

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS #2

RFP #2020-001

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Consultant for Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study

	Questions	Answers
1.	Will the Commission waive the requirement for hard copies of the proposal given the COVID-19 situation? Can we instead use electronic signatures on digital copies?	Electronic copies will remain due by the deadline as listed in RFP #2020-001, and the paper copies should be sent as soon as possible thereafter. Submission receipt will be determined based on electronic submission. The RFP will be amended to reflect that change.
2.	Will the three New Hampshire utilities be required to provide relevant data to support the research?	To the extent necessary, utility data related to any study scope criteria will be obtained from the utilities, either upon request or through formal discovery, if necessary.
a.	For example, will the utilities provide the 3-5 years of historical data referred to on page A-3 of Appendix ?	To the extent necessary, historical utility data related to any relevant study scope criteria will be obtained from the utilities, either upon request or through formal discovery, if necessary.
b.	For example, in assessing the avoided cost of transmission and distribution capacity (Avoided Cost Criteria No.6 and No.7), can the utilities provide data regarding proposed load-growth-related expenditure going forward for the distribution system capital costs and the transmission capital costs?	<p>Transmission Capacity avoided costs (Avoided Cost No. 6) calls for evaluation using a qualitative or quantitative proxy estimate approach incorporating analysis consistent with energy efficiency study methodology (e.g., AESC methods or values), to the extent possible. That approach is aimed at addressing this avoided cost criterion at a reasonable cost based on readily-available regional-level data. In-depth examination of utility-specific future expenditure estimates is not recommended for this criterion. To the extent necessary, utility data related to this study scope criterion will be obtained from the utilities, either upon request or through formal discovery, if necessary.</p> <p>Distribution Capacity avoided costs (Avoided Cost No. 7) is being investigated at the utility level through the Locational Value of Distributed Generation (LVDG) Study. The VDER study consultant will be expected to incorporate the</p>

		results of the LVDG study into the analysis of system-wide avoided costs being addressed through the VDER study. The VDER consultant will also be responsible for identifying and analyzing avoided costs related to overall system load growth and profile not related to locational or spot load growth, such as annual budgets for distribution transformers, distribution capacitor banks, and distribution regulators. The consultant may work with utilities to evaluate those costs.
c.	For example, available data regarding distributed solar and hydroelectric resources already installed on their systems?	Publicly available data, such as federal EIA and ISO New England data, should be used, to the extent possible. To the extent necessary, relevant utility data may be obtained from the utilities, either upon request or through formal discovery, if required.
3.	Should the analysis be performed separately for each utility?	Most of the analysis is expected to be conducted at the statewide level, based on utility-specific data where necessary to develop the statewide value. Rate and bill impact analysis will require utility-specific analysis.
a.	For example, regarding utility-specific impacts such as avoided transmission and distribution costs.	Avoided transmission and distribution costs are expected to be analyzed at the statewide level, based on utility-specific data where necessary to develop the statewide value.
b.	For example, regarding rate and bill impact analyses.	Given that rates and potential solar DG penetration vary between and among utilities, the rate and bill impact analyses are expected to be conducted for each utility, using the same model but with utility-specific data inputs.
4.	Regarding the rate and bill impact analyses, should these be conducted for (a) all customer types combined; (b) a select set of key customer types (e.g., residential and small commercial); (c) all customer types (e.g., residential, small commercial, large commercial, industrial); or (d) all customer classes?	The rate and bill impact analyses should be conducted by customer type (e.g., residential, small commercial, large commercial, and industrial), but need not be performed for all customer rate classes (e.g., outdoor street lighting). In addition to the use of a single model, proposers may consider whether there are other ways to simplify the analyses without significantly affecting the quality of study results.
5.	Regarding the periodic stakeholder working group meetings, will Staff facilitate those meetings? For example will Staff determine agendas, facilitate the discussion, take notes,	Staff will schedule and facilitate stakeholder working group meetings. The consultant will be expected to develop materials, be the primary

	and synthesize the outcomes of the meetings? Or should the consultant plan to facilitate those meetings?	presenter, and respond to stakeholder inquiries in connection with those meetings.
6.	As part of Avoided Cost Criteria No.7, the data and methodology references the LVDG study results for developing a value for avoided distribution system costs. Are the results of this study currently available? If not, when will the results of the study be available?	Study results for the LVDG Study are expected to be completed and publicly available prior to the start of the VDER study process. The LVDG Study scope is available for review on the Commission’s website under RFP #2019-003.
7.	The timeframe for this work appears to coincide with the timeframe for the new AESC study. It is our understanding that the AESC study is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2020 and be completed in the fourth quarter of 2020 or perhaps the first quarter of 2021. If the draft AESC results are available in late fall 2020, could these results be used to prepare the NH Value of DER study?	The VDER study should rely on the methodology, inputs, and results of the AESC study to the extent possible, with modifications implemented based on the difference between DG and EE and relevant New Hampshire-specific considerations. The VDER study should use data inputs and relevant conclusions from the 2020 AESC study to the greatest extent possible, while avoiding undue delay in completion of the VDER study.
8.	Would the study adders be conducted during the same timeframe as the rest of the study?	The study adders are expected to be conducted during the same timeframe as the rest of the VDER study. If there is good reason to suggest a different approach, the consultant may describe that approach and the supporting rationale for it in its proposal.
9.	Is special cause of loss coverage mentioned in 14.1.2 an additional type of insurance that is required or will commercial general liability insurance and an umbrella insurance policy, along with professional liability insurance suffice?	Special cause of loss coverage, if required, would be additional coverage for most insureds. However, note the provision in the RFP that confirms the State’s reservation of “the right to consider further waiving or modifying the insurance requirements in Paragraph 14 based on proposals submitted, consistent with the procedure described above.” RFP #2020-001 at pp. 13-14. Special cause of loss coverage as referenced in Paragraph 14.1.2 is an insurance requirement that would be considered for waiver or modification in appropriate circumstances.