



May 14, 2025

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Purchasing
City Hall Room 120

City of Duluth
411 West 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

RE: ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR 2026 LEAD WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENTS, #25-AA15

LHB is proud to continue supporting the City of Duluth's efforts to improve the health and safety of our community through the replacement of lead water services in our neighborhoods. We look forward to building on this partnership as we submit our proposal for **Solicitation #25-AA15 RFP – Engineering Services for 2026 Lead Water Service Replacement**.

Over the course of our previous involvement in lead service line replacement projects, LHB has continued to evolve and improve our inspection and design processes. We look forward to applying these enhancements to this next phase of work. Please consider the following benefits the City will gain by selecting LHB:

Value Added Alternate Delivery Schedule

A key enhancement we bring to this year's project is our Alternate Delivery Schedule. Developed from our past work with the City, this schedule allows us to spend more focused time on each individual site, enabling a more detailed and thoughtful review process. Instead of delivering large plan sets all at once, our phased approach allows the City to review smaller, more manageable plan packages—reducing review fatigue and making it easier to catch important details. This method not only enhances the quality and accuracy of deliverables, but also saves the City time, money, and staff resources throughout the design and construction process.

Dedicated Team

We recognize the City's need to meet aggressive timelines to comply with funding deadlines and remain competitive for future grants. To support this, we are building on our 2025 project team with additional staff dedicated to both field and office functions. Our core team's familiarity with Duluth's lead service work provides operational efficiencies that will help meet the City's schedule with confidence.

Project Management and Quality Assurance

LHB brings a thorough understanding of both this project and the City's broader Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Our dedicated Project Manager and Quality Manager will ensure high-quality, accurate, and well-documented deliverables. We apply rigorous internal reviews—including constructability and technical checks—under our established Quality Management Plan (QMP) to maintain consistency and accountability throughout the project.

Data Management and GIS Integration

Accurate data collection and efficient plan production are essential to the success of this project. LHB has developed and refined a custom GIS-based field collection and drawing output system specifically for Duluth's Lead Service Replacement Projects. This system streamlines data handling, improves drawing development efficiency, and increases plan accuracy. In addition, we understand that community engagement and property owner response rates directly affect design outcomes and cost estimates. Our team will build upon the outreach methods that have produced the highest response rates, applying a proactive and coordinated approach to data gathering, tracking, and communication.

We appreciate the opportunity to continue working with the City of Duluth to modernize critical infrastructure through lead water service replacements. LHB remains committed to delivering innovative, responsive, and high-quality engineering services that meet your goals and protect public health.

LHB, Inc.

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