

NOVA SCOTIA GREEN CHOICE PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Addendum 1: Revisions to GCP RFP (Scored Criteria & Appendix)

The Procurement Administrator (the “PA”) is issuing the following Addendum to the following sections of the Green Choice Program Request for Proposals:

- Section 1.3.1 Proponent Requirements
- Section 6.2.2.3 Scored Criteria for Financing Experience & Plans
- Section 6.2.3.1 Scored Criteria for Experience
- Section 6.2.4 Environmental Risk
- Section 8.2 Definitions (*Expansion*)
- Section 8.5 Template: Environmental Risk Questionnaire
- Section 8.7 Template: Local Expenditure Table(s)

An updated version of the RFP that contains the revisions outlined in this Addendum has been uploaded to the RFP tab of the GCP website, and the original version has been removed. Below, the PA has included a redline of each above noted section outlining the changes made. Please note that the PA has also updated the template Configuration Form to reflect these revisions.

Redlines Between Original Sections and Updated Sections:

1.3.1 PROPONENT REQUIREMENTS

Proponents will have to qualify as a Supplier if they become the Selected Proponent. The Proponent is responsible to develop, finance, own and operate the Project. The Proponent must have a Controlling interest in the Project at the time of submitting the Proposal and at the time that an Agreement is executed. Furthermore, a Public Utility must not be the legal or beneficial owner, whether directly or indirectly, of more than 49% of all or any part of the Project and must not otherwise entitled to more than 49% of revenues under the Agreement or deriving from the Project (whether by contract or as fees, interest, distributions, security or otherwise). Lastly, a Project that is the subject of an existing PPA with Nova Scotia Power Incorporated may not apply to this RFP, unless the application to this RFP involves a portion of the nameplate capacity that is not the subject of an existing PPA with Nova Scotia Power Incorporated.

6.2.2.3 Scored Criteria for Financing Experience & Plans

1 point	The Proponent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. demonstrates the Project Team’s experience financing one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW; andb. submits a plan for project financing that demonstrates the Project Team
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	possesses the financial capacity or support to construct and operate the Project.
3 points	The Proponent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. demonstrates the Project Team’s experience financing one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW; b. submits a plan for project financing that demonstrates the Project Team possesses the financial capacity or support to construct and operate the Project; and c. demonstrates the Project Team’s experience financing one to three Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities that are a minimum of 80% of the Generating Facility’s proposed nameplate capacity.
4 points	The Proponent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. demonstrates the Project Team’s experience financing one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW; b. submits a plan for project financing that demonstrates the Project Team possesses the financial capacity or support to construct and operate the Project; and c. demonstrates the Project Team’s experience financing four or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities that are a minimum of 80% of the Generating Facility’s proposed nameplate capacity.
Additional 2 points	The Proponent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. has received Soft Commitment(s) for 100% of the Total Costs; b. meets the criteria for self-financing and will be self-financing 100% of the Total Costs; or c. has received Soft Commitment(s) from a federal funding source for a portion of the Total Costs, meets the criteria for self-financing, and will be self-financing a portion of the Total Costs so that 100% of the Total Costs will either be financed through a combination of such Soft-Commitment(s) and self-financing.
<u>Deduction of 3 points</u>	<u>The Proponent (i.e., a specific Project) executed a PPA with NSPI through the Rate Base Procurement and NSPI has terminated that PPA pursuant to a Seller Event of Default (under ss.10.1 and 10.2 of the PPA) This points deduction will apply to GCP Proposals that represent the same Project. For the avoidance of doubt, this points deduction will also apply to any reasonable likeness of the same Project (e.g., adjustments made to Proponent name, size, Project layout, social benefits, etc.), at the discretion of the PA.</u>

6.2.3.1 Scored Criteria for Experience

1 point	The Proponent demonstrates the Project Team’s experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW.
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2 points	The Proponent demonstrates the Project Team’s experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW; and b. one to three Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities that are a minimum of 80% of the Generating Facility’s proposed nameplate capacity.
3 points	The Proponent demonstrates the Project Team’s experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW; and b. four or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities that are a minimum of 80% of the Generating Facility’s proposed nameplate capacity.
Additional 1 point	The Project Team has achieved commercial operation for at least one Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility in Nova Scotia.
Additional 2 points	The Proponent demonstrates the Project Team’s experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating a minimum of one Generating Facility to Interconnection Facilities at or above 69 kV.
<u>Deduction of 4.5 points</u>	<u>The Proponent (i.e., a specific Project) executed a PPA with NSPI through the Rate Base Procurement and NSPI has terminated that PPA pursuant to a Seller Event of Default (under ss.10.1 and 10.2 of the PPA) This points deduction will apply to GCP Proposals that represent the same Project. For the avoidance of doubt, this points deduction will also apply to any reasonable likeness of the same Project (e.g., adjustments made to Proponent name, size, Project layout, social benefits, etc.), at the discretion of the PA.</u>

6.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Proponents will be evaluated on their ability to develop the Project and minimize its impacts on the local and surrounding natural environment, human health and the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia. Selection as a Selected Proponent does not in any way guarantee that the Proponent will obtain any provincial, federal or municipal approvals, permits or authorizations required for the Project, nor will Selected Proponents be provided any preferential treatment in the corresponding decision-making processes.

The PA will evaluate this scoring category based on the Proponent’s responses to the Environmental Risk Questionnaire (see Appendix 7.). The Environmental Risk Questionnaire will assess the following seven categories:

- 1) *Landscape fragmentation and degradation*: the extent to which a Project impacts relatively intact natural areas;
- 2) *Regional ecological connectivity*: the extent to which the Project impacts the flow of ecological processes and native species;
- 3) *Fine-filter biodiversity elements*: the extent to which the Project impacts endangered, threatened, rare, special, or vulnerable ecosystems and species;
- 4) *Migratory Birds and Bats*: the extent to which the Project impacts migratory corridors;
- 5) *Wetlands*: the extent to which a project impacts Wetlands;
- 6) *Human Health*: the extent to which the Project exceeds noise and shadow flicker limits; and

- 7) *The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia*: the extent to which the Project impacts the Mi'kmaq and whether a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (“**MEKS**”) has been started and/or contracted in accordance with Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol, 2nd Edition.

To succeed in the *Environmental Risk* scoring category, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. complete Environmental Risk Questionnaire;
- b. the following maps that include the Project Boundary, per the instructions below:
 - i. Mature Forests or Multi-Aged/Old Forest;
 - ii. Roads;
 - iii. Existing parks and/or pending Protected Areas;
 - iv. Significant Habitat and Old Forest Policy Lands;
 - v. Migratory corridors for birds and bats;
 - vi. Wetlands; and
 - vii. Special management practice zones.
- c. if applicable, completed field investigations or field surveys (included in Section 5.15).

Prior to preparing Proposals, Proponents are encouraged to contact NRR's Wildlife Branch by email at biodiversity@novascotia.ca to conduct a preliminary assessment whether a proposed Site might overlap with species at risk occurrence, or a core or critical habitat.

Proponents are permitted to submit their own evidence in addition to the Provincial Landscape Viewer (such as dated satellite imagery or geo-references drone footage) to demonstrate that the Project is sited to avoid or limit impact on intact natural areas. For example, a Proponent may submit its own evidence to demonstrate that data in the Provincial Landscape Viewer showing a Mature Forest where there is no longer a Mature Forest is outdated. Any additional evidence submitted by a Proponent must display the Site superimposed over the land in question and provide a written description of how the evidence supports a “Yes” answer on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.

6.2.4.2 Regional Ecological Connectivity

Regional ecological connectivity refers to lands that, due to their location on the landscape and their ecological condition, play a critical role in biodiversity conservation by facilitating the flow of ecological processes and native species (terrestrial species, birds, bats, aquatic species, etc.) across the landscape, including between relatively intact natural areas and between protected areas. Proponents are encouraged to evaluate how the project plan impacts the regional ecological connectivity when designing and siting the Project. To demonstrate the Project's impact on the regional ecological connectivity, the Proponent must identify if the Site-Project Boundary is located near existing or pending parks or protected areas using the [Protected areas interactive map](#).

6.2.4.3 Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements

Proponents are encouraged to avoid lands with rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species, critical habitats, and core habitats at the site level when designing the Project. There is a large range of types of land with rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species; the RFP requires Proponents to look at the Project from multiple lenses and indicators. Lands containing rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species at the site level can be determined using the [Provincial Landscape Viewer](#):

- 1) identify if the Site-Project Boundary overlaps with Significant Habitats using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {“Wildlife” → “Significant Habitat”}, and noting the areas of “deer wintering”, “migratory bird”, “moose wintering”, “of concern”, “other habitat”, and “species at risk”;

- 2) identify if the Site-Project Boundary overlaps with Old Forest Policy lands using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {Forestry → Forestry → Old Forest Policy} and noting the populated areas; and
- 3) identify if the Site-Project Boundary overlaps with special management practice zones using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {"Special Management Practice Zones" → all sub-layers ("Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Buffers", "Lynx Buffer, Marten Range Patches 2019", "Marten Range Patches 2030", "Marten Habitat Management Zone", "Cape Breton Island Lynx Range", "Mainland Moose Concentration Areas")} and noting the populated areas.

6.2.4.4 Migratory Birds and Bats

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to migratory staging areas, critical feeding areas and pathways (e.g. Important Bird Areas). To demonstrate avoidance of such areas and potential impacts, Proponents are encouraged to provide at least one year of completed bird surveys (four seasons) including radar and acoustic monitoring, as at least one full year of complete bat acoustic monitoring (spring and fall) and field habitat assessment, with adequate coverage of the entire site. If surveys have not yet been completed, Proponents should provide a clear and mature plan to conduct surveys on migratory birds and bats at the Site-Project Boundary, including information on any environmental consultants engaged in the effort, contact information for the individuals who are completing the survey, and any additional relevant survey planning/ development details.

6.2.4.5 Wetlands

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to Wetlands. For Proponents to receive points on this section of the Environmental Risk Questionnaire, the Proposal must provide a map of the Site-Project Boundary superimposed over Wetlands. To do so, Proponents should contact the Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change Department via email to wetlands@novascotia.ca to request Wetland Area Mapping.

Projects that demonstrate avoidance of Wetlands will receive 0.5 points on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire. If the Project Boundary is sited on Wetlands, Proponents can submit a summary of how they intend to mitigate any impacts to Wetlands.

8.2 DEFINITIONS

Expansion

means the addition of Generation Equipment to an existing Generating Facility (in commercial operation no later than the RFP Date of Issuance) that:

- a. has not commenced construction or installation prior to the contract date;
- b. is not intended to replace or refresh any Generation Equipment that operates at the existing Generating Facility;
- c. generates energy output in addition to the energy output of other Generation Equipment that operates or operated or is contracted for at the existing Generating Facility;
- d. does not include any of the energy generation capacity available from the existing Generating Facility; and
- e. has a design life equal to or greater than the Agreement Term.

8.5 TEMPLATE: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK QUESTIONNAIRE

Category	Questions	No (0 pts)	Yes (+0.5 pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1. Does less than 30% of the <u>Site-Project Boundary</u> overlap with Mature Forest or Multi-Aged/Old Forest on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence as noted in Section 6.2.4)?		
Landscape Fragmentation	2. Does the Site have a higher density of roads than 0.6 km/km ² on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence as noted in Section 6.2.4)?		
Regional Ecological Connectivity	3. Is the <u>Site-Project Boundary</u> located more than 500m from an existing or pending park or Protected Area > 500 ha on the Protected Areas interactive map?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	4. Does the <u>Site-Project Boundary</u> avoid overlap with endangered or threatened species occurrences, core habitat, or critical habitat?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5. Does the Project <u>Boundary</u> avoid the use, crossing or impact of federally or provincially protected lands?		
Human Health	6. Does the Project cause shadow flicker less than 30 mins per day and/or 30 days per year at any permanent or seasonal receptor based on modeling? (Only applicable to wind <u>P</u> rojects; if solar respond "Yes")		
Category	Questions	No (-0.5 pts)	Yes (+0.5 pts)
Wetlands	7. Does the <u>Site-Project Boundary</u> avoid overlap with Wetlands?		

Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS)	8. Has a MEKS been started and/or contracted for the project area Project?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	9. Does the Site-Project Boundary avoid overlap with special management practice zones on the Provincial Landscape Viewer (or alternate source of evidence as noted in Section 6.2.4)?		
Migratory Birds/or Bats	10. Does the Project Boundary avoid bird migratory staging areas, critical feeding areas and pathways (e.g. Important Bird Areas)?		
Human Health	11. Does modeling predict the Project will cause a cumulative noise level of less than 40 dB at any permanent or seasonal receptors? Modeling must include baseline noise. (Only applicable to wind P projects; if solar respond "Yes")		

8.7 TEMPLATE: LOCAL EXPENDITURE TABLE(S)

Directions:

Total construction costs should include all costs to complete the Project, incurred after ~~February 1, 2023~~February 26, 2020, that would allow regular operations to commence. Replacement and maintenance costs should be included under generation operations. Average annual generation costs should be reported for a representative five-year average (specifically the first five years) of annual costs of generation operations and maintenance