QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS #5

RFP #2020-001

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Consultant for Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study

	Questions	Answers
1.	Table 1 "Study General Parameter" No.3, Item=Technology, states in part "Models should analyze values associated with load reduction and, in the MRV alternative (if considered), with market participation as passive resources only. Tools should be able to model different generation configurations and relevant variables for both value types (e.g., for PV, consider azimuth 180 (south), 270 (west), dual access tracker, AC-DC ratio). Solar PV with storage should be considered as a sensitivity analysis. Such analysis should assume optimal power injection to meet capacity commitment requirements for passive resource participation in the ISO-NE market." This leads to two specific questions	Please see responses below.
a.	What is meant by the term "passive resources"? Is that intended to mean as "passive demand resources" as defined by the ISO-NE market rules? Or is that intended to mean something else?	Passive resources are those that are not dispatchable or controllable, and are primarily designed to reduce or displace electric load across multiple hours, but cannot change the amount reduced or displaced in response to direction. The term should be understood to include most small-scale behind-the-meter generation, such as solar photovoltaic systems.
b.	The RFP states that "Such analysis should assume optimal power injection to meet capacity commitment requirements for passive resource participation in the ISO-NE market." Does "Such analysis" refer to only sensitivity analysis for Solar PV with storage mentioned in the previous sentence or is "Such analysis" referring to something else (and if so, please explain to what it is it referring)?	In connection with the potential "market resource value" evaluation (if considered) of any and all distributed generation resources, the resources should be analyzed through "market participation as passive resources only," and that "analysis should assume optimal power injection to meet capacity commitment requirements for passive resource participation in the ISO-NE market."

2.	For the primary study (not including Study Adder #1), is the final deliverable a report or is the consultant also required to provide the Commission the model(s) used to generate the results? If the underlying model(s) is considered part of the deliverable, what type of functionality would be expected?	The primary deliverable for the base study (exclusive of Study Adder #1) is a final report summarizing the study scope, methodology, assumptions, data inputs, and conclusions, and that should not include public sharing of the underlying models used to conduct the study. Note that consultant work papers may be requested for review by Commission Staff.
3.	Has an established budget for this project been developed?	No budget for the study project has been established by the Commission. As set forth in RFP Section III.7, proposers are required to submit a detailed study project budget and cost proposal, including, but not limited to, task-level estimates, the hourly rate for personnel and any associated expenses.
4.	How many DER scenarios will be analyzed, and who will be responsible for developing the scenarios, including solar adoption rates by company, resource mixes, and load forecasts?	The number of DER scenarios to be analyzed will be determined with the consultant as part of Step 1 of the scope of services as referenced in RFP Section II. The RFP requests a separate study adder estimate for a high load growth sensitivity analysis. To the extent possible, the study should make use of readily available state-level data, including forecasts from the ISO New England Distributed Generation Forecast Working Group or data used for the AESC. The primary focus of the study is solar and hydroelectric generation, although the analysis may model different generation configurations and relevant variables (e.g., for PV, consider azimuth 180 (south), 270 (west), dual access tracker, AC-DC ratio). Solar PV with storage should be considered as a sensitivity analysis.
5.	How many rate schedules will be evaluated by the selected consultant for the rate impact analysis?	The rate and bill impacts analyses should be conducted for each regulated electric distribution utility (i.e., Eversource, Liberty Utilities, and Unitil), using the rates by customer type, such as residential, small commercial and industrial, and large commercial and industrial, but will not be required to be conducted for all customer classes (e.g., outdoor street lighting). Staff therefore anticipates that the analyses will cover three utilities with three rate classes for each utility.
6.	Is there an expectation that the bi-monthly and other meetings with Staff and the VDER Study working group be conducted	Important meetings such as the stakeholder kick-off meeting and final results presentation are expected to be in-person sessions, if possible.

	in person, or can those meetings be conducted online using meeting software such as Skype or Zoom?	Coordination meetings with Staff and stakeholder update sessions are generally anticipated to be conducted using online meeting software.
7.	What process will be used to resolve disputes within the working groups?	The working group is intended to serve as a forum for keeping interested stakeholders apprised at a high level of the progress of the study and the means by which it will be conducted, and also for receiving feedback and input from the stakeholders. Staff will make the final determinations regarding the methodology and assumptions to be used in the study, in close consultation with the selected consultant.
8.	Is there an expectation that the analysis and modelling be done in a way that would allow for updating in future years?	It is expected that the study analyses will be conducted in a manner that would permit the analyses to be updated in future years.
9.	Can proprietary models be used to conduct portions of the analysis?	Proprietary models may be used to conduct portions of the study, provided that any such proprietary models are identified and the model approach, parameters, and assumptions are clearly stated in the study report.
10.	What portion of the overall effort should be devoted to the rate and bill impact analyses?	The rate and bill impacts analyses are important components of the study, as they will address the potential for cost-shifting between customer groups and quantify the effects of any such potential cost-shifting. However, it is not possible at this time to estimate the level of resource commitment or budget allocation required to complete those analyses.