

Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Request for Proposals

Provision of expert advisory services for the environmental assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine

August 2009

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The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is requesting proposals from qualified persons or firms for the provisions of the services outlined in this Request for Proposals (RFP).

Introduction

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is the main instrument for environmental assessments of developments in the Mackenzie Valley. On August 8, 2008, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada referred the Canadian Zinc Corporation, Prairie Creek Mine development proposal, to the Review Board for environmental assessment. The Prairie Creek Mine is a proposed underground lead-zinc mine located 90 kilometers northwest of Nahanni Butte on the east side of Prairie Creek, 43 kilometers upstream from its confluence with the South Nahanni River. The Prairie Creek Mine is anticipated to process from 600-1,200 tonnes of ore per day during a minimum 14 year mine operation life.

The challenge

The proposed Prairie Creek Mine has garnered considerable interest from Aboriginal people in the Dehcho Region, local communities, government agencies, non-government organizations and the general public due to its location encompassed within the Nahanni National Park Reserve and within the South Nahanni River watershed. During assessment scoping sessions, potential impacts of the Prairie Creek mine site on local and downstream water quality were identified as a Key Line of Inquiry by interested parties, including the developer.

Mining projects are technically complex and understanding the potential impacts to the environment that mining may pose usually requires a broad knowledge base and a wide spectrum of technical

skills. For example, the Prairie Creek Mine has particular complexities related to the proposed underground paste tailings backfill technology and potential interaction with groundwater flows in the area. The temporary surface-stored tailings facility and permanent waste rock pile will also require technical scrutiny. The Review Board believes that the environmental assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine will require the application of specialized expertise that does not currently exist within its organization.

For this reason, the Review Board is issuing this RFP to identify persons or firms who may be able to assist the Review Board during the environmental assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine. The successful applicant(s) may be expected to perform the following tasks:

- Review the Developer's Assessments Report (DAR), information request responses, technical submissions and any other pertinent technical documentation;
- Assist the Review Board and its staff in the drafting of information requests to the developer and other parties;
- Participate in technical meetings organized by the Review Board;
- Attend public hearings organized by the Review Board; and
- Assist the Review Board and its staff in the drafting of the Report of Environmental Assessment.

Approach

The Review Board has issued the *Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment of Canadian Zinc Corporation's Prairie Creek Mine* (ToR) to guide the developer in completing its DAR. It has also issued a separate workplan. Applicants to this RFP are strongly advised to review the ToR and workplan prior to submitting their proposal to the Review Board to fully understand the requirements and timelines that the Review Board set out for the Prairie Creek Mine environmental assessment. The ToR and workplan are available in the Public Registry section of the Review Board's website at: www.reviewboard.ca/registry . Potential applicants are also encouraged to review the website or to contact the Review Board directly regarding both background and up-to-date information on the Prairie Creek Mine.

The Review Board recognizes that the funds available for this contract will not likely be sufficient to facilitate a comprehensive technical examination of all environmental components that will be considered in the environmental assessment. Instead, the Review Board believes a more preferable approach is to concentrate its resources on a number of identified "themes" that it considers important to focus upon during the course of the assessment. The themes to be considered are a technical evaluation of:

- the underground tailings paste backfill, surface-stored tailings and waste rock pile mine components; and
- the interaction of underground tailings paste backfill with groundwater movement through the mine development area.

The Review Board will consider proposals from qualified person or firms who have the capacity to provide expertise in one or more of the above-listed themes. The Review Board may also opt to select individual experts from within eligible consulting firms instead of engaging the services of the entire firm.

Evaluation

The potential experts will be selected on the basis of curriculum vitae (CVs) submitted as part of this RFP. All proposals will be evaluated according to their merit and will adhere to the following weighted criteria:

- Expertise and qualifications in the key theme areas (30%)
- Experience and skill in reviewing development projects (30%)
- Ability to communicate technical information to non-technical decision-makers (20%)
- Interdisciplinary experience (10%)
- Costs (10%)

When all else is equal, preference in selection will be given to Northwest Territories based applicants.

Addressing selection criteria

In addition to the submission of CVs, the proposal must directly address the criteria cited above:

Expertise and qualifications in key theme(s): The proposal must provide details regarding the relevant technical experience and qualifications that the expert advisor(s) possess in the key theme areas that the Review Board has established as being crucial for the environmental assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine.

Experience and skill in reviewing development projects: The Review Board requires that eligible expert advisors have prior practical experience in reviewing development projects. Past experience participating in the environmental assessment or the regulatory review of projects similar to that of the Prairie Creek Mine is an asset that should be clearly noted in the proposal.

Ability to communicate technical information to non-technical decision-makers: The Review Board requires that its expert advisors not only have excellent experience and qualifications in their respective disciplines, but also the ability to convey this knowledge in a meaningful and lucid non-technical manner to the Board members who must make decisions regarding the Prairie Creek Mine. The proposal should confirm the communication skills of the eligible expert(s) in this matter.

Interdisciplinary experience: The environmental assessment of a development, such as the Prairie Creek Mine, will require an interdisciplinary approach. Expert advisors will be required to work collaboratively with specialists from other disciplines. The proposal should cite past examples where the eligible expert advisors have worked within an interdisciplinary milieu.

Costs: The proposal should seek to justify the expenses associated with the provision of expert advice. Applicants must ensure that the submitted proposals include the daily charge-out rates for the proposed experts, as well as any administrative overhead expenses.

Budget

The Review Board has established an approximate budget of \$35,000.00 for the provision of expert advisory services during the Prairie Creek Mine EA. The Review Board may, if it deems necessary, increase the funds allocated for expert advisory services at any time during the EA. Conversely, it may decide not to expend all the allocated funds. The Review Board expects to call upon successful applicants on an as-needed basis throughout the duration of the environmental assessment.

Contract length

The length of the contract(s) has not been established. The duration of the Prairie Creek Mine environmental assessment is dependent on a number of factors, some of which are beyond the control of the Review Board. The Review Board expects successful applicants be able to provide expert advisory services to the Review Board until the submission of the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. Further expert advisory services may be required in the event that a post-assessment consult to modify process occurs.

Disclosure of past activities

The applicant must disclose any work previously conducted for Canadian Zinc Corporation or any of its principals (company management or directors). Applicants whose services have been engaged by other parties, such as government, during the pre-environmental assessment phase of the Prairie Creek Mine or who have conducted past work at the minesite must also disclose their activities.

Invoicing

Successful applicants who services are engaged by the Review Board will be able to submit invoices for work completed on, at minimum, a quarterly basis during the period of the contract. All invoices should be accompanied by timesheets and associated receipts for disbursement that confirm the work completed during the invoiced period.

Prior to commencement of any work, the applicant will submit a statement of work, with estimated expenses, for approval by the Review Board's Manager of Environmental Assessment. The expenses will include travel, support and miscellaneous expenses, as well as the Goods and Service Tax (GST).

Instructions to applicants

I. Proposals shall be sent to the Review Board by mail, facsimile or email to:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938, #200 Scotia Center, 5102 50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT, XIA 2N7

Facsimile number: (867) 766-7074

Email: chubert@reviewboard.ca

Proposals will be accepted until 5:00 (MST) pm on September 25, 2009. Proposals received after the exact time and date noted above will be rejected.

2. Applicants sending their proposals by mail must ensure that the original proposal is also submitted with two copies. To expedite the review of the proposal, the envelope used to send the proposal should clearly indicate the nature of the contents as well as the closing date and the applicant's name.

3. The Review Board will not be responsible for any proposal that:

- does not indicate the Request for Proposals Title, closing date and applicant's name on the outside of the envelope.
- if sent by facsimile, fails to clearly identify, by way of a cover page, the nature of the document.
- is sent to any address other than that provided above.

4. Proposals transmitted by facsimile or email will be accepted under the following conditions:

- The proposal is received before the submission deadline at the facsimile number stated.
- The Review Board will not accept liability for any claim, demand or other actions for any reason should a facsimile transmission or email be interrupted, not received in its entirety, received after the stated closing time and date, received by any other facsimile unit or email address other than those stated herein, or for any other reasons.
- The Review Board cannot guarantee the complete confidentiality of information contained in the proposal received by facsimile or email;
- The applicant shall submit an original proposal and two copies to the address stated herein immediately following the transmission of the facsimile or email.
- Emailed proposals should be submitted in either Post Document Format (PDF) or Microsoft Word format.

If sending the proposal by email or facsimile, the applicant is recommended to confirm receipt of the proposal by a telephone inquiry to ensure that it has been received before the closing date. All questions or inquiries concerning this Request for Proposals must be in writing and must be submitted to the contact person (provided below) no later than five (5) calendar days prior to the proposal deadline. Verbal responses to any inquiry cannot be relied upon and are not binding on either party.

5. Notice in writing to an applicant and the subsequent execution of a written agreement shall constitute the making of a contract. No applicant shall acquire any legal or equitable rights or privileges whatsoever until the contract is signed.

6. The contract will contain the relevant provisions of this Request for Proposals. Additionally, the contract may include mutually agreed provisions, which may arise from the accepted proposal or as a result of any negotiations prior or subsequent thereto. The Review Board reserves the right to negotiate modifications with any applicant who has submitted a proposal.

7. In the event of any inconsistency between this Request for Proposal and the ensuing contract, the contract shall govern.

8. The Review Board has the right to cancel this Request for Proposals at any time, as well as the right to revise or reissue it for any reason whatsoever, without incurring any liability and no applicant will have any claim against the Review Board as a consequence.

9. Any amendments made by the Review Board to this Request for Proposals will be issued, in writing, before the closing date and time, and will be sent to all parties that have requested the Request for Proposal documents.

10. The Review Board is not liable for any costs of preparation or submission of proposals.

11. Applicants may amend their proposal up to the closing date and time by email or facsimile. After the closing date and time, a proposal may not be amended but the applicant may withdraw its proposal at any time prior to acceptance.

12. The *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* will define the Review Board's responsibilities with respect to any information received pursuant to the RFP process.

13. The proposal and accompanying documentation submitted by the applicants are the property of the Review Board and will not be returned.

Contact information

For more information on this Request for Proposal, please contact Chuck Hubert at the Review Board at the following address:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

P.O. Box 938 #200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Ave.

Yellowknife, NT

Tel: (867) 766-7052

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