Notice of Request for Proposal: Air Resources and Water Resources Preliminary Draft EIS

Procurement Package Folder

2026-05-ENV-ERV-00017 - Draft EIS

Scope of the Procurement Package

Background

Talon Nickel (USA) LLC (Talon) is proposing to construct and operate an underground nickel-copper mine near Tamarack, Minnesota (the Project). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (Minn. Stat. Ch. 116D).

Minn. R. 4410.2550 allows a project proposer to include a preliminary draft EIS in the information it submits, for the RGU's review, modification, and determination of completeness and adequacy. See Minn. R. 4410.2550, authorized under Minn. Stat. 116D.04, subd. 2a(k).

The selected firm is producing preliminary draft EIS content for the RGU's use. Talon is scoping this submission to the Water Resources and Air Resources topics in the Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (SEAW) and Draft Scoping Decision Document (DSDD), both issued by the RGU on 14 July 2026 and posted on the DNR's Tamarack Mining Project environmental review webpage. Per Minn. R. 4410.2550, the submission must identify or appendix all studies and other sources of information substantiating the analysis; this is a deliverable requirement, not a best practice, and it flows into every task description and the evaluation criteria below.

Scope of Work

The selected firm will prepare a preliminary draft EIS for each of the indicated resources, minimally addressing:

- Affected environment and existing conditions
- Potential environmental effects
- Alternatives identified for evaluation
- Cumulative potential effects, as applicable
- Mitigation measures
- Supporting technical analyses, figures, and references

The content for the preliminary draft EIS will be based on the studies, analyses, models, and reports being prepared by Talon and its consultants for the EIS data submittal to the RGU. The corpus of work includes the following:

Water Resources

- **Groundwater and Hydrogeology.** Baseline monitoring synthesis, conceptual groundwater flow model, numerical (3D) groundwater model, aquifer sustainability quantification, and water balance inputs (construction dewatering, potable/non-potable, contact water).

- **Surface Water and Wetlands.** Baseline surface water and wetland characterization, conceptual model, and quantitative evaluation of Project effects, including applicable wild rice water quality standards, wetland fragmentation, stormwater, and CWTP discharge effects.
- **Wastewater and Water Treatment.** Treatment facility capability evaluation, pretreatment measures, and gray water loading estimates.
- **Water and Mass Balance Integration.**

Air Resources

- **Air Quality Criteria Pollutant Modeling.** AERMOD dispersion modeling, NAAQS/MAAQS analysis, PSD/BACT analysis, and Class I/II increment and AQRV/visibility analyses.
- **Air Emissions Health Risk Assessment.** RASS/AERA methodology and applicable federal air toxics standards.
- **Fugitive Dust and Odor Evaluation.** Characterization and best management practices.

Scope Completeness

Talon has described the scope above based on its current understanding of the regulatory pathway and its review of the RGU's SEAW and DSDD, issued 14 July 2026. The RGU's final scoping document (FSD) is anticipated in 2027. Each bidder is expected to review this RFP as a qualified practitioner. The bidder may identify items, not expressly stated above, necessary to produce a complete, submission-ready EIS section. Such items should be identified in the bidder's proposal and priced as an identified scope addition, with any conditional item expressly identified as conditional. Identifying an item for addition will not be treated as a cost disadvantage; Talon would rather see it priced than discover it after award.

Deliverables

At minimum, the deliverable package to the RGU would include:

- Draft Water Resources EIS section (.docx), formatted to EIS requirements
- Draft Air Resources EIS section (.docx), formatted to EIS requirements
- Supporting studies, model outputs, and data sources, cited or appended, per Minn. R. 4410.2550's identification requirement
- Figures and GIS data supporting the baseline, impact, and mitigation discussions in both sections

Qualifications and Key Personnel

Proposals must identify the named individuals proposed for this assignment, their role, and their directly relevant EIS work experience, groundwater and surface water modeling, and air dispersion/health risk modeling. Provide qualifications and a statement of each named individual's current committed capacity/utilization for the proposal period, so that potential scheduling conflicts are visible at submission rather than after award.

Schedule

1. Due date for submission: 8 December 2026 at 5:30 PM EST.
- The submissions will be opened on 9 December 2026 starting at 10:00 AM EST by a Selection Committee comprising:
    a. Rob Beranek
    b. Chris Wallace
    c. John Wozniewicz

d. Beau Molitor

Table 1 — Preliminary Schedule

Milestone	Date	Responsible Party
RFP Issued	13 November 2026	Talon
Notice of Intent	23 November 2026	Bidder
Questions Deadline	25 November 2026	Bidder
Response to Questions	1 December 2026	Talon
Full Technical and Cost Proposal Due	8 December 2026	Bidder
Proposal Evaluation	9–15 December 2026	Talon
Award Notification	Week of 14 December 2026	Talon
Notice to Proceed (target)	18 December 2026	Talon

Schedule and Milestones

The selected firm's schedule must work within the following fixed program milestones (Table 2), set by Talon.

Table 2 — Program Milestones

Milestone	Target Date
Notice to Proceed	Week of 18 December 2026
Kickoff	Week of 4 January 2027
Draft Sections Shared for Ongoing Review	Rolling, as developed
Talon Review and Firm Revisions	July 2027 (approximately one month)
Final Submittal to DNR	August 2027

Additional Details

- All potential vendors must refrain from CC/BCC or directly contacting any other Talon personnel regarding the scope of work until a vendor has been formally selected.
- Interpretation of written bid or proposal specifications shall not be made to prospective bidders or proposers. Any questions related to the RFP/sealed bid request must be made via email and directed to Emma Van Guilder (vanguilder@talonmetals.com) (not the requesting department). Any violation of this requirement will result in disqualification. Potential vendors are not permitted to contact the requesting department directly. All potential vendors will receive the same information.
- All bids should be transmitted to Talon via Emma Van Guilder (vanguilder@talonmetals.com). Bids may include links to additional files, when applicable, which Talon will download and include in the bid package during its assessment process. Bidders cannot grant anyone else from Talon or its partners access to the bid.
- All proposers/bidders must include a statement within their proposal/bid certifying that they are not suspended or debarred from participating in US government contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, and other assistance programs. By submitting a proposal/bid, vendors are certifying that they understand the regulations included in 2 CFR Section 200.214 (Uniform Guidance) and that their company is not currently suspended or debarred.

Cost Proposal

Cost proposals should be submitted using a simple, one-table cost proposal (Table 3) broken out by the two resource areas plus a management/overhead line, including a summary-level breakdown for each task. For each row where appropriate, the bidder should indicate key personnel, how many hours, and the resulting cost.

Table 3 — Cost Proposal (example)

Task	Key Personnel	Hours	Labor Cost ($)	Other Direct Costs ($)	Total Cost ($)
Water Resources					
Item 1					
Item …					
Air Resources					
Item 1					
Management & Overhead					
Item 1					

Clarification Process

Bidder Questions on This RFP

Bidders may submit written questions regarding this RFP's scope, requirements, or process. Questions should be submitted by 24 November 2026. Talon will distribute written responses to all questions, to every firm that has submitted a Notice of Intent, by 1 December 2026.

Talon's Clarification of Submitted Proposals

After proposal receipt, Talon may issue written clarification questions to any bidder regarding its submittal. Responses are due within 48 hours of the request unless a longer period is granted in writing. Failure to respond within the stated timeframe may affect the proposal's evaluation.

Proposal Submission

Notice of Intent and proposals should be submitted electronically in PDF format to Emma Van Guilder (vanguilder@talonmetals.com), no later than the date indicated in Table 1. Please include the RFP No. with the submissions. Proposal format is open, provided the items requested under the Scope of Work and the Cost Proposal are each addressed. Bidders must submit the Scope of Work response and the Cost Proposal as two separate documents. Bidders must direct all communications regarding this RFP, including questions, solely to Emma Van Guilder and must not contact any other Talon team member.

Talon reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor informalities, request clarification from any firm, and make an award without further discussion. Non-award notifications will give each firm enough information to understand the decision without disclosing proprietary details of other proposals.

Notice Approved by

/s/ Vince Conte

Vince Conte, CFO

Evaluation and Award Criteria and Specifications

Criteria Required*	Weight	Score for Vendor's Submission (1 = low, 5 = high)	Total	Notes
Technical Approach	20%		0	
Scope Coverage	20%		0	
Relevant Experience	35%		0	
Cost	25%		0	
Total	100%			