



# Urban Redevelopment Authority

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**METALS RECOVERY FOR THE NINE MILE RUN SLAG PILE  
IN THE SWISSHELM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD  
OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH**

**RFP Issue Date: September 19, 2014  
Proposal Due Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2014**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
METALS RECOVERY  
NINE MILE RUN SLAG PILE  
SEPTEMBER 2014**

---

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is soliciting proposals from prospective metals recovery firms to recover metals contained within the Nine Mile Run Slag Pile. During and after these operations the slag is to be processed on and remain on-site, as required by a consent decree issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Following the work, the property is to become the third and final phase of a residential development; construction of the first two adjacent phases is nearing completion.

**II. SITE DESCRIPTION**

The property is located in the 14<sup>th</sup> ward of the City of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, between Interstate 376 (Parkway East) and the Monongahela River. The site was previously the Duquesne Slag Products Company slag dump. The site is bounded on the north and west by Frick Park, on the south by the right-of-way of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad which parallels the river, and on the east by residential properties in the 14<sup>th</sup> ward. Nine Mile Run is located just north and west of the property and flows from northeast to southwest before entering the Monongahela River approximately 300 yards from the southernmost property boundary. The property consists of two parcels totaling approximately 72 acres in size. The "Project Overview" drawing included as an exhibit to this report provides additional information.

Land use at the site prior to 1900 is undetermined, but disposal of steel-making slag occurred on the property from at least 1967 to the 1980s. The pile is approximately 24 acres, irregularly shaped with approximate dimensions of 1000' x 1500'. The depth ranges from 1 to 80 feet with an average of 40'. The approximate volume and weight of the pile is estimated to be 1.5 million cubic yards and 2.5 million tons.

Field and laboratory testing have shown that the largest component (30% to 70%) of slag consists of gravel size particles with a relatively small portion consisting of fine particles (3% to 14%). Generally the maximum particle size is less than one inch. The slag was likely processed to some degree prior to its placement in the pile.

The site is under a Consent Order and Agreement (COA) between PADEP, the URA, Summerset Land Development Associates, L.P., and the City of Pittsburgh. Among other requirements, the COA prohibits the removal of slag from the site. Prior to start of operations, this COA is to be amended by the URA and PADEP to allow metals recovery from the site.

A copy of the Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and a Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation have been included as exhibits to this RFP. The COA is included as an appendix to each of these reports.

Two Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority owned water mains cross the site. A 16" HDPE waterline crosses the middle of the site along an east-west axis, and a 20" water line also exists along the southern perimeter of the site, at the top of the embankment above the railroad.

**III. PROJECT SCOPE**

The contractor shall provide all tools, supplies, equipment, transportation and labor necessary to remove the maximum feasible amount of metals from the slag pile. The metals are to be removed from the slag on-site and sent to the appropriate locations for reuse. Following an

exploratory phase, the contractor will be given a maximum of 15 months to complete the metals recovery work. Prior to the end of the work period the property shall be rough graded to the elevations indicated on the "Cut/Fill Summary" included as an exhibit to this RFP.

The work will be divided into two phases, an initial exploratory phase to more accurately determine the locations of recoverable materials and a production phase. The initial phase shall last no more than five weeks. During this phase the contractor will be allowed to utilize borings and a limited number of test pits to characterize the type of materials on the site. All borings must be adequately plugged. Up to ten test pits, each no more than 20' in diameter, may be excavated. All test pits are to be refilled, compacted and graded. Prior to the end of the exploratory phase, the site shall be returned to its original condition.

Following the exploratory phase, a report shall be provided to the URA describing anticipated yields and the projected financial return to the URA. The URA will review the report and decide as to whether or not to move forward with the production phase. Should the URA provide its written approval, the selected firm shall proceed to the production phase. These phases should be included in the selected materials recovery firm's schedule discussed further in the "Proposal Requirements" section below.

Access during the initial exploratory phase will be allowed via an existing unimproved road on the site that extends from the end of Goodman Street located to the southeast of the site. Access from Goodman Street will strictly be limited to the staging of equipment and materials required for investigations; no hauling of recovered materials will be allowed via Goodman Street.

During the production phase, access to the site during the work will be limited to Commercial Street located at the northeastern corner of the site. No access will be permitted through the residential streets of Swisshelm Park. An existing bicycle and pedestrian trail may be utilized for access and must be restored at the completion of work. Access is to be maintained along the trail for bicycles and pedestrians during the course of work. Any damage to the trail shall be repaired promptly and prior to the end of the project the trail shall be restored to its original condition.

Subject to prior approval of the URA as to size, design, type, and location and to local regulations, the Contractor shall erect temporary signs as necessary for the purpose of identification and controlling traffic, including pedestrians and bicycles. The selected firm shall furnish, erect, and maintain such signs as may be required or as directed by the Department of Public Works of the City of Pittsburgh, as otherwise necessary to safeguard life and property. This shall include signage indicating "no trail access/no trespassing" where appropriate.

The contractor is to use appropriate air monitoring devices to ensure compliance with existing air protection regulations during the entire course of the work, including the exploratory phase.

Every effort and means possible are to be employed by the selected metals recovery firm to generate the least possible noise during the work. Working machinery and equipment designed to operate with the least possible noise will be required, including the use of shields, soundproof housings, enclosures, or other physical barriers to restrict the transmission of noise. When gearing is used, it shall be of a type designed to reduce noise to a minimum. Compressors shall be equipped with silencers on intake lines. Gas or oil-operated equipment shall be equipped with silencers or mufflers on intake and exhaust lines. Air and gas driven saws will not be permitted. Wherever practicable, electricity shall be used for power to reduce noise, unless otherwise stipulated.

Operations shall be limited to between the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Only approved emergency work may be performed at other times. The stated start times include machine start-up times.

The selected firm will be required to obtain all permits and fees required to complete the work. Following is a list of permits that will likely be required. It is anticipated that the NPDES permit for the site, attached as an exhibit to this RFP, will need to be amended by the contractor. General Permit WMGR-082 will need to be obtained from PADEP Bureau of Waste Management. A non-coal mining permit will be required from PADEP. An air quality permit will need to be obtained from the Allegheny County Health Department. In addition, a land operations permit will be required from the City of Pittsburgh. Please note that the firms's previous records of compliance with PADEP requirements will be reviewed and considered as part of the selection process.

The selected firm shall be required to prepare a health and safety plan (HASP) satisfying the requirements set forth in OSHA standard 29 CFR parts 1910 and 1926, 49 CFR parts 100-199 and 261. The plan will include, among other things, provisions for proper personal protective equipment, site security, clean-up, decontamination procedures, disposition of waste, spill and decontamination contingency plan and emergency procedures. The HASP shall also include a traffic plan.

A buffer zone 100 feet in width shall be established along the entire east boundary of the site. All vegetation within the zone shall remain in place and except for the designated entrance location the buffer zone shall remain undisturbed for the duration of the work. For the remainder of the site, all debris from clearing and grubbing operations shall be removed from the site. No burning is allowed on site.

The selected firm shall be responsible for the security of all personnel, materials and equipment, including fuel tank storage and job trailers at the work site.

The selected firm shall designate a project manager for this project. This individual shall be in responsible charge of the overall management of the contractor's activity and be the point of contact for the URA's Project Manager. This position shall handle general project administration and will provide input as needed to fulfill contract obligations. This individual shall be well versed in environmental issues and other issues inherent in slag handling operations in an urban environment.

A **site visit** will be held on **Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 9:00 AM**. All interested firms shall meet in the 11<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of the URA offices located at 200 Ross Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 for a brief overview of the project followed by group visit to the site. The site visit will involve a walking tour of the site. No heavy equipment will be allowed on site. Attendance at the site visit is highly recommended. Access to the site at other times is prohibited; this is the only opportunity for interested parties to enter the site.

#### **IV. MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**

Indicate how your firm would propose to incorporate minority and women owned business participation into this project.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to minorities and women and equal opportunities for business growth and development to minority and women entrepreneurs. To that end, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh requires that all contractors and subcontractors performing work for the URA shall demonstrate a good faith effort to obtain the participation of minority and women business enterprises in the work to be performed for the URA and to employ minorities and women during performance of the work. It is the URA's objective to obtain minority and women's participation in its contracts with the goal being eighteen percent (18%) of the contract amount be expended for minority participation and seven percent (7%) of the contract amount be expended for women's participation. The URA promotes the full utilization of subcontracting activities to ensure a successful Minority and Women's Participation Plan.

## **V. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

Your proposal shall include the following items:

1. Provide a narrative that describes your understanding of the scope and includes a detailed plan for accomplishing the work, including a plan of work for any initial testing and assessment activities, movement and stockpiling of soil and slag material during your proposed operation, a description of the methods/processes that are to be utilized to recover metals from the slag material, your intended approach for access to the site, the methods that you intend to use to restore the site following extraction of the metals, etc. Include a schedule including a breakdown of the anticipated phases of work and not exceeding a total time of 15 months to complete all work, including allowances for permitting/mobilization and restoration of the site upon completion of work. Include an estimate of the size and makeup of the residual slag that will be left on site following the removal process;
2. A statement of qualifications of the ability for your company to complete the work, including a summary of personnel and equipment that are to be assigned to this project, include resumes of the key personnel to be involved in the project;
3. A description of your company's experience with projects of similar scope, including contact information for references;
4. Describe how your firm will propose to incorporate minority- and women-owned businesses on this project; and
5. A description of the contract type, method, incentives or other unique arrangements that you propose to use for this project, including specifics regarding the anticipated value of the metals to be collected and the revenue-sharing arrangement to be made with the URA.

## **VI. CONSULTANT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection for this work shall be based on the following criteria:

1. The proposed contract structure and financial incentives proposed for the project;
2. Your understanding of the scope of work and your technical approach to creatively accomplish the tasks;
3. Your experience with similar projects and past record of compliance with environmental and safety regulations;
4. The qualifications of the staff subcontractors and subconsultants assigned to the project;
5. The level of MBE/WBE participation;

## **VII. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL**

Three copies of the proposal are to be submitted at the offices of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor to:

**Martin R. Kaminski**  
**Director of Engineering and Construction**  
**Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh**  
**200 Ross Street**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

Proposals must be submitted no later than 3:00 PM, prevailing time on Tuesday, October 21, 2014. Proposals will not be returned. Selection of a firm will occur in November of 2014.

Any questions regarding this Request for Proposal should be made in writing to Brent Lahaie at [blahaie@ura.org](mailto:blahaie@ura.org).