

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Missouri Critical Minerals Plan

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND
ENERGY RESOURCES AUTHORITY**

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES'
MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

April 8, 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Due Date for Questions/Clarifications: 4:00 P.M. CDT, April 15, 2026

Responses/Clarifications will be Posted: 4:00 P.M. CDT, April 20, 2026

Due Date for Proposals: 4:00 P.M. CDT, May 6, 2026



I. INTRODUCTION

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' ("Department") Missouri Geological Survey (MGS) is a state government entity authorized by Article IV, Section 47 of the Missouri Constitution to administer the programs of the State as provided by law relating to environmental control and the conservation and management of natural resources.

The Missouri Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority ("Authority") is a governmental instrumentality and body corporate and politic established pursuant to Sections 260.005 to 260.125, RSMo, as amended. The Authority is authorized to provide for the conservation of air, land, and water resources of the State by the prevention or reduction of pollution; to provide for proper methods of disposal of solid waste and sewage; to provide for the furnishing of water facilities and resource recovery facilities; to provide for the development of the energy resources of the state; and to provide for energy conservation, energy efficiency projects. The Authority is authorized to acquire, construct, and finance projects; to issue bonds and notes; and to make loans to pay the costs of projects.

MGS and the Authority desire to cooperate to carry out activities that support the development of energy resources of the state by critical minerals planning. This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks qualified contractors to support its efforts in providing earth science information and services supporting beneficial use of Missouri's minerals, soil, and water, specifically critical minerals for energy and energy efficiency, security, defense, technology, and resource recovery, through creation of a Missouri Critical Minerals Plan (MoCMP).

II. BACKGROUND

Over the last decade, critical minerals have moved to the forefront of national and international discussions because they are the building blocks of many modern energy and other technologies and essential to national security and economic prosperity. Over several decades leading up to now, mining and post-processing operations moved abroad, leading to a decline in basic exploration needed to identify mineral resources and decreased development and processing of domestic minerals. As a result, the U.S. is in need of all facets of domestic critical mineral development. The objective of this RFP aims to align ongoing and new collaborations among state, federal, university, and private partners to restore critical minerals interest in the Midwest and promote a "cradle to grave" approach to mineral development for Missouri.

Seven presidential executive orders specifically mention efforts to accelerate critical mineral and material exploration and processing in the U.S. Missouri, which is one of the top 10 mineral producing states and hosts 36 of the 60 mineral commodities identified by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as critical to the national economy and security, is positioned for critical mineral exploration and development due to its unique geology. In addition, from an economic, cultural, and regulatory

perspective, Missouri is well suited to lead the nation in all facets of critical mineral development, from exploration to post-processing.

Missouri has been successful in rebuilding mineral programs, interest, and expertise in multiple sectors across the state; however, despite these successes, these efforts lack cohesion and unified messaging. The objective of developing a critical minerals plan for Missouri is to gather, organize, and consolidate these efforts; assess assets and gaps; and create policy recommendations to prime Missouri as a national leader in critical mineral development consistent with MGS and the Authority's legal purview.

III. PURPOSE

The Authority issues this RFP to seek a contractor to draft and finalize a MoCMP that includes: an analysis of opportunities and challenges in the critical mineral development life cycle; a marketing plan for private entities seeking investment opportunities related to critical minerals; and policy recommendations to foster critical mineral development.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

The chosen contractor will be responsible for conducting the tasks below to create a new MoCMP. The contractor will complete each major component in the order specified below.

- 1) **A Gap Analysis of Opportunities and Challenges at Key Stages of the Critical Mineral Development Life Cycle.** This analysis will identify current efforts in Missouri related to critical minerals, which part of the cycle they relate to (i.e., exploration, mining, processing, reprocessing, remediation, etc.), current challenges, and anticipated impact. The analysis will also identify gaps or areas of opportunity and provide priorities, action items, required effort, and expected outcomes and impact. This component's goal is intended to lower risks of investment for industry partners in order to increase Missouri's benefits from critical mineral development. In consultation with MGS staff, the contractor will:
 - a. Identify relevant stakeholders.
 - b. Conduct stakeholder engagement with relevant industry, institutions of higher education, and industry cluster groups (e.g., Critical Minerals and Materials for Advanced Energy Tech Hub and Critical Materials Crossroads).
 - c. Identify the elements to include in the study.
 - d. Determine the appropriate benefit-cost and impact estimation methodologies, along with the associated benefits and costs to be studied.
 - e. Determine sensitivities and uncertainties to be addressed in the analysis.
 - f. Describe the overall benefit-cost analysis results.
 - g. Analyze the study results and methodological limitations.

- h. Draft all associated narrative text, charts, tables, and figures to include in the Gap Analysis. All associated documents must be provided in Word, Excel, PDF, and other applicable formats.
 - i. Hold coordination meetings on at least a weekly basis with MGS and Authority staff to address the work involved in this major component.
- 2) **A Marketing Plan Targeting Private Entities Seeking Investment Opportunities.** This Marketing Plan will include a marketing strategy, branding and marketing material content. The Marketing Plan’s goal is to define the content and conceptual elements to highlight Missouri’s critical minerals strengths and brand Missouri as a leader in critical minerals development. Key partners include federal government, industry, entrepreneurs, and academia. In consultation with MGS staff, the contractor will:
- a. Develop a marketing strategy that describes the target audience (private sector entities and entrepreneurs seeking investment in critical minerals development), the market landscape (compare Missouri to other states hosting critical minerals), and the specific actions recommended to reach the target audience.
 - b. Identify specific entities that fit the definition of the target audience.
 - c. Create a cohesive brand identity for economic development.
 - d. Create targeted messaging and all marketing content.
 - e. Develop web content that assists the target audience with accessing information on pre-competitive data, incentives, workforce, and infrastructure related to critical minerals development.
 - f. Draft all associated narrative text, charts, tables, and figures to include in the Marketing Plan. All associated documents must be provided in Word, Excel, PDF, and other applicable formats.
 - g. Hold coordination meetings on at least a weekly basis with MGS and Authority staff to address the work involved in this major component.
- 3) **Missouri Critical Minerals Plan Policy Recommendations.**
- a. Based on the work conducted in association with major components #1-2, draft policy, state budgetary, and legislative recommendations in coordination with MGS staff. Policy, budgetary, and legislative recommendations must be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound, and feasible. The entity that would implement each recommendation must be clearly identified and have the authority to take the recommended action. **Legislative recommendations must include proposed bill language.**
 - b. The recommendations must address the following topics at a minimum, as well as other pertinent issues that lower risk for industry partners:
 - i. Financing and capital procurement pathways for high-cost critical mineral projects.
 - ii. The development of new or improvement of existing state incentives and financing mechanisms that would best achieve the state’s economic goals and objectives, including the total and annual funding amounts required to meet affordability goals.

- iii. Analysis of current state statutes and state regulations that currently or could in the future impact critical mineral development production or delivery and recommended reforms to advance the proposed critical mineral plan while conforming with federal laws and the mission of the Department.
 - iv. Financial support to government entities, institutions of higher education, and industry that can be used as cost-share to match federal initiatives.
 - c. Draft all associated narrative text, charts, tables, and figures to include in the MoCMP. All associated documents must be provided in Word, Excel, PDF, and other applicable formats.
 - d. Hold coordination meetings on at least a weekly basis with MGS and Authority staff to address the work involved in this major component.
- 4) **Publication Production.** In consultation with MGS staff, the contractor will:
- a. Produce the final document(s) for publication, including, but not limited to, a final MoCMP. All publication documents must be provided in Word, Excel, PDF, and other applicable formats. All final documents must be consistent with department publication guidelines. **The final documents must be completed six (6) months from the award date.**
 - b. Hold coordination meetings on at least a weekly basis with MGS and Authority staff to address the work involved in this major component.

The Authority and MGS will retain sole decision-making authority as to the final content and structure of the MoCMP.

V. FEES, CHARGES, AND EXPENSES

The contractor must provide services for a guaranteed not-to-exceed price. Pricing must be provided for each major component using the following table:

Line Item	Description of Products/Services	Quantity	Unit	Guaranteed Not-To-Exceed Price
1	A Gap Analysis of Opportunities and Challenges at Key Stages of the Critical Mineral Development Life Cycle	1	Draft Report	
2	A Marketing Plan for Private Entities Seeking Investment Opportunities	1	Draft Report	
3	Missouri Critical Minerals Plan Policy Recommendations	1	Draft Report	
4	Publication Production	1	Final Documents	

The chosen contractor may submit monthly or quarterly invoices for work related to the scope of the project. The contractor's travel-related expenses shall not be reimbursed. The Authority and MGS are not liable for any costs incurred by any parties submitting proposals.

VI. AGREEMENT

The selected contractor will be required to enter into a written Agreement for Services with the Authority and MGS for a period of six months beginning on the date of contract execution. This period is the expected duration of the project and will not be renewed. In addition to the Authority's General Terms and Conditions, the agreement will include, among other provisions:

- **Authorized personnel and E-Verify.** The Authority and MGS require all contractors to participate in E-Verify. If awarded the contract, please be prepared to provide proof of participation.
- **Changes to assigned personnel.**
- **Prior approval for use/substitution of subcontractors.** The Authority and MGS anticipate that the selected contractor may need to use subcontractors to complete the major components of this procurement. All subcontractors must be approved by the Authority and MGS, including any substitution of subcontractors.
- **External communication and use of work products.** The selected contractor must receive prior written consent from the Authority and MGS before using or disclosing reports, documentation, or materials prepared and developed for the contract or issuing or participating in any press releases regarding the contract.
- **Immediate termination for cause.**
- **Records retention and access.**
- **Termination by either party without cause with thirty (30) days prior written notice.**
- **Requirements concerning general liability and bodily injury as well as professional liability/errors and omissions coverage acceptable to the Authority and MGS.**
- **Indemnification.**
- **Disclosure and Limitations on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.**
- **Certifications regarding conflict of interest, employment of unauthorized aliens, and anti-boycott of Israel.**

The selected contractor will provide services as requested and outlined in this RFP, the Agreement for Services, and any amendments to the Agreement for Services. The Authority will not, however, guarantee that any minimum compensation will be paid to the firm or any minimum usage of the firm's services.

MGS will own all draft and final work products resulting from this RFP.

VII. PROPOSALS

Each response to this RFP shall include the information described in this section. Failure to include all of the information specified may be cause for rejection. Additional information may be provided if it is relevant to the goals of the RFP. Any additional information included by a respondent that is not specifically requested by the Authority and MGS should be included as an appendix to the proposal. The Authority and MGS are not required to consider any additional information provided by a respondent.

- 1) **Experience of Organization and Past Performance:** Describe the contractor's experience with conducting similar work on behalf of organizations such as, but not limited to, State Geological Surveys, legislative bodies, or regulatory agencies. The ideal contractor would have experience conducting work addressing critical minerals planning, economic impact planning, and critical mineral resource analysis in states with similar mining history/activity and/or states with similar regulatory environments. Include detailed discussions of:
 - a. Entities for whom the contractor conducted work.
 - b. Tangible outcomes of the work.
 - c. Contractor work addressing critical mineral-related economic impact/analysis in or related to the state of Missouri, states with similar mining history/activity, or states with similar regulatory environments.
 - d. Contractor work addressing economic studies in or related to states with similar mining history/activity and/or states with similar regulatory environments.
 - e. Contractor production of publications of a similar nature.
- 2) **Case Studies:** Provide three (3) case studies. A case study is a current or prior customer for which the contractor has provided products or services similar to the products/services requested in this solicitation. Any case studies representing work completed before 2020 must be accompanied by an explanation of their relevance to this solicitation. For each case study, the contractor must describe:
 - a. The project title.
 - b. The project duration (start and end dates).
 - c. The project budget.
 - d. The clients that contracted for the work, including organization names and contact information for the person(s) at the organization that can speak to the quality of the contractor's work.
 - e. The objectives of the project.
 - f. The work performed on the project.
 - g. The relevance of the approach and project to this RFP.
 - h. Findings and outcomes resulting from the work.
 - i. A copy of or link to the work produced under the applicable contract.
- 3) **Team/Personnel:** For the contractor working team that would perform labor for this proposal, the following personnel and minimum experience/qualifications are required:

- **Project Manager:** 3 to 5 years of experience with managing work of similar scope and scale. Ideally, the Project Manager would have 5 to 10 years of experience with managing work of similar scope and scale, as well as knowledge of industry and life cycle of critical minerals development; work managing complex project planning, economic impact modeling, capital requirements for critical mineral development projects, and critical mineral resources analyses in or related to the state of Missouri, states with similar mining history/activity, and/or states with similar regulatory environments; and specific knowledge of Missouri’s critical mineral/mining landscape, including its mineral portfolio and regulatory climate.
- **Data Analyst(s):** (as many as the contractor proposes to use for this scope of work): Each with 3 to 5 years of experience with conducting work of similar scope and scale, as well as knowledge of industry and life cycle of critical minerals development. Ideally, each Data Analyst would have 5 to 10 years of experience with conducting work of similar scope and scale; work performing complex project planning, economic impact modeling, capital requirements for critical mineral development projects, and critical mineral resource analyses in or related to the state of Missouri, states with similar mining history/activity, and/or states with similar regulatory environments; and specific knowledge of Missouri’s critical mineral/mining landscape, including its mineral portfolio and regulatory climate.
- **Public Information or Media Specialist:** 3 to 5 years of experience with production of similar publications. Ideally, the Public Information or Media Specialist would have 5 to 10 years of experience with production of similar publications.

For each person proposed by the contractor for this project, the contractor must provide:

- a. Name, title, proposed project role, and percent of their time committed to the project.
- b. Education, certifications, and other distinctions, including the institutions conferring such distinctions and the dates such distinctions were conferred.
- c. Employment history, including organizations, roles, and dates.
- d. Specific experience relevant to this project, including the number of years of experience, addressing the following questions:
 - i. Has the person conducted or managed work of a similar scope and scale? If so:
 1. For what entities did the person conduct or manage the work?
 2. Did the person conduct or manage the work while employed with the responding contractor?
 - ii. What tangible outcomes resulted from the work?
 - iii. What other similar work is conducted or managed by the person?
 - iv. Has the person conducted or managed any work addressing critical mineral-related economic modeling in or related to states with similar mining history/activity, and/or states with similar regulatory environments? If so, please describe this work.

- v. Has the person conducted or managed any work addressing critical mineral development projects in or related to the state of Missouri, states with similar mining history/activity, and/or states with similar regulatory environments? If so, please describe this work based on the above questions.
 - vi. Has the person conducted or managed work addressing capital requirements for complex critical mineral development projects? If so, please describe this work.
 - vii. Has the person worked on or managed the production of professional-quality publications of a similar nature? If so, please describe this work.
- 4) **Budget/Price Analysis:** Provide an analysis of the cost to complete the major components described in section IV. Include the price for each major component using the table provided in section V.
 - 5) **Work Plan:** Provide a project work plan that provides specific information on the contractor's planned methodology, approach, and technical capabilities for each major component. Include detailed discussions of how the contractor would address the major components as described in section IV. The contractor shall propose a work plan that enables the completion of each component in the sequence listed in section IV and severable from the completion of all other major components.
 - 6) **History of Disputes:** List and explain any pending bankruptcies, liens, judgements, lawsuits, arbitrations, or any similar actions filed or resolved within the last 7 years. Indicate whether a client has ever terminated a contract with your company for breach, and if so, please explain.
 - 7) **Conflicts of Interest:** Describe any potential, actual, or perceived conflicts of interest in connection with your company's involvement with the State of Missouri, the Authority, the department, or MGS.
 - 8) **Missouri Business Preference:** Section 34.073, RSMo, provides that, "in letting contracts for the performance of any job or service, all agencies, departments, institutions, and other entities of this state and of each political subdivision of this state shall give preference to all firms, corporations, or individuals doing business as Missouri firms, corporations, or individuals, or which maintain Missouri offices or places of business, when the quality of performance promised is equal or better and the price quoted is the same or less." Please address this in your proposal.

VIII. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, an electronic copy of your proposal must be received by 4:00 p.m. CDT on May 6, 2026. E-mail proposals to EIERA@eiera.mo.gov. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt by noon of the business day following your submittal, contact us at (573) 751-4919. Any proposals received after this deadline shall be rejected.

If you have any questions regarding this solicitation, please e-mail them to EIERA@eiera.mo.gov or use the "Contact Us" link on our website. All questions submitted by 4:00 p.m. CDT on April 15, 2026, and responses thereto will be available for viewing no later than 4:00 p.m. CDT on April 20,

2026, via a link on the Authority's website found [here](#). Questions and answers may be posted prior to April 20, 2026. Questions submitted after 4:00 p.m. CDT on April 15, 2026, will not be answered.

It is the responsibility of each potential proposer to check the Authority website for responses to questions and RFP revisions. We will not send questions and responses or RFP revisions to individual firms.

The proposals will remain confidential until the Authority and MGS have selected the contractor. The contents of all proposals will be in the public domain and be open to inspection by interested parties subject to exceptions provided in Missouri law. The Authority will treat all information submitted by a firm as public information following the conclusion of the selection process unless the Authority approves the firm's confidentiality requests that conform with any state statute. Any request for confidential treatment of information must be included in the transmittal letter with the firm's proposal. In addition, the firm must enumerate the specific legal grounds for such request. If the firm designates any information in its proposal as confidential the firm must also submit by email one (1) copy of the proposal form which confidential information has been excised. The confidential material must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the material removed and to retain as much of the proposal as possible.

IX. SELECTION OF PROPOSAL

All proposals received will be evaluated for the purpose of selecting a contractor that best meets the requirements of the RFP. The following areas will be considered:

- 1) **Qualifications and Experience of the Firm and the Team Assigned to the Project:** Proposals should demonstrate significant experience in developing statewide or large-scale plans related to critical mineral development plans. Personnel dedicated to the project should have an adequate amount of expertise related to critical minerals. Proposer's past work in this field or on similar projects will be considered in the selection process.
- 2) **Project Understanding and Project Plan:** Highly ranked proposals will demonstrate an understanding of the goals and work required by the scope of services and will provide a framework to develop the plans described in this RFP.
- 3) **Missouri Business Preference:** Chapter 34.073, RSMo, provides that, "in letting contracts for the performance of any job or service, all agencies, departments, institutions, and other entities of this state and of each political subdivision of this state shall give preference to all firms, corporations, or individuals doing business as Missouri firms, corporations, or individuals, or which maintain Missouri offices or places of business, when the quality of performance promised is equal or better and the price quotes is the same or less." Please address this in your proposal.
- 4) **Cost:** The cost proposal should include the estimated hours and hourly rates at a firm fixed price, by each of the 4 activities: 1) Gap Analysis of Opportunities and Challenges at Key Stages of the Critical Mineral Development Life Cycle; 2) A Marketing Plan for Private

Entities Seeking Investment Opportunities; 3) Missouri Critical Minerals Plan Policy Recommendations; and 4) Publication Production. While cost is an important factor, it is only one of the items considered.

X. OTHER MATTERS

Responses to the RFP should not be construed as binding the department, MGS, the Authority, or the State of Missouri to offer any particular products or endorsements.

Bid protests must be delivered to and received by the provided submittal contact within 10 days of the date of award.

The Authority reserves the right to:

- 1) Cancel this solicitation;
- 2) Reject any or all proposals;
- 3) If the Authority deems it necessary or appropriate, in its sole discretion, to revise any part of this RFP, addenda will be provided to all parties originally receiving this RFP;
- 4) Select any proposal and negotiate with the firm that, in the Authority's sole opinion, meets the Authority's needs regardless of the estimated costs in the proposal;
- 5) Determine whether conflicts or potential conflicts will preclude a proposer from being considered;
- 6) Request additional information and/or an oral interview with individuals or firms prior to the award;
- 7) Negotiate a contract; and
- 8) Waive any technicalities and make any award that it determines to be in the Authority's best interest.

The Authority is not obligated to provide a debriefing for any proposers.

The Authority is not liable for any costs incurred by any parties submitting proposals.

It is anticipated that selection of the Contractor will occur in June 2026.

DO NOT CONTACT THE AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS, AUTHORITY STAFF, DEPARTMENT STAFF, OR MGS STAFF REGARDING THIS RFP. Questions regarding this solicitation should be submitted in the manner described in the Submittal Requirements section above.

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MISSOURI CRITICAL MINERALS PLAN FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI.