

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP #2021-006

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS PROCESS AUDIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY

	Questions	Answers
1.	Is the project expected to last 16 months? If so, what is the Commission’s expectations for the entire period? Will there be monthly meetings during this period? The project will likely be completed in half the stated project duration, so will you want additional support on future CapEx projects proposed by EE?	Yes, given the scope of work we consider 16 months to be reasonable unless the consultant has a different perspective based on prior experience. The Commission’s expectations are set out in the RFP under Background and Scope, primarily a detailed audit of Eversource Energy (EE)’s project budgeting, design, implementation and management from start to finish, including adequacy of EE’s current policies and procedures and project documentation, culminating in a final report to the Commission containing findings and recommendations. Monthly meetings to report on progress will be required. Additional support will also be required in terms of reviewing and analyzing EE’s 3 rd proposed annual step adjustment request for 2022 involving calendar-year 2021 plant-in-service.
2.	Are there any recent (within the last five years) Commission Orders that reference capital budgeting?	Yes. For detailed background of Eversource-specific Commission Orders referencing capital budgeting, see Order Nos. 25,123 , 25,920 , 26,034 , 26,433 , 26,439 , and 26,362 . See also, Order No. 26,358 and Eversource motion for reconsideration page 22, fn 11.
3.	Are there any recent (within the last five years) Company capital budgets available publicly?	Yes. Annual E-22 Capital Expenditure Reports will be made available to the winning consultant along with all other supporting documentation.
4.	In our review of capital projects, what historical period do you want us to review? Five years, ten years, or another period?	Period of review should coincide with that undertaken by Staff in docket DE 19-057 which is 2015 to present.
5.	In the latest round of approved CAPEX projects, what percentage specified renewable generation as a focus area? Has the state instituted any plans for carbon-free emissions that would alter the way utilities will operate and protect the grid?	The latest approved round of CAPEX involved EE’s first step adjustment request for calendar-year 2019 plant-in-service which was reviewed by Staff in 2020. None of those projects directly involved renewable generation. Review of the second step adjustment, 2020 plant-in-service, is currently in progress. No New Hampshire statutes require a plan for “carbon free emissions.”

6.	<p>Given the waning Covid-19 situation, but not gone, can you address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Will the kickoff meeting with the Commission and Company be virtual or in-person? b. Can we do project site visits to understand the state of the T&D systems better? c. Field visits to understand their system construction and condition? d. Will interviews with Company personal be in-person or virtual, or both? e. Meetings with the Commission staff – in-person or virtual? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Likely virtual. Subject to change. b. Yes. c. Yes. d. Likely virtual. Subject to change. e. Likely virtual. Subject to change.
7.	Will Commission staff participate in interviews and site visits? If so, how much-advanced notice will you require?	On a selective basis. At a minimum 5-day advance notice will be required.
8.	Has the Commission established a formal turn-around time for the Company's audit responses to data requests in previous audits?	The Commission's procedural rules specify a ten day period for response to data requests within a proceeding unless otherwise agreed upon.
9.	Will the final report be delivered electronically in PDF format or will hard copies be required? If hard copies, how many?	On March 17, 2020, the Commission issued a Secretarial Letter which <i>temporarily</i> suspended the paper filing requirements. The temporary nature of this suspension suggests paper copies of the final report will likely need to be made available to at least all three Commissioners and all participating Staff. Electronic copies will still be required. Exact number will be determined at a later date.
10.	Section IV. Components of the Proposal generally describes page limits for the 7 numbered proposal components. Please state whether there are any page limits for the response to item IV.3 Proposed Scope of Work and Schedule .	There is no limit on the number of pages for the proposed scope of work and schedule other than the overall 25MB limit for submissions.
11.	See Page 4 of 14 of the RFP, in Section II. SCOPE OF SERVICES AND DELIVERABLES , specifically item 3. Selective Project Review . Please state whether any further definition of the sample of projects is available at this time: for example, is a specific number of projects sought, a specific dollar value, other?	The sample will be further determined after contract execution. This is usually left to the discretion of the consultant with input provided by Staff.