

Video Transcript of RFP 2021-020 Webinar

Good Afternoon.

My name is Josh Elliott, Director of the Division of Policy and Programs with the New Hampshire Department of Energy. With me is David Shulock, General Counsel, and Juli Pelletier, Business Administrator.

We are using GotoWebinar for this presentation. If you need technical assistance, you can email Jim Martin at james.martin@des.nh.gov or call him at 603-271-3710. You can also use the 'raise hand feature' or the chat box and someone will assist.

We will begin this presentation with the deadlines:

Pertinent Dates and Information:

RFP Issued:	October 22, 2021	4:30pm
RFP Amended:	November 29, 2021	4:30pm
Question Period Closes:	December 10, 2021	4:30pm
Responses to Questions Posted:	December 17, 2021	4:30pm
Proposal Due Date and Time:	January 7, 2022	4:30pm
Anticipated Contract Start Date:	May 1, 2022	

Vendor Inquiries are to be sent to:

Juli Pelletier, Business Administrator

New Hampshire Department of Energy

21 S. Fruit St. Suite 10

Concord, NH 03301-2429

RFP@Energy.NH.gov

No phone calls

Inquiries must be received by December 10, 2021 at 4:30pm, Emailed to RFP@Energy.NH.gov,

With the Subject Line: "RFP #2021-020 Gulf of Maine Offshore Wind New Hampshire Impact Assessment"

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All responses will be posted by December 17, 2021 at 4:30pm on www.energy.nh.gov/requests-proposals

Proposal Submission Instructions:

Proposals must be received by January 7, 2022 by 4:30pm for both electronic and physical copies

Electronic Submissions:

Emailed to RFP@Energy.NH.gov with the subject line “RFP #2021-020 Gulf of Maine Offshore Wind New Hampshire Impact Assessment” Files must be in a PDF format and be searchable. DOE cannot accept files larger than 25 MB.

Physical Submissions: A paper copy is required

12pt font, 1 inch margins, pages numbered and double sided. Paper copy must be identical to the version submitted via email. Paper copy sent by 1st class USPS OR any other express delivery service, such as FedEx or UPS. For the USPS: Postmarked no later than January 7th. All other services, including hand delivery: delivered no later than January 7th

Proposal Submission Instructions

Send to:

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Restrictions on Contact with State Employees:

From the date of the release of this RFP until awards are made and announced regarding the selection, all communications with personnel employed by or under contract with the state regarding this RFP are forbidden, unless first approved by the Point of Contact, Juli Pelletier, Business Office, or as outlined in Section V - interviews

Scope of Services:

Economic Impacts to Maritime Industries and Activities, including: Identification of impacted commercial and recreational maritime activities that will be impacted by the deployment of offshore wind, both directly and indirectly, and positively and negatively. Shipping and Navigation. Recreational

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Marine Uses. Commercial Fishing and Other Commercial Maritime Activities and Potential Compensatory Mitigation Actions. Ability of Recreational and Commercial Operators Who Operate in the Vicinity of Offshore Wind Farms to Obtain Insurance. Aviation and Radar Assets. Supply Chain Operations and Port Utilization Opportunities. Workforce Opportunities.

Energy Sector and Energy-Related Economic Impacts, Including:

Preliminary Identification of Offshore Wind Resources. Offshore Wind is Deployed in the Gulf of Maine with NH Procurement vs. Offshore Wind is Deployed in the Gulf of Maine with No NH Procurement (Economic Impacts and Energy Impacts). Projected Activities of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Impact of Clean Energy Requirements in Maine and Massachusetts. Subsidies Required for Development and Continued Operation of Offshore Wind. Consideration of Potential Cumulative Effects. Whether any Additional Clean, Renewable Energy Sources are Made More Likely by Offshore Wind Deployment and Operations (i.e., Hydrogen). Projected Life of Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant and any Need to Replace its Energy Production. Projected Need for Other Energy Sources Given Capacity Factors and Intermittency of Offshore Wind Resources. Energy Storage.

Existing Infrastructure and New Infrastructure Needs, Including:

Cable Landfall, Including Necessary Permitting. Cables, Pipelines, and Other Infrastructure. Transmission Infrastructure and Potential Injection Points. Decommissioning of Turbines At End of Useful Life.

Environmental/Biological Impacts, Including:

Environmental Sensitivity Analysis (Identify Areas of Biological Importance). Birds and Bats. Fish and Fisheries Study. Marine Mammals with Emphasis on Right Whales and Sea Turtles. Sand and Gravel Resources. Emissions Created by Offshore Wind Operations (Specifically Sulfur Hexafluoride). Fossil Fuels Used During Construction and for Lubrication and Equipment for Operations and Maintenance. Use of Rare Earth Minerals. Impacts of Sound Created by Turbine Operations. Visual Impacts and Visibility Thresholds for Other Activities and Operations in the Gulf of Maine. Environmental Justice.

Permitting and Regulatory Issues:

Jones Act Compliance. Pros and Cons of the Various Areas of the Gulf of Maine Under Consideration for the Potential Locating of Offshore Wind. This includes outreach for input from the following: NH Department of Energy; NH Department of Environmental Services; NH Fish & Game; NH Commercial Fishermen Association/NH Yankee Fishermen's Cooperative; Representatives from Other Commercial Maritime Activities on the New Hampshire Seacoast; Representatives from Other Recreational Fishing and Maritime Activities on the New Hampshire Seacoast; Creation of a Regulatory Roadmap (Federal and State)

Confidentiality:

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Each proposer agrees to maintain as confidential all information received from the DOE in the course of this RFP and contracting process until such time as it is instructed otherwise by the DOE. A Proposal must remain confidential until the effective date of any contract resulting from this RFP. A proposer's disclosure or distribution of proposals or the information received from the DOE or Evaluation Team other than as permitted by the DOE will be grounds for disqualification

Components of the Proposal:

Letter of Transmittal: Include name of proposer, contact information for, and signature of, proposed consultant. (1 page)

Corporate/Company Information: Information concerning its corporate/company history; i.e., how many years in business, corporate officers or company principals, location of branch offices, professional and business association memberships, current or prior engagements involving substantive areas similar to those described in this RFP, the parties it represented in such engagements, the scope of work it performed in such engagements, and the conclusion and recommendations it made publicly in connection with such engagements. (1 page)

Proposed Scope of Work and Schedule: Describe the essential elements of the proposed services consistent with Section II, Scope of Service and Deliverables, and the proposed means of providing those elements and the schedule for doing so. (4-6 pages)

Relevant Qualifications and Experience of Personnel Assigned: Detailed description of the proposer's relevant experience with respect to the proposed scope of services, including a list of all personnel who will be assigned to this engagement, including the project manager (if applicable), and detailed resumes (in an appendix) and summaries of each individual reflecting their relevant experience and the nature of their 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 in personnel, including any subcontractor personnel, assigned to perform the work. (no more than 5 pages, not including the resumes of the key personnel)

References: A list of up to three references for work performed which is similar in scope or content to that proposed, preferably within the past 3 years. (1 page)

Statement of Disclosure: Identification and description of any existing or potential conflicts of interest, including those that arise as a result of relationships or affiliations with utility companies under the jurisdiction of the DOE, wind energy developers, electric transmission owners, maritime industry participants, trade associations, or advocacy organizations or groups that participate in, or represent stakeholders who participate in, proceedings or environmental permitting activities relating to energy infrastructure development or siting.

Project Fee and Cost Estimates: Provide a detailed schedule of fees and estimated costs for completion of the work scope, including details on key personnel positions, rates, fees, and hours. The detailed cost estimates should encompass the full scope of work described in this RFP, including all items indicated in Section II above. (up to 6 pages)

Selection Process:

Step 1 Preliminary Review: The DOE shall assess compliance with the submission requirements set forth in the RFP and minimum content set forth in Section IV. The DOE may waive or offer a limited

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opportunity to cure immaterial deviations from RFP requirements if it is determined to be in the best interests of the State.

Step 2 Preliminary Evaluation: An Evaluation Team consisting of DOE, other New Hampshire State agency personnel, and legislators shall initially score conforming proposals according to the criteria set forth above.

Step 3 Final Evaluation: If determined to be appropriate by the Evaluation Team, proposers may be invited to interviews. The Evaluation Team retains the sole discretion to determine whether to conduct interviews, with which proposers, and the number of interviews. Proposers are advised that interviews may be conducted with fewer than all proposers.

The Evaluation Team shall generate final consensus scores for each proposal, rank all proposals from the best to least qualified as determined by their final scoring in accordance with the above procedures, determine the highest qualified proposer, and submit its recommendation to the Commissioner of the DOE. Selection is subject to review and approval by the DOE Commissioner.

Step 4: Contract Negotiation and Execution: The DOE shall negotiate with the recommended proposer(s), if necessary, and develop contracts and related documents consistent with this RFP, then submit the completed contract to the DOE Commissioner for approval and execution.

Interviews:

The purpose of oral interviews is to clarify and expound upon information provided in the written proposals. Proposers are prohibited from altering the basic substance of their proposal during the oral interviews. Proposers may be asked to provide written clarifications of elements in their proposals, regardless of whether an interview will be conducted.

References will be reviewed and/or contacted during Step 3, if determined to be appropriate by the Evaluation Team.

Information gained from interviews and references will be used to refine scores assigned during the Step 2 review and evaluation of the Proposal.

Scoring Criteria:

The Evaluation Team shall consider all of the following criteria, and assign a corresponding point score, where a maximum score for all criteria shall be 105 points.

Cost is a consideration, but may not be the determining factor in the selection of the consultant. The DOE reserves the right not to consider any proposal with a total aggregate point score of less than 70 points.

1. **Employee and Subcontractor Qualifications:** Qualifications, technical expertise, certifications, and knowledge that the organization or individual possesses, including that of the staff and any subcontractors proposed to be assigned to the engagement, providing services directly relevant to the specified scope of services. (Maximum Point Score: 20)
2. **Proposed Scope of Work:** Clarity and appropriateness of proposed general approaches and demonstrated knowledge of relevant subject matter, including proposed allocation of resources

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and time to critical tasks, proposed scope of work, and project schedule. (Maximum Point Score: 25)

3. **Experience:** General experience providing similar services. (Maximum Point Score: 15)
4. **Cost of Consulting Services:** Cost of consulting services and expenses, including the competitiveness of the proposed budget and/or hourly rates and any proposed discounts or other benefits. Cost savings that may result from a firm having responded to multiple concurrent requests for proposals may be considered. (Maximum Point Score: 35)
5. **Responsiveness to RFP:** Overall responsiveness to the requirements of the RFP, including completeness, clarity, and quality of proposal. (Maximum Point Score: 10)

General Conditions:

If the DOE decides to award a contract as a result of this RFP process, any award is contingent upon approval of the contract by the DOE Commissioner and, if applicable, the Governor and Executive Council with payment subject to the availability of ARP funds. General funds will not be requested to support the contract resulting from this RFP.

The selected proposer will be expected to enter into a contract with the State of New Hampshire. The terms and conditions set forth in Form P-37 (version 12/11/2019) General Provisions (available at: www.energy.nh.gov/requests-proposals) are **mandatory** and will apply to any contract awarded to the proposer.

Project specific terms and conditions will be negotiated with the proposer and included in the final contract.

For the convenience of the proposers, Form P-37 (version 12/11/2019) has been included in Appendix A of the RFP

When responding to this RFP, each proposer must explicitly indicate that the proposer shall comply with the requirements of Form P-37 (version 12/11/19). To the extent a proposer believes that an exception to the standard form will be necessary for the proposer to enter into a contract, the proposer should raise that issue during the proposer inquiry period.

Ethical Requirements:

From the time this RFP is published until a contract is awarded, no proposer shall offer or give, directly or indirectly, any gift, expense reimbursement, or honorarium, as defined in RSA 15-B, to any elected official, public official, public employee, constitutional official, or family member of any such official or employee who will or has selected, evaluated, or awarded an RFP, or similar submission.

Any proposer that violates RSA 21-G:38 shall be subject to prosecution for an offense under RSA 640:2. Any proposer who has been convicted of an offense based on conduct in violation of this section, which has not been annulled, or who is subject to a pending criminal charge for such an offense, shall be disqualified from bidding on this RFP, or similar request for submission and every such proposer shall be disqualified from bidding on any RFP or similar request for submission issued by any State agency.

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A proposer that was disqualified under this section because of a pending criminal charge which is subsequently dismissed, results in an acquittal, or is annulled, may notify the Department of Administrative Services, which shall note that information on the list maintained on the State's internal intranet system, except in the case of annulment the information shall be deleted from the list.

Number of Contracts:

Although a proposer may utilize subcontractors, the Department will award only one contract for the complete scope of work.

RFP Amendment:

In paragraph 1 on Page 1, the Schedule of Events is modified: Deadline to submit questions is now December 10, 2021 at 4:30pm

In paragraph 3.2 on Page 2, the second paragraph is modified to read:

“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. The paper copy must be identical to the submitted electronic copy in text and pagination. In the alternative, the electronic copy shall be controlling.”

Paragraph 5 on Page 8 is modified to read:

“References: A list of up to three references for the prime contractor and a list of up to three references for subcontractor/team member, for work performed which is similar in scope or content to that proposed, preferably within the past three years. (1 page maximum for each of the prime contractor and subcontractor/team member; more than 1 list may appear on each page)”

In Paragraph 1 in section B.

Scoring Criteria, the first sentence of the first paragraph is modified to read: “The Evaluation team shall consider all of the following criteria, and assign a corresponding point score, where a maximum score for all criteria shall be 105 points.”

Received Questions with Answers:

Q: 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 such as economic modeling and energy modeling of various offshore wind scenarios.

A: Detailed quantitative analysis

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Q: What is the anticipated study area for this project?

A: All waters in the Gulf of Maine including Federal waters.

Q: 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 present data and analysis beyond New Hampshire stakeholders, exclusively?

A: 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

Q: Will potential socio-economic impacts of fisheries interactions and OSW be assessed within the fisheries section or separately in the economic impacts?

A: Within the fisheries section.

Q: 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?

A: Positive and negative, as well as the degree, however the degree of impact can be characterized as negligible, minor, significant, and major.

Q: Does the State of NH expect the report to quantify economic impacts, or only identify activities likely to be impacted?

A: Quantify the economic impacts.

Q: 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?

A: 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.

Q: The RFP invokes the relevance of the broader Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy, 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 focusing on New Hampshire?

A: The study should be focused on New Hampshire only with the exception of the impacts on wholesale energy markets, emissions, and energy supply for New England.

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Q: Is whole system modelling is expected in the scope of section 2, or is a simplified model or framework acceptable?

A: 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.

Q: 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 that should be contemplated when evaluating impacts on the power grid?

A: 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.

Q: 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: A variety of plausible deployment scenarios.

Q: 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: A variety of plausible deployment scenarios.

Q: 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.”

(1) Does NH DoE expect the consultant to screen potential Wind Energy Areas within the Gulf of Maine?

(2) 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: (1) Yes, (2) Yes.

Again, all Vendor Inquiries:

Juli Pelletier, Business Administrator

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This concludes this presentation.