Date:	**March 9, 2026**
Project:	**AAP Drilling Field Work**
Solicitation No.:	**AIDEA26-048**
Addendum No.	**Four**

TO ALL PLANHOLDERS:
The enclosed addendum amends the documents for the above referenced Project:

1. **Inquiry: Please elaborate on lab tests. In Addendum One, AIDEA said, "*The expected tests will be: Organic ignition if field class is over 5%, classification (includes gradation), and Atterburg limits,"* but this doesn't provide guidance on total number of lab tests per hole by phase number. More information is needed to make a realistic cost estimate for Phase 6 to cover ALL soil samples from Phases 1 through 5. There should be significantly more and varied tests that need to be performed- density, soil classification, ice/moisture content, strength tests, gradations, consolidation tests, etc. Need a way to quantify costs.**

   ANSWER: *AIDEA is quantifying the total cost for samples and lab tests. Offerors just need to respond with the cost of a single test per type requested in Part E, E-5 of the Schedule of Values. This is not a graded or evaluated component, AIDEA is just assessing if an Offeror has the capability to perform these functions and an Offeror can still be awarded the main body of work even if this is left blank. Please see below for additional tests that may be performed. Please feel free to attach a continued rate sheet for these tests to the Schedule of Values in order to list all of the rates.*

   Test types:
   1. Classification: Includes gradation and hydrometer analysis to determine Atterberg limits:
   - *LL – Liquid Limit*
   - *PL – Plastic Limit*
   - *PI – Plasticity Index*

   2. Gradation: A standard laboratory sieve analysis that separates gravel, sand, and fines.
   Common sieve sizes include:
   3", 2", 1", ¾", ½", ⅜", #4, #10, #40, #100, #200.

   3. Organic Content by Ignition
   Required only if field classification indicates >5% organics, consistent with USCS organic soil criteria.

   4. Ice Content

Should be evaluated in the field by the engineering geologist, who measures ice-lens thickness and classifies ice type (e.g., Nbn, Nbe, Vx).

5. Moisture Content

Moisture tests may be unnecessary depending on the drilling method. For example, wash rotary drilling introduces water, leading to unreliable moisture measurements. Additionally, bridge foundation samples are often collected below the water table, where saturation is expected.

Other Testing

Additional laboratory tests—such as density, strength, and consolidation—should be performed only at the direction of the foundation engineer. Standard Penetration Test (SPT) samples already provide blow counts used to assess soil density and estimate capacity.

These supplemental tests are optional tools available to the engineer and do not need to be performed at all locations or for all bridges. Their use should be determined as conditions warrant during the drilling process, rather than performed routinely without purpose.

Sampling Intervals

The standard sampling interval for bridge foundation drilling is as follows:

- *Every 5 ft from ground surface to 50 ft below ground surface (bgs)*
- *Every 10 ft from 50 ft bgs to the bottom of the hole*

*These intervals serve as general guidelines for all bridge projects. However, the foundation engineer or the on-site engineering geologist may modify the sampling frequency if subsurface conditions vary between the standard intervals. Any variations—such as shorter sampling intervals—are typically determined by qualified field personnel logging the test hole or through consultation with the bridge engineer. Offerors do **NOT** need to calculate how many tests will be performed, Offerors are just to provide the cost of each single test type.*

2. **Inquiry: The last addendum required no bridge thermistor wells. These are the most important thermal regimes required for the project? Why delete this requirement?**

***ANSWER:** For many of these bridges, AIDEA will not need thermistors, but the geotechnical engineer may request them at certain sites. AIDEA does not believe this will happen often. AIDEA will also determine this in the field alongside the winning Offeror while drilling. The expectation will be that when permafrost is encountered during geotechnical drilling, the Offeror will notify AIDEA. AIDEA's Geotechnical Engineering team will then determine whether thermistors are*

required at designated bridge locations, and the Contractor shall prepare an installation plan accordingly. Cost for this addition can be determined upon contract issuance.

3. **Inquiry: AIDEA proposal states that relevant data and documentation regarding permits are available on the AIDEA proposal website. Can relevant permits relating to land access from BLM, NPS, NAB, Nana Regional, and Doyon limited be made available to proposers as this is relevant information to preparing bids and accomplishing work?**

   ANSWER: *Any permits relevant to this RFP will be provided to the winning Offeror.*

4. **Inquiry: Phase 5 Cut Slopes does not identify an expected number of borings at each identified location. The number of borings expected in each work area will impact on the unit price. Can a set number of borings at cut slope's locations be provided for bidding purposes?**

   ANSWER: *AIDEA expects one bore hole at each cut location with the primary focus being ice content. Additional borings may be required to establish limits of ice rich soils, if found. The presence of these soils won't be known until the first boring is completed so for bidding purposes one boring is required at each location.*

5. **Inquiry: What is the expectation for additional drilling depth if/when bedrock is encountered?**

   ANSWER: *If bedrock refusal is encountered, the Offeror shall not independently advance drilling beyond refusal without coordination. When the Offeror's geotechnical field professional questions the validity of refusal or the need for additional drilling, the Offeror shall promptly coordinate with AIDEA's geotechnical engineer where AIDEA will provide direction on whether additional drilling, alternative methods, or termination is appropriate.*

END OF ADDENDUM

We appreciate your participation in this solicitation.

Sincerely,

Michael Bell

AIDEA Procurement Specialist