of determining and reporting on air pockets, wall thickness, wall strength, wall stiffness, decalcification, spatial resolution, leaks, remaining structural thickness of the AC pipelines and estimated remaining useful life (RUL).
E. Description or estimation of your crew's daily and project support needs from the Makah Water Utility Department during the condition assessment, if any.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the strengths, weaknesses and any deficiencies in the proposed approach, and will evaluate the Consultant's understanding and capability to fulfill the project requirements.

Timeline and Availability

Provide your estimated timeline for the work to be completed and your current and near-future availability/capacity to perform the described work.

Due to the critical nature of the project, the timeline and availability to conduct the work soon after selection and award will be a prime selection criteria.

Cost Estimate

Submit estimated costs for mobilization, preparation of reports, and condition assessment per foot for the work as described in this RFQ. If there are discounted costs for larger quantities of pipeline assessed or having client field crews conduct the work, include details of pricing tiers.

The Tribe may elect to have only a selection of the AC watermain inventory assessed based on available funds, budget and estimated costs provided.

These estimated costs and averaged fees may influence the selection of a consultant but will not be a primary driver of the selection. They will also be used to negotiate an agreed upon price for the work.

Selection Process

An evaluation panel designated by the Tribe, in consultation with the IHS Engineer, will review all SOQs. Consideration will be given but not limited to the following criteria:

1. Professional Qualifications.

2. Relevant Experience.

3. Past Performance - Past performance on similar contracts with Government/Tribal agencies and private industry in terms of cost control, quality of work, and compliance with performance schedules. Past performance documentation should (at minimum) include a list of comparable projects. Each listed project should include the following.
    a. Owner.
    b. Owner contact information.
    c. Brief project description.
    d. Cost of the project.
    e. Duration of the project.

4. Capacity to Accomplish Work – Consultant's capacity to complete the project in a timely manner and current/near-future availability.

The evaluation panel may choose a short list of qualified consultants who will be invited to make a presentation to the evaluation panel. Based on the SOQs and/or interviews/presentations, the selection panel will choose the consultant which, in its opinion, best meets the requirements set forth in this Request for Qualifications. The consultant chosen will be requested to generate a contract proposal including:

- Contractual terms required by the Tribe.
- A detailed description of the proposed tasks and deliverables based on the content of this Request for Qualifications and input from the Tribe and IHS.

- An estimated cost schedule of line items consisting of tasks and deliverables. These line item quantities and costs shall not be exceeded without a written change order signed by the Tribe.

The Tribe reserves the right to negotiate or refuse any proposed contract and to seek proposals from others if a contract proposal the Tribe concurs with cannot be reached.

Indian Preference

The Tribe reserves the right to give first consideration to consultants that are 51% or greater Indian owned, provided the consultant is qualified, has sufficient prior experience and can offer reasonable prices for the work, services and fees.

Reserved Rights

The Tribe reserves the right to:

A. Amend, modify, or withdraw this Request for Qualifications;
B. Require supplemental statements or information from consultants;
C. Extend the deadline for responses to this RFQ/RFP;
D. Accept or reject any and all proposals pursuant to this RFQ/RFP, in whole or part; E. Waive or correct any irregularities in proposals after prior notice to the Consultants; and
F. Negotiate with alternative consultants if initial contract negotiations are unsuccessful.

This RFQ does not obligate the Tribe to award a contract, to pay the costs incurred in preparing any proposal, or to procure the services described herein. All SOQs are submitted at the sole cost and expense of the Consultant. The Tribe shall incur no liability or obligation to any Consultant except pursuant to a written contract of services, duly executed by the Consultant and an authorized signatory for the Tribe.