

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP #2021-020

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Deployment of Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Maine
New Hampshire Impact Assessment Consultant

	Questions	Answers
1.	Please clarify the level of analysis that DOE expects under each of the five (5) scope areas. Is DOE looking for a high-level qualitative analysis of each of the subtopics under each scope area? Or is DOE looking for a more detailed quantitative analysis (e.g., economic modeling and energy modeling of various offshore wind scenarios).	Detailed quantitative analysis.
2.	Please clarify if in-person meetings are required, or if DOE envisions virtual meetings.	The Department will accommodate virtual meetings when appropriate but may require occasional in person meetings.
3.	Since this work will not require Contractors to acquire property in order to fulfill the requirements of the Statement of Work, would DOE consider waiving the special cause of loss coverage form covering property detailed in P-37, clause 14.1.2?	Pursuant to the contract, insurance for property received from the State is not required if no property is provided by the State or purchased with funds provided by the State for that purpose.
4.	What is the anticipated study area for this project?	All waters in the Gulf of Maine including Federal waters.
5.	Does the Department of Energy expect that the assessment of economic, energy, and environmental impacts from the deployment of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine extend to potential impacts beyond New Hampshire communities, businesses, and environmental resources, e.g., Maine and Massachusetts stakeholders? Would study reporting be expected to	New Hampshire only, with the exception impact on the wholesale energy markets in New England grid, impact on emissions in the New England region, and energy supply impacts for New England.

	present data and analysis beyond New Hampshire stakeholders, exclusively?	
6.	Will potential socio-economic impacts of fisheries interactions and OSW be assessed within the fisheries section, (i.e., downstream effects of OSW on fisheries processors, restaurants, transport etc.) or separately in the economic impacts?	Within the fisheries section.
7.	Since the wind areas and goals have not been specified, can the State confirm that this scope includes only identifying potential activities impacted as positive or negative, or will they require additional designation of the degree of impacts on each activity?	Positive and negative, as well as the degree, however the degree of impact can be characterized as negligible, minor, significant, and major.
8.	Likewise, does the State of NH expect the report to quantify economic impacts, or only identify activities likely to be impacted? (If they want impacts characterized as some BOEM report requirements, such as categorization as negligible, minor, significant, major-- then that's a much larger scope that could not likely be accomplished without identifying the wind areas, numbers of turbines and other specifics).	Quantify the economic impacts.
9.	For respondents that are made up of multiple consulting firms, will the Department of Energy accept three references per firm?	Yes.
10.	The RFP states in Section IV Components of the Proposal to list up to 3 references for worked performed which is similar in scope. Are the 3 references required from only the prime contractor or for all team members including subcontractors in a joint proposal?	Proposers should provide up to three references for the prime contractor and up to three references for each team member.

11.	For respondents that are made up of multiple consulting firms, will the 1-page limit on Corporate/Company Information apply to each firm and will the Department of Energy accept one page of Corporate/Company Information about each firm?	The Department will accept up to 1-page for the prime contractor and up to 1 page for each team member/subcontractor.
12.	Please confirm that a separate Statement of Disclosure is required from each team member in a joint proposal.	Disclosure must be made for the prime contractor and every team member/subcontractor. Separate statements need not be provided, so long as the disclosure is complete, and each conflict is associated with the appropriate team member/subcontractor.
13.	Does the Statement of Disclosure requirement in Section IV Components of the Proposal have a page limit?	No.
14.	Will the Department of Energy consider and award firms for minority and/or women-owned business enterprise status of respondents?	The ownership status of the prime contractor and subcontractors is not a scoring criteria.
15.	Will the Department accept physical copies by delivery other than USPS? Will the Department accept physical copies after the deadline in the event that USPS mail deliveries are delayed?	The paper copy shall be sent by first class U.S. mail and postmarked no later than January 7, 2022, or sent by 1-day overnight express delivery service (UPS, Federal Express, etc.), and delivered no later than 4:30 p.m. EST on January 7, 2022, or hand-delivered no later than 4:30 p.m. EST on January 7, 2022. It is the proposer's responsibility to assure that physical copies are either post-marked or delivered by the deadline.
16.	Under section II, scope and deliverables, a list of focus areas are given under the headings, economic, environmental and energy impacts. Are these focus areas set or can further areas be assessed as part of this study beyond those mentioned?	Areas not specified may be addressed as necessary to understand and illuminate economic, environmental, and energy impacts, and should be identified and explained in the proposal when submitted.
17.	As the RFP invokes the relevance of the broader Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy	The study should be focused on New Hampshire only with the exception of the impacts on wholesale energy markets,

	Task Force, can the different sections be examined from a cross-border perspective between Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, or is the study intended to be solely focussing on New Hampshire?	emissions, and energy supply for New England.
18.	<p>Please can you provide details of any datasets that will be made available to the consultant for the purposes of section 2 of this project. In particular, any data related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seabed conditions and wind resource offshore b. Future Energy Scenarios ('Project Activities' of the states within scope) c. Physical and Economic Characteristics of Seabrook Nuclear Plant 	No data sets will be provided.
19.	Please could you provide more detail on what is meant by 'Projected Activities of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey' in the Energy Sector section. Are there defined future energy scenarios you would like the consultant to consider?	The proposer will be expected to identify the relevant and most important projected activities bearing on New Hampshire's interests.
20.	Please could you confirm whether any whole system modelling is expected in the scope of section 2 (for example to understand the projected need for other energy scenarios), or if a simplified model or framework would be acceptable?	The proposer will be expected to identify and describe the best modelling that it can accomplish given the competing aspects of the request and the not-to-exceed amount of the contract.
21.	In section 2, please could you expand on the 'Potential Cumulative Effects' you would like the report to consider. Are the effects related to environmental impacts, economic impacts or energy system/network impacts?	Cumulative impacts in the energy sector and related economic impacts.

22.	In section 2 (Energy Sector Impact) please provide more detail on the information or analysis required in relation to Energy Storage	Analysis of the suitability and feasibility of pairing Energy Storage with Offshore Wind.
23.	Since BOEM has yet to identify lease areas in the Gulf that could be used as a guide, can DOE provide an estimated OSW project size (e.g. 1200 MW) that should be contemplated when evaluating impacts on power grid?	The Department expects the consultant to screen potential Wind Energy Areas within the Gulf of Maine including consideration of environmental conditions regarding infrastructure siting including but not limited to possible site contaminants of concern or unexploded munitions as well as the referenced bullet list under Scope topic 4.
24.	Should the consultant assume a variety of OSW deployment scenarios when evaluating potential impacts (e.g. interconnection into NH transmission versus interconnection into Maine or MA transmission) or should consultant only assume NH interconnection?	A variety of plausible deployment scenarios.
25.	Since BOEM has yet to identify lease areas in the Gulf that could be used as a guide, will DOE provide an estimated OSW farm geographic location/distance of NH coast that should be assumed in evaluation of impacts?	Yes.
26.	The scoring criteria outlined adds up to 105 points, can you clarify how the criteria will be scored to add up to 100?	A maximum score for all criteria shall be 105 points.
27.	Scope topic 2 includes the bullet item “Consideration of Potential Cumulative Effects (A cumulative effects analysis considers the impacts of an action on energy resources when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.)” What effects does NH DoE wish to consider, and as a result of what action? Does NH DoE wish to identify the wholesale energy market impacts of Offshore Wind development in the Gulf	Action: Siting and operation of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. Effects: impacts on wholesale energy markets, emissions, and energy supply for New England, as well as answering the question: would offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine replace existing electricity generation or be added to existing electricity generation?

	of Maine? Emissions reductions? Other effects?	
28.	Scope topic 2 includes “Projected Life of Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant and any Need to Replace its Energy Production” as a line item. Does NH DoE wish for its consultant to characterize the projected life of Seabrook from an economic or engineering perspective?	Economic only.
29.	Scope topic 2 includes the bullet “Projected Need for Other Energy Sources Given Capacity Factors and Intermittency of Offshore Wind Resources”. Does NH DoE wish to identify projected need as a result of overall offshore wind development in New England, or just the potential deployment of Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Maine?	Just in the Gulf of Maine.
30.	Please clarify how the report ought to consider Energy Storage. Should consultants describe the suitability of Energy Storage for potential pairing with Offshore Wind? Other topics?	Suitability and feasibility.
31.	Scope topic 5 includes the bullet “Pros and Cons of Various Areas of the Gulf of Maine Under Consideration for the potential Locating of Offshore Wind Deployment.” (A) Does NH DoE expect the consultant to screen potential Wind Energy Areas within the Gulf of Maine? (B) Should this topic include consideration of environmental conditions regarding infrastructure siting including but not limited to possible site contaminants of concern or unexploded munitions as well as the referenced bullet list under Scope topic 4?	A. Yes. B. Yes.

32.	<p>Would DOE please clarify if the reference on page 14, VII General Conditions, Item 10 include an erroneous reference to the source of payment being a “special utility assessment”?</p>	<p>“Special utility assessment” is an erroneous reference.</p>
33.	<p>Would DOE consider modifying Form P-37 as follows: “6.3. The Contractor agrees to permit the State or United States access to any of the Contractor’s books, records and accounts <u>related to the project</u> for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with all rules, regulations and orders, and the covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement.”</p>	<p>The Department cannot modify this provision of the state form contract.</p>
34.	<p>Would DOE please modify the text of page 8, Section IV, Item 4 to require names of only key/senior staff and allow lower level staff to be unnamed and represented within a labor category title as follows, “Detailed description of the proposer’s relevant experience with respect to the proposed scope of services, including a list of all <u>key</u> personnel who will be assigned to this engagement, including the project manager (if applicable), and detailed resumes (in an appendix) and summaries of each <u>key</u> individual reflecting their relevant experience and the nature of the specific responsibilities. Identify any proposed subcontractors and their key personnel. During the course of the Work, the DOE must approve in writing any substitutions or changes <u>of key</u> personnel, including any subcontractor <u>key</u> personnel assigned to perform the work. (No more than 5 pages, not including the resumes of key personnel)”</p>	<p>No. Proposers should identify all key personnel, that is, the applicant, prime contractor, and any team member, if a person; and any person employed by the prime contractor or team member, if a business, whose participation in the work contracted for is more than <i>de minimis</i> and integral to the preparation of a deliverable, and any person whose hours are specifically billed to the work contracted for rather than billed as overhead. Secretaries, clerks, and the like need not be identified unless separately billed to the work contracted for. Persons performing more than a <i>de minimis</i> amount of research or analysis leading to a deliverable should be identified whether or not separately billed.</p>