

**CITY OF VALDEZ – NORTH TOWN TANK RE-COATING – 2017 – NEXT REVIEW OF THE TWO BIDS BY DAY
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There were two bids. Both bids met the initial responsive requirements for reading and consideration. Both bids were significantly over our \$ 435,000 budget, but our budget was established before we knew we had existing lead paint to abate. The lead paint came as a surprise. The tank was re-painted in the mid 1980's, and we thought the paint used in the mid 1980's would be low in lead content. However, we do not know if all the original paint was removed, and that may be the source of the lead that we discovered in our testing. The exterior was bid as an additive alternate, as we knew the bids would come in high after the discovery of the lead paint.

We required a minimum five years of experience, and five separate projects in recoating steel tanks at least 700,000 gallons in size to get good Contractors that had tank painting experience, but it cut the field down to two bids.

The two contractors that bid met the minimum requirements to paint the tank. If there was not lead paint involved, awarding the contract to the low bidder would make sense without further qualification. Further investigation was needed to determine the responsibility of each contractor in lead abatement. The level of safety needed for lead paint removal and environmental control is critical, especially since housing is close to the tank site. The Contractor must have a good understanding of the means and methods necessary to perform the lead paint removal and environmental control. The Contractor must have the appropriate safeguards in place. We cannot have lead contamination spread beyond the work site. We cannot afford to have inexperienced contractors with lead abatement when homes are so close. We did not ask for lead abatement experience in the bid submission. Our specifications are clear that the Contractor will deal with lead paint, and additional information was needed.

The City's specifications allow us to require additional to determine if the Contractor is responsible and has the skill and experience in performing contracts of a similar nature. Quoting from our specifications:

10. Bidder Qualifications

Before a bid is considered for award, the apparent low bidder may be requested to submit a statement of facts or proof in detail as to his previous experience in performing similar or comparable work, technical abilities, equipment, size, manpower and financial resources to complete and perform the work as outlined in the contract documents, plans and specifications.

Article 3.3 Bidder Qualifications

The Engineer may require the Bidder to submit such information as he/she may deem necessary to determine a Bidder's responsibility.

The Engineer shall determine whether a Bidder is responsible on the basis of any or all of the following criteria:

The skill and experience demonstrated by the Bidder in performing contracts of a similar nature;

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We requested at least three additional experience references from both Contractors showing work in a lead paint environment in the following:

1. Implementation of a Lead Compliance Plan covering worker protection, respiratory protection, medical surveillance, medical evaluation, environmental emission control, waste management, waste disposal, site specific work, certified industrial hygienist review of plan.
2. Employee training and site safety in the requirements of 29 CFR 1926.62 including lead training, medical monitoring, competent person on site, personal air monitoring, decontamination shower facilities.
3. Work area safety per 29 CFR 1926.62 with an established lead control area, area air monitoring, and dust collection that is balanced with the dehumidification equipment.
4. Qualified laboratory testing including before and after project blood testing, personal air monitoring, and area air monitoring.
5. Transportation and disposal of lead including collection of spent abrasives using a vacuum system, packaging of lead contaminated abrasive into drums or lined sacks for transport, trained labor and containers needed for transportation.
6. Anything else that the Contractors would like to point out to reference their qualifications.

Kane, Inc. provided three references complying directly with our request. Coastal Services did not submit anything. At this point, we do not know if Coastal Services has any lead abatement experience. I am nervous about awarding the contract to Coastal Services given the proximity of homes to the area. I recommend we award the contract to the second low bidder, Kane, Inc. since they have considerable lead abatement and tank painting experience.

Dean Day

Day Engineering

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