

## Frequently Asked Questions

### NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY HARBOR & ESTUARY PROGRAM

#### Site Assessment and Design Services for Shoreline Repair and Redesign

**Q.** Will a copy of the Bulkhead and Shoreline Geotechnical Data Report prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. September 2020 be made available?

Yes, a copy of the Bulkhead and Shoreline Geotechnical Data Report prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc is publicly available [here](#). Appendices for that report along with a number of other supporting documents related to the Lower Passaic River 8.3-mile clean-up can be found in the Digital Library as part of the OurPassaic.org website, under “All Public Documents,” “Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Action.”

**Q.** Can final design plans (report and relevant data) for operable unit 2, as part of the Passaic River cleanup, be made available for review prior to proposal submission or to the selected applicant?

EPA has approved the final engineering design work needed to clean up the lower 8.3 miles of the Passaic River. A fact sheet found [here](#) provides an overview of what’s in the design. The design documents are currently posted and publicly available in the Digital Library as part of the OurPassaic.org website, under “All Public Documents,” “Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Action.”

**Q.** The tasks listed in Section 3 of the RFP do not include the collection of additional data. Furthermore, Section 4 of the RFP mentions bathymetry data and a geotechnical report developed by TetraTech. Are these existing data/reports, along with the OU2 design report/data, sufficient for the site assessment and design services sought in the RFP?

Section III of the RFP, *Scope of Services*, lists under Task I - *Site assessment*, that the selected applicant will be responsible for the preparation of a survey/site plan and documenting existing conditions of the upland areas in Kearny Riverbank Park. Deliverables under this Task should convey site details as appropriate including land ownership boundaries, topography, hydrography, floodplain and wetland boundaries, vegetation, public ways and utilities, and other significant natural or cultural features, including the location and condition of water-related recreational structures (boat access, fishing, etc.). It is up to the applicant to determine if there is sufficient existing and current data for the above parameters or if the collection of additional data is necessary for an effective proposed plan.

The final clean-up design for the Lower 8.3-miles of the Passaic River and Bulkhead and Shoreline Geotechnical Data Report are just two example resources that can be used to inform the applicant's proposal and anticipated deliverables. It is up to the applicant to determine if they will anticipate gathering and utilizing additional resources and supporting documents that may be helpful.

**Q.** Are sediment and soil contamination levels known for the six parcels to be addressed as part of the project?

Our project team does not have information to provide regarding this. For all publicly available information about the Lower Passaic River 8.3-mile clean-up and any in-river information available, please visit the Digital Library as part of the OurPassaic.org website, under "All Public Documents," "Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Action."

**Q.** Is bathymetric data obtained in 2017 considered up to date?

The 2017 bathymetry survey is the most recent survey conducted.

**Q.** What number of renderings should we assume in our proposal?

There is no minimum or required number of renderings to be included as part of the proposal, but applicants should convey how many renderings (and maps/other graphics) they anticipate being able to deliver. These should be sufficient to convey an overview of proposed improvements as well as important details for non-technical audiences and prospective funders of the proposed project.

**Q.** Do you anticipate any environmental investigation or environmental remediation services will be required as part of this contract?

Environmental investigation or remediation services are not expected as part of this project. For the most up to date information publicly available about the Lower Passaic River 8.3-mile clean-up please refer to the Digital Library as part of the OurPassaic.org website, under "All Public Documents," "Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Action."

**Q.** Are project stakeholder meetings under Task I proposed to be in person or virtual? Who will be responsible for organizing the community outreach meetings and how many of these are to be assumed? Will meetings be held virtually or in-person?

Initial planning meetings with project stakeholders will most likely be held virtually. There will be at least one community outreach meeting to be held in person. The Town of Kearny will be responsible for organizing the community outreach meeting as mentioned in Task II - Design Services & Public Input. Selected applicant is expected to present on their work as part of the project and engage community participants in providing input on applicable areas of the proposed final plan.

**Q.** Is there spatial data available that shows the remedial action boundary overlain with the existing tree line?

The Diamond Alkali OU2 remedial action boundary is along the Mean High Water (MHW) elevation. For the most up to date information publicly available about the Lower Passaic River 8.3-mile clean-up please refer to the Digital Library as part of the OurPassaic.org website, under “All Public Documents,” “Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Action.”

**Q. Is the proposed duration of the remedial action known?**

The Diamond Alkali OU2 remedial design includes a proposed in-river implementation schedule of 8 years of dredging and capping, but the contractor hired to perform the work may change that schedule subject to EPA approval. There is no start date yet for the implementation. See [here](#) for a fact sheet with an overview of the final remedial design. For the most up to date information publicly available about the Lower Passaic River 8.3-mile clean-up please refer to the Digital Library as part of the OurPassaic.org website, under “All Public Documents,” “Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Action.”

**Q. Is a summary of the stakeholder groups available? Is there an organized neighborhood association or community board?**

Project stakeholders include representatives from the Town of Kearny, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP), EPA and the Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership (LPR UWFP). Introduction to project stakeholders will take place once applicant has been selected.

**Q. Can you confirm what is included in the 15-page limit?**

The components below are to be included as part of the proposal’s 15-page limit. Please refer to the full RFP for a detailed description of each of these components:

1. Cover Letter
2. Title Page
3. Proposal Narrative (work plan, professional merits and experience, project timeline, project budget description)
4. Attachments (Budget forms, descriptions of comparable projects)

If they choose to, applicants can submit resumes for their project team and business certifications as part of the ‘Attachments’ section of their proposal and it will not be counted as part of the 15-page limit.

**Q. Does the Hudson River Foundation and/or Town of Kearny have any specific MBE/WBE goals or requirements?**

The Hudson River Foundation seeks to ensure that small businesses, minority-owned firms, and women’s business enterprises are used to the fullest extent practicable in all its contracting, in compliance with [40 CFR Part 33](#). In order to qualify and participate as a Disadvantage Business Entity, an entity should indicate its certification by EPA’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

**Q.** Do you anticipate the need for divers to confirm location, size, type, and condition of shoreline structures as part of the scope?

Applicants should indicate what kinds of site investigations are appropriate and needed to meet the goals of the RFP, either as part this scope of work or anticipated future work.

**Q.** Will the Town of Kearny be providing any matching funds?

The Town of Kearny will be providing in-kind support through a few ways including but not limited to project management, providing technical review and guidance, and creating opportunities to allow for community input as part of this project.

**Q.** Does you anticipate any new utility connections, e.g., for drinking fountains or lighting?

Assessing the need, feasibility and scope of any new utilities is the purpose of the study.

**Q.** What are the specific design elements expected to be delivered as part of the 30% design deliverable?

The 30% design deliverables should include an assessment of site conditions and any assumptions/required future assessments; site access and construction considerations; permit requirements; and anticipated schedule and cost estimates.

**Q.** Is the selected applicant required to have a Licensed Site Remediation Professional on the team? Or an archaeologist?

No, applicants are not required to have a Licensed Site Remediation Professional or an archaeologist on their team. However, we will consider the benefits of having a project team with an array of skills and expertise.

**Q.** Task I - Site assessment includes a request to prepare a survey/site plan to include, among other things, land ownership boundaries, public ways, and utilities. Is a formal property boundary survey conducted by a licensed Land Surveyor required for this phase including associated deed research?

The services of a licensed Land Surveyor are not a requirement of this project. Applicants can utilize GIS tax map and parcel information already available on the Town of Kearny website. However, ultimately It is up to the applicant to indicate what kinds of site investigations are appropriate and needed to meet the goals of the RFP, either as part this scope of work or anticipated future work.

**Q.** What is the desired level of detail for existing conditions analysis? Does the design team need to provide a new topographic survey, new hydrographic analysis, wetland boundary mapping, or utility survey? Or will the general locations of these features based on publicly available data and on-site observations be sufficient?

Applicants should indicate what kind of detail is appropriate and needed to meet the goals of the RFP, either as part this scope of work or anticipated future work. For example, applicants can identify existing conditions through the use of aerial photos and/or utilizing GIS tax map and parcel information already available on the Town of Kearny website.

**Q.** Is a topographic survey of the upland areas of the park available?

We currently do not have a topographic survey of the riverbank along the coastline in Kearny. However, we do have a 2023 USGS Quad map available to applicants. Please see [here](#). In addition, Shapefile and File Geodatabase of the 2014 1' contour data from the Meadowlands that just barely reaches the Passaic River there is found [here](#).

**Q.** If a new topographic survey is required, what bounds does the client team anticipate? Page 7 of the RFP notes that site design may extend beyond the bounds of the 2019 geotechnical data report.

A new topographic survey is not required but it is up to the applicant to determine if the production of a new topographic survey is appropriate and needed to meet the goals of the RFP. The bounds of the study should include the entirety of Passaic Avenue right-of-way (ROW) to Passaic River mean high waterline.

**Q.** Can you confirm that there are no upland structures on the site or anticipated?

No major upland structures are anticipated. Project stakeholder meetings may identify a desire for park amenities and infrastructure such as bathrooms, park furniture and landscaping. The only facilities currently in the area include the futsal facility, street hockey rink, Frank Vicent Marina dock, archery range, storage building and a parking lot. At this point, the Town of Kearny anticipates the 5 following developments elsewhere along the river:

1. Phase 3 of Passaic Ave. Redevelopment Plan Vermella mixed use development, including off site improvements;
2. The Town is acquiring the former Skinner Bros. Service Station for parks and open space;
3. The Town is acquiring the former Rapp's Boat Yard for parks and open space;
4. The Town received a NJDEP Green Acres grant to modernize and improve Norman Doyle Pavillion Playground; and
5. The Town received a NJDEP Green Acres grant to replace the crew dock and stabilize the shoreline near Route 7/Belleville Turnpike.