

NOVA SCOTIA GREEN CHOICE PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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BY: Coho Climate Advisors, the Procurement Administrator

ON BEHALF OF: The Province of Nova Scotia

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The Green Choice Program (“**GCP**”) aims to attract Renewable Low-Impact Electricity solutions in Nova Scotia through a competitive Request for Proposal (“**RFP**”). The Procurement Administrator (“**PA**”) will administer an RFP process to procure a target of 1,500 gigawatt hours per year (“**GWh**”) of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity with an energy source of wind or solar from eligible Suppliers.

The goals of the RFP are to (1) ensure a fair, transparent, and competitive procurement to select one or more Proposals for the supply of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity generated by solar or wind resources for GCP participants’ subscribed Renewable Low-Impact Electricity, and (2) select one or more Proposals for the supply of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity generated by solar or wind energy sources that provide the best value for Nova Scotia Power Inc. (“**NSPI**”) electricity ratepayers.

Renewable Low-Impact Electricity development offers significant economic benefit opportunity to many rural areas in Nova Scotia and significant advancement towards achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Once the Projects are operational, the GCP is anticipated to help achieve the Province’s Renewable Electricity Standard of 80% by 2030 and support the goal of achieving a 53% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

1.2 THE PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR

The Province of Nova Scotia has appointed Coho Climate Advisors (“**Coho**”) as the PA to carry out the third-party administration of the RFP. The PA will administer this RFP in accordance with the applicable provisions of the *Electricity Act*, SNS 2004, c 25, the Regulations Respecting the Green Choice Program, (“**GCP Regulations**”) and the Renewable Electricity Regulations, NS Reg 155/2010 (as amended) (“**Renewable Electricity Regulations**”), and will determine which Project(s) provide(s) the best value for NSPI ratepayers as defined by the criteria in this RFP. The criteria were developed in consultation with the Province of Nova Scotia, the Proponents, and other interested parties. At the conclusion of the RFP process, the PA may award one or more Selected Proponents with an opportunity to execute a power purchase agreement for eligible Renewable Low-Impact Electricity with NSPI (the “**Agreement**”).

Coho (formerly known as Customer First Renewables, LLC) is an independent advisor that works with impact-oriented clients to develop actionable strategies, procure tailored energy, and water solutions, and optimize performance over time. Since 2010, Coho has grown its team and client base, accumulating a track record for securing high-impact solutions. In that time, Coho’s clients have transacted over 3.7 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy offtake.

To support the design of an RFP process that will meet the PA’s objectives, the PA has presented public [webinars](#), released [draft RFPs](#), solicited written feedback, updated [frequently asked questions](#), and considered all comments prior to issuance. Members of the Proponent community, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (“**NRR**”), other government agencies within the Province of Nova Scotia, and others participated in these activities leading up the RFP’s issuance.

1.3 PROPONENTS

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 be 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.

1.3.2 PROJECT TEAM & KEY PERSONNEL

Proponents must identify a “**Project Team**” consisting of:

- a. the Proponent; and
- b. all Persons (including equity partners named in the Proposal and Key Personnel):
 - i. involved in the preparation and delivery of the Proposal;
 - ii. intended to be assessed on either the Minimum Criteria or Scored Criteria; and
 - iii. should include technical, financial and legal advisors, procurement and construction contractors or service providers, O&M service providers, and resource assessment consultants (including the Qualified Meteorologist) but shall not include any lenders or any technical or legal advisors to such lenders.

1.3.3 PRIMARY & SECONDARY CONTACTS

On the Notice of Intent to Bid, the Proponent must designate a primary and secondary contact to whom all communications related to the RFP will be directed. The primary and secondary contacts must also be listed as Key Personnel. Only the primary contact will have an account to access the information sharing platform and will be responsible for following the instructions provided by the PA to set up that account.

1.3.4 REGISTRY OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

Nova Scotia law requires all businesses operating within the Province to register with Nova Scotia’s Registry of Joint Stock Companies (with some exceptions for New Brunswick businesses that are registered with the New Brunswick Corporate Affairs Registry). Proponents are required to provide evidence of good standing within the Registry of Joint Stock Companies, or a plan to register with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies if they become the Selected Proponent. Proponents must register to conduct business in Nova Scotia as required by Laws and Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, the status of a Proponent’s business registration does not preclude the submission of a Proposal in response to this RFP and no points will be awarded based on a Proponent’s registration status.

1.4 AWARD OBLIGATIONS

At the conclusion of the RFP process, the PA may award, at its discretion, one or more Selected Proponents, if any, with an opportunity to execute the Agreement. The expectation is that the Project Team identified in the Proposal will carry out the obligations set out in the Agreement. The standard form Agreement, prepared by the

PA in consultation with NSPI, is expected to undergo approval by the Utility and Review Board (“**UARB**”). It will be released as an Addendum and added to Appendix 8.1, once approved.

2. RFP PROCESS

2.1 SUMMARY

The RFP will be released on the RFP Date of Issuance, after which Proponents will have a minimum of 60 Business Days to prepare a Proposal (see Section 2.5.1). Proponents must submit a Notice of Intent to Bid and a fee by the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline for the Proposal to be considered (see Section 2.5.4).

Proposals will be evaluated in two phases. In the first phase, the PA will screen Proposals to ensure that the Minimum Criteria are satisfied. In the second phase, the PA will evaluate the Scored Criteria using the rubric provided in Section 6. The sum of Scored Criteria for each configuration produces a “**Configuration Score**”. Each Proposal configuration may receive a maximum Configuration Score of 100 points. After both phases of the evaluation are complete, the PA will identify a portfolio of Projects to be shortlisted and that will advance in the GCP process (the “**Shortlist Portfolio**”). Proponents that have submitted a Proposal included in the Shortlist Portfolio (a “**Shortlisted Proponent**”) will be invited to participate in an interview with the PA. After interviewing and evaluating their Proposals, the PA may award, at its discretion, one or more Selected Proponents with an opportunity to execute the Agreement.

2.2 COMMUNICATIONS

2.2.1 INFORMATION SHARING BY THE PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR

The PA will be responsible for communicating updates on the RFP to Proponents. Updates may include but will not be limited to:

- a. periodic responses to frequently asked questions;
- b. updated drafts of the RFP;
- c. announcements of any relevant webinars; and
- d. the release of Addenda.

These updates will be communicated through the following streams:

- a. via the GCP website, where:
 - i. the PA will post all updates to the [Updates](#) tab;
 - ii. the PA will post updated responses to Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”) to the [Proponent FAQ](#) tab; and
 - iii. the PA will post the RFP and associated documents including Addenda to the [Proponent Documents](#) tab; and
- b. via email, where the PA will maintain mailing lists and will notify lists with relevant updates.

To be added to the mailing list, please contact the PA directly at novascotia@cohoclimat.com.

The PA reserves the right, at its discretion, to make changes to this RFP and any related documentation in accordance with Section 2.10, including changes that reflect questions and comments received from interested parties. Interested parties should promptly review all such documentation and should report any errors, omissions, or ambiguities to the PA at novascotia@cohoclimat.com.

2.2.2 INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS

The PA invites questions and comments regarding the RFP process until the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline. After the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline, only Proponents will be permitted to ask questions in connection with the RFP and will be permitted to do so until the Inquiries Deadline. All communications must be directed to the PA email address at novascotia@cohoclimat.com. **The PA will not respond to questions or comments submitted to any other e-mail address or by any other means of communication (e.g., fax, phone calls or voicemail messages, mail, courier, social media, etc.).** Please allow up to two Business Days for the PA to acknowledge receipt of the question and to either provide a response or an estimate of additional time required to provide a response. In keeping with principles of fairness, transparency and competitiveness of the RFP process, inquiries and comments received by email may be posted on the website with the PA's response, but the identity of any party making such inquiry or comment will be withheld.

2.3 DUE DILIGENCE BY PROPONENTS

Proponents are required to conduct their own due diligence in relation to all aspects of this RFP and the GCP, including in the preparation and delivery of their Proposal. Proponents are responsible for carrying out any independent investigations, surveys, and studies that they consider appropriate in connection with satisfying their due diligence responsibilities, at their own cost. Proponents are expected to review public resources to inform their Proposal, including those provided in Appendix 8.3.

2.4 PROPOSALS

Each Proposal must contain a minimum of one and a maximum of three Project configurations. A Proponent (or more than one Proponents who do not deal at Arm's Length) may submit no more than one Proposal (with a maximum of three configurations) where the respective Generating Facilities share part or all of a Site. For the avoidance of doubt, a Proponent (or more than one Proponents who do not deal at Arm's Length) may not submit a second Notice of Intent to Bid form and Proposal for a proposed Project that is intended to be located on a Site that partially or fully overlaps with the Site described in another Proposal (with the exception of the Interconnection Facilities or access roads) submitted by the same Proponent or another Proponent who does not deal at Arm's Length.

A complete Proposal consists of the following documents (templates for which shall be released upon RFP Issuance):

- a. a Proposal Completion Checklist; and
- b. for each configuration:
 - i. a Configuration Form (including any Appendices and supplementary files); and
 - ii. a Configuration Spreadsheet.

2.5 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

2.5.1 MILESTONES & TIMELINE

The following timeline sets out the schedule of milestone dates and timelines in this RFP process. All times provided are in Atlantic Standard Time.

RFP Milestone	Date
Request for Information Deadline	September 21, 2023
RFP Date of Issuance	December 1, 2023

Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline	5 Business Days after the date whereby the Agreement has been approved by the UARB (anticipated for early May 2024).
Inquiries Deadline	May 17, 2024
Proposal Submission Deadline	The later of: (a) 90 Business Days after the RFP Date of Issuance; or (b) 10 Business Days after either: (i) the last Interconnection Feasibility Study included in Request for Information form has been completed; or (ii) the date whereby the Agreement has been approved by the UARB.) (i.e., no earlier than April 11, 2024) NOTE: The PA anticipates IFS Studies will be completed by May 31, 2024; resulting in a Proposal Submission Deadline of June 14, 2024
RFP Evaluation Period	The 40 Business Days following the Proposal Submission Deadline
Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date	40 Business Days after the Proposal Submission Deadline (anticipated on August 9, 2024)
Shortlist Portfolio Interview Period	Within 15 Business Days after the GCP Shortlist Portfolio Notification Date
GCP Portfolio Notification Date	20 Business Days after the GCP Shortlist Portfolio Notification Date (anticipated on September 6, 2024)
Delivery of Final Report on RFP	Within 60 calendar days after the GCP Portfolio Notification Date
Target Agreement Execution Period	Within 90 calendar days after the GCP Portfolio Notification Date (anticipated on December 6, 2024)
Request for Debriefing Deadline	Within 5 Business Days after the date whereby each Selected Proponent has executed the Agreement (anticipated on December 13, 2024)

The PA reserves the right to amend the above timelines in the RFP, including to accelerate or postpone any of the dates, or add, eliminate, or re-order any of the steps. The PA will notify Proponents of any amendments to the above timelines via the GCP mailing list and by posting an update to the [Timeline](#) tab of the GCP website.

2.5.2 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DEADLINE

Prospective Proponents are required to submit a Request for Information form to the PA via email to novascotia@cohoclimate.com before midnight Atlantic Time on the Request for Information Deadline. While prospective Proponents are not bound by the information provided on the Request for Information form, submitting the form is a requirement to participate in the RFP. Only Proponents that submit a Request for Information form will be included in a prioritized NSPI study queue, and will receive their Interconnection Feasibility Study results prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline. For the avoidance of doubt, the information submitted on a Request for Information form may be changed prior to the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline. The PA will use the Interconnection Request number provided by prospective Proponents in their Request for Information to track the status of Interconnection Requests for the purpose of releasing this RFP.

2.5.3 RFP DATE OF ISSUANCE

The RFP Date of Issuance is the date the RFP is uploaded to the GCP website on the [Proponent Documents](#) tab. Prospective Proponents will be notified of the RFP Date of Issuance at least five days in advance, on the GCP website and via email.

2.5.4 NOTICE OF INTENT TO BID DEADLINE

Prospective Proponents are required to submit the Notice of Intent to Bid for each Proposal by the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline.

2.5.4.1 Notice of Intent to Bid

Prospective Proponents must submit the completed Notice of Intent to Bid form(s) to the PA via email to novascotia@cohoclimate.com before midnight on the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline to become a Proponent. Proponents may change the information contained in their Notice of Intent to Bid. Within one week following the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline, the PA will share a link with the Proponent to create a password protected account to log-in to the information-sharing platform where Proponents will be required to upload all Proposal materials.

2.5.4.2 Notice of Intent to Bid Fee

Proponents must pay the Notice of Intent to Bid fee of \$5,750 by the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline for each Notice of Intent to Bid form that it submits. The Notice of Intent to Bid fee is payable by either a certified cheque or bank draft to the Nova Scotia Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. Payment must be dated on or before the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline and received by the NRR no later than five Business Days after the Notice of Intent to Bid. Proponents must send payment for the Notice of Intent to Bid fee by registered mail or courier to the c/o NRR, at the following address:

1690 Hollis Street PO Box 2664
12th Floor Joseph Howe Building
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7
Attention: David Miller

The Notice of Intent to Bid fee is **non-refundable** unless the RFP process is cancelled. For the avoidance of doubt, the Notice of Intent to Bid fee will not be refunded to Proponents that do not submit a Proposal or to Proponents that do not become a Selected Proponent.

2.5.5 INQUIRIES DEADLINE

Proponents will be permitted to ask questions to the PA up until the Inquiries Deadline (see Section 2.2.2.).

2.5.6 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Prospective Proponents will have the opportunity to complete and deliver their Proposal from within one week of the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline until the Proposal Submission Deadline. Proponents must submit completed Proposals before midnight on the Proposal Submission Deadline. Proponents may edit or withdraw the information submitted on the information sharing platform until the Proposal Submission Deadline. Proposals shall be irrevocable in the form submitted by the Proponents following the Proposal Submission Deadline. After the Proposal Submission Deadline, the PA will disable the capability for Proponents to submit, withdraw or edit Proposals on the information sharing platform. Other than changes or additions made in accordance with Section 4.1 or Section 2.5.8, Proponents will not have the opportunity to make any additions or changes to their Proposals and related materials after the Proposal Submission Deadline, and any proposed additions or changes will not be considered as part of their Proposal.

2.5.7 SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION DATE

Proponents that have submitted a Proposal will be evaluated by the PA, who will generate a Configuration Score for each configuration. The PA will use the single highest Configuration Score per Proposal to compile a list of Shortlisted Proposals. Proponents will be notified if they have been selected as a Shortlisted Proponent by the Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date.

2.5.8 SHORTLIST PORTFOLIO INTERVIEW PERIOD

Proponents selected as Shortlisted Proponents will be invited to participate in an interview with the PA during the Shortlisted Proponent Interview Period. The purpose of the interview is to provide the PA with an opportunity to (1) further assess the strengths and risks associated with the Proposal, and (2) to develop confidence in the Proponent's ability to construct, develop and operate the Project in accordance with the Agreement. During the interview, each Proponent will have an opportunity to present their Proposal and development capabilities for no more than 30 minutes. The PA will then have the opportunity to ask questions in respect of the Proposal for a maximum of one hour. The PA will provide the Proponent with some of those questions three Business Days in advance of the interview. For the avoidance of doubt, the interview questions are not limited to the questions shared with the Proponents in advance of the interview. In addition, prior to and after the interview, the PA may request additional materials from the Proponent to be included in the Proposal to assist it in conducting the evaluation.

2.5.9 GREEN CHOICE PROGRAM PORTFOLIO NOTIFICATION DATE

On the GCP Portfolio Notification Date, the PA will aim to notify the Selected Proponent(s), if any, that their Proposal(s) have been selected for the GCP portfolio. The PA will also notify NSPI and each Proponent of the Selected Proposals no later than seven days after selecting the Selected Proponents.

2.5.10 GREEN CHOICE PROGRAM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The PA is required by the Renewable Electricity Regulations to provide a final report on the RFP to the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables within 60 days after the PA provides the notification referred to Section 2.5.9. The report will contain: the Energy Rate, name plate capacity, Energy Bid, and the net capacity factor of the Selected Proposal(s), in addition to all other required information pursuant to the Renewable Electricity Regulations.

2.5.11 REQUEST FOR DEBRIEFING DEADLINE

Any Proponents other than a Selected Proponent may attend a debriefing with the PA. Such Proponents that wish to hold a debriefing shall provide a written request to the PA no later than the Request for Debriefing Deadline. Proponents that have met these requirements will have the opportunity to attend debriefings with the PA after all Agreements with Selected Proponents have been executed. The PA will share additional information with Proponents on the timing and scheduling of a debriefing after they have submitted a request.

The sole purpose of the debriefing is to provide information to the Proponent to improve its bids in future procurements. The PA will not disclose any confidential information (in accordance with Sections 2.8 and 2.9) to the Proponent during the debriefing, including information in connection with Proposals submitted by other Proponents. The debriefing is not available for the purpose of providing an opportunity to challenge the PA's evaluation of any Proposal. The debriefing is for informational purposes only and is for the sole benefit of the Proponent. **The Proponent agrees that the PA will not be liable or responsible for any loss, costs, damages, expenses, or inconvenience which may result from anything done (or communicated) or omitted to be done (or communicated) during the debriefing.**

2.5.12 TARGET AGREEMENT EXECUTION PERIOD

The Target Agreement Execution Period represents the period whereby the Selected Proponent and NSPI are expected to execute the Agreement. **If a Selected Proponent is not prepared to execute the Agreement within the completion of the Target Agreement Execution Period (i.e., 90 days following the GCP Portfolio Notification Date), the PA may determine, at its discretion, that the Selected Proponent has forfeited the opportunity to enter into the Agreement and the PA may, but is not obligated to, reallocate the capacity from the Selected Proposal to select another Shortlisted Proposal to fill the GCP Portfolio.**

2.6 CHANGES TO PROPOSAL

See Section 2.5.6 for the requirements relating to changing previously submitted Proposals.

2.7 FEDERAL FUNDING

Proponents are encouraged to explore all federal funding opportunities to make their Energy Rate more competitive, including any available investment tax credits.

2.8 PROPOSAL DISCLOSURE

By submitting a Proposal in response to the RFP, a Proponent is signaling its consent that the PA may disclose, as it determines appropriate, all or part of that Proposal on a confidential basis to the Government of Nova Scotia, the UARB, the PA's counsel, and other advisors retained by the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia for the purpose of preparing or administering this RFP. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the PA may disclose any information provided in a Proposal that is necessary for the purposes of preparing the final report on the RFP for the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

Further, in a public release, which may be made in respect of one or more Selected Proposals, the PA may disclose the name of the Selected Proponent(s), the name, location, fuel type and technology of the Facility or Facilities associated with each Selected Proposal, the sum of the Energy Bid, and the average of the Energy Rate included in such Selected Proposal(s).

Notwithstanding any provision of this RFP, the PA shall not disclose any Proposal or any information contained in a Proposal to NSPI unless:

- a. after the Proposal in question is selected as the Selected Proposal, the PA, acting reasonably, determines that the disclosure of such information contained in the Proposal is necessary for NSPI to execute or administer the Agreement; in which case, for the avoidance of doubt, the PA will disclose no more information than what is necessary to accomplish the purpose of such disclosure;
- b. the information has already been released publicly as described above or is otherwise available to the public; or
- c. such disclosure is required by Laws and Regulations.

2.9 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

All information provided by or obtained from the PA in any form in connection with this RFP process other than through the website is the sole property of the PA and the information must be treated as confidential by the Proponent, and:

- a. shall not to be used for any purpose other than replying to this RFP;
- b. shall not be disclosed by the Proponent without the prior written authorization of the PA; and
- c. shall be returned by the Proponent or third party, as applicable, to the PA immediately upon request of the PA.

A Proponent shall treat its Proposal as confidential until the conclusion of the RFP and until the selection of the Selected Proposal(s), if any, has been publicly announced. Until such time, a Proposal must not be disclosed by the Proponent without the prior written authorization of the PA.

By submitting a Proposal, a Proponent authorizes the PA to collect, use and disclose any personal information contained in the Proposal for the purposes of evaluating Proposals and to store that personal information by the PA outside of Canada. The PA shall not use any personal information contained in a Proposal for any other purpose unless otherwise authorized by law or with the express consent of the individual. Under the privacy provisions of the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (Nova Scotia), individuals have the right to protection of, and access to, their personal information.

All information provided to the PA in any form in connection with this RFP (including the Proposal) may be subject to and may be collected, used, and disclosed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Nova Scotia) and the [Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act](#) (Nova Scotia). If a Proponent wishes to assert that certain portions of the Proposal contain proprietary or confidential information, the confidentiality of which is to be maintained by the PA, the Proponent shall clearly label all those portions of the Proposal materials they seek to be treated as confidential as “Confidential” and provide a written explanation that supports why this information is considered confidential. If no corresponding information is identified as “Confidential”, the Proponent will be deemed to have certified to the PA that no portion of the Proposal contains proprietary or confidential information for which confidentiality is to be maintained by the PA. For the avoidance of doubt, despite the Proponent making certain portions of the Proposal as “Confidential”, the PA may be required to disclose some or all of that information where that information is not protected from disclosure under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, *Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act*, or other applicable legislation.

The PA shall not be required to maintain the confidentiality of any such information that:

- a. is or becomes generally available to the public without fault or breach on the part of the PA or its advisors of any duty of confidentiality owed by the PA and its advisors to the Proponent or to any third party;
- b. the PA or its advisors can demonstrate had been rightfully obtained by the PA or its advisors, without any obligation of confidence, from a third party who had the right to transfer or disclose such information to the PA or its advisors free of any obligation of confidence;
- c. the PA or its advisors can demonstrate had been rightfully known by or in the possession of the PA or its advisors at the time of disclosure, free of any obligation of confidence when disclosed; or
- d. has been independently developed by the PA or its advisors.

2.10 ADDENDA

This RFP may be amended by Addenda at the PA’s discretion. If the PA chooses to include additional information to the RFP or make any other changes to the RFP, such information or changes will be communicated by posting an Addendum on the [Proponent Documents](#) tab on the GCP website. Each Addendum may contain important information, including significant changes to the RFP. Addenda will be shared with Proponents under the framework described in Section 2.2.1. Proponents are responsible for monitoring the [GCP website](#) as often as is necessary to ensure that they obtain all the Addenda to this RFP and other notices issued by the PA, from time to time.

3. INTERCONNECTION & ANCILLARY SERVICES

The [NSPI Generation Interconnection Procedures](#) (“GIP”) outline the procedures – administered by the System Operator – for processing an Interconnection Request pertaining to a Generating Facility. Proponents are expected to meet all obligations provided by the GIP, including the requirements to provide payment for applicable fees and deposits.

3.1.1 NOVA SCOTIA TRANSMISSION NETWORK

The Transmission System is characterized by its east-west radial nature. The “backbone” of the Transmission System is comprised of 345kV lines from Woodbine to Lakeside, with interconnections at Hopewell and Onslow. This backbone is reinforced by 230kV systems (two lines from Lingan to Port Hastings, and three lines from Port Hastings to Brushy Hill via Onslow) as well. Major generation centers are connected in the east-end of the system at Lingan, Point Aconi and Point Tupper (all primarily coal-fired) and Wreck Cove (hydro). In addition, the converter station at Woodbine injects energy transmitted from Newfoundland via the Maritime Link HVDC interconnection. The major load center is the Halifax metropolitan area. The western part of the Province requires more electricity than is currently produced in the region. A map of the Transmission System is presented in Appendix 8.8.

As a member of the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (“**NPCC**”), NSPI is required to ensure that the NSPI bulk power system is designed and operated according to the standards and criteria of both NPCC and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

3.1.2 COMPENSATION FRAMEWORK FOR CURTAILMENT

A Proponent may select Energy Resource Interconnection Service (“**ERIS**”), Network Resource Interconnection Service (“**NRIS**”), or both as part of the Interconnection Request process. There is no difference in scoring between NRIS and ERIS projects and both are eligible to provide AGC service as detailed in the PPA. Proponents that are in the GCP portfolio and execute the Agreement and that select NRIS for their Project will be provided compensation for curtailment to the extent authorized by the applicable provisions of the Agreement.

3.1.3 COST RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERCONNECTION AND NETWORK UPGRADES

The cost responsibilities for interconnection are outlined in Article 11 of the GIA. Proponents (in their capacity as Interconnection Customers) are responsible for all costs associated with Interconnection Facilities, including but not limited to the construction, installation, and operation of such interconnection. Interconnection Customers’ Interconnection Facilities and Transmission Providers’ Interconnection Facilities are to be, among other things, constructed and operated at the sole expense of the Proponent. Unless NSPI or the System Operator elects to fund the capital for Network Upgrades, the Proponent will be solely responsible for such funding. Under the GIA, the Proponent will generally be entitled to a cash repayment equal to the total amount paid to NSPI and the System Operator, if any, for Network Upgrades Costs.

3.1.4 ANCILLARY SERVICES – UNDERFREQUENCY EVENTS

Nova Scotia has approximately 600 MW of installed wind generation capacity, with an additional ~350 MW having been awarded under the Rate Base Procurement, and off-peak loads of less than 700 MW in summer months, presenting a challenge to integrate variable output generation in certain hours. Facilities will be required to provide ancillary services under the circumstances provided by the [Transmission System Interconnection Requirements](#) (“**TSIR**”) and GIP at their own expense. With respect to frequency response, NSPI has reviewed the historical frequency of underfrequency response events with internal experts, which has been shown to historically occur two times per year. NSPI estimates that underfrequency response events might increase to up to five events per year, depending on future system configurations. Proponents may choose to consider these costs when submitting their Energy Rates in their Proposals.

4. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

4.1 PROPOSAL COMPLETION

The PA will review Proposals for completeness and organization prior to evaluating RFP submissions by comparing the contents of the Proposal to the Proposal Completion Checklist. Proponents wishing to have their Proposals evaluated will be required to submit a complete and correctly organized Proposal by the Proposal Submission Deadline. However, if a Proposal is missing necessary information, the Proponent will be notified

and will have 2 Business Days from the time it receives such notice to produce the missing information. If a Proponent is unable to produce the missing information within 2 Business Days, it will not be eligible to participate in the RFP.

4.2 WINNOWING AND AWARD PROCESS

4.2.1 TARGET GREEN CHOICE PROGRAM PORTFOLIO SIZE

In order to meet the GCP's objective of procuring a minimum of 1,500 GWh of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity, the PA is aiming to award a minimum of 1,650 GWh and a maximum of 2,000 GWh of eligible Renewable Low-Impact Electricity. This assumes a Project attrition rate of ~10%. Further, to account for "lumpy" Project sizes, the PA added an upper bound to the GCP portfolio ~20% larger than the minimum size of the GCP portfolio or 2,000 GWh.

The Scored Criteria are designed to ensure that the Proposals for Projects that provide the best value for Nova Scotians, assuming they meet the eligibility requirements, will become the Selected Proposals. However, if the PA determines that the submitted Proposals do not provide sufficient value for NSPI's rate payers, the PA reserves the right to reduce the size of the portfolio and/or to issue subsequent RFPs to meet the GCP portfolio, pending guidance from the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. Furthermore, the PA reserves the right to increase the size of the target portfolio if such an increase is in the best interest of Nova Scotia rate payers, pending guidance from the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

4.2.2 SHORTLIST PORTFOLIO SELECTION

4.2.2.1 Minimum Criteria

Following the Proposal Submission Deadline, the PA will review the Proposals to determine whether they meet the Minimum Criteria. If a Proposal meets the Minimum Criteria, it may advance to the next stage of the evaluation where it will be evaluated under the Scored Criteria; if it does not, it is not eligible to be scored.

4.2.2.2 Scored Criteria

Proposals that meet the Minimum Criteria will be evaluated using Scored Criteria to produce a Configuration Score for each Project configuration. The PA will select the highest scoring Project configuration from each Proposal and will stack the Proposals from the lowest to highest Configuration Score. If a Proposal contains more than one Project configuration, the PA will only add the Project configuration with the highest Configuration Score to the stack.

From this stack, the PA will select the highest Configuration Scores to fill a Shortlist Portfolio with up to 3,000 GWh, representing 1.5 times the upper bound of the GCP portfolio. As discussed in section 4.2.1, the PA may, at its sole discretion, deviate from the target GCP portfolio size. If there are not enough Proposals to fill a Shortlist Portfolio of 3,000 GWh, the Shortlist Portfolio will consist of the highest scoring configuration from all Proposals that satisfy the Minimum Criteria. Proponents will be notified of their selection as a Shortlisted Proposal by the Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date.

4.2.3 GREEN CHOICE PROGRAM PORTFOLIO SELECTION

4.2.3.1 Proponent Interviews

All Proponents with a Project in the Shortlist Portfolio will have the opportunity to attend an interview with the PA. A Proponent's presentation and responses during the interview will be considered in determining the Configuration Score. The process surrounding the Proponent interviews is described in Section 2.5.8.

4.2.3.2 Determine Selected Proponent(s) & Selected Proposal(s)

To select the GCP portfolio, the PA will stack the configurations for the Shortlisted Proposals from the lowest to

the highest Configuration Score. From this stack, it will select the Projects with the highest Configuration Scores to fill the GCP portfolio between 1,650 to 2,000 GWh, or a modified size in the appropriate circumstances. From the Shortlist Portfolio, the PA will not select the configuration with the highest Configuration Score in the event that the Energy Bid for that configuration exceeds the available portion of the GCP portfolio to be procured. The PA will select no more than one scoring configuration for each Proposal.

4.2.4 TIE-BREAKER MECHANISMS

When ranking Proposals, the PA will apply the following tie-breaker rules:

- a. In the event of a tie between one or more Proposals with the same Configuration Score under Section 6. (Scored Criteria), the PA will award the higher ranking to the Proposal with the higher score for Price (Section 6.1) to two decimal places as the first tiebreaker;
- b. In the event of a tie between one or more Proposals after the application of the first tiebreaker, the higher ranking will be awarded to the Proposal with the higher score for Ownership (Section 6.3.1) as the second tiebreaker; and
- c. In the event of a tie between one or more Proposals after the application of the second tiebreaker, the PA will use the random number generator function in Microsoft Excel (RAND) to rank Proposals. The Proposal with the highest number will be the Selected Proposal.

5. MINIMUM CRITERIA

The following Minimum Criteria must be met for the Proposal to be scored.

5.1 PROPONENT REQUIREMENTS

Proponents must meet the requirements specified in Section 1.3.1. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. legal name of Proponent or expected legal name of Proponent;
- b. primary and secondary contact information
- c. Project Team, including the Project roles of members of the Key Personnel (see Section 1.3.2); and
- d. description of the corporate structure and ownership breakdown.

5.2 RENEWABLE LOW-IMPACT ELECTRICITY

The Proposal must be for a Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility with an energy source of solar or wind. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. primary energy source for the Project's Renewable Low-Impact Electricity (i.e., solar or wind);
- b. high level Project summary;
- c. description of the Project; and
- d. description of Project's technical risks, including their estimated likelihood and mitigation measures.

5.3 NEW-BUILD OR EXPANSION

Each Project must be a New-Build or an Expansion. Proposals must indicate whether the Project is a New-Build or an Expansion.

5.4 CYBER SECURITY

Proponents must demonstrate that the cyber security strategy for the Project will apply best practices throughout the Project's life cycle and contribute to a more resilient grid in Nova Scotia. Proponents must include a cyber security strategy in their Proposals, including the following information:

- a. description of how the Proponent (or any future Project operator) will use cyber security tools and adhere to standards on security (e.g., data management, incident reporting, communication protocols, supply chains, sensor networks, servers and data analysis, and customer data privacy);
- b. cyber security measures and controls that will be used to mitigate cyber risks and help prevent, respond to, and recover from cyber incidents and threats, and relevant direct outputs and 'bigger picture' outcomes; and
- c. completion of the [Canadian Cyber Security Tool](#), a virtual self-assessment for the organization's operational resilience and cyber security posture which must be from no earlier than January 1, 2022, and the results. If a Proponent is submitting multiple Proposals, it may include the same results for each of its Proposals.

5.5 INTERCONNECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Proponents must have completed an Interconnection Feasibility Study from the System Operator which was issued by the System Operator no earlier than July 15, 2023. The nameplate capacity of the Project must be between 40% and 100% of the nameplate capacity submitted in the Interconnection Feasibility Study as permitted under Section 4.4.1 of the GIP. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. Interconnection details;
 - i. Interconnection Request number;
 - ii. whether the Interconnection Request is for ERIS, NRIS, or both;
 - iii. point of interconnection; and
 - iv. voltage of the interconnection;
- b. completed Interconnection Feasibility Study; and
- c. single-line diagram.

5.6 LOCATION

The Project must be physically located in Nova Scotia and will have to be connected to the Transmission System. For clarity, Projects connected to the distribution network are not eligible to participate in the RFP. For further clarity, the Project includes the Generating Facility (including Generation Equipment and Major Equipment), the Interconnection Facilities, and access roads. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. the Zone in which the Project's Point of Interconnection is located (as described in Appendix 8.8 and Appendix 8.9);
- b. latitude and longitude (in decimal degrees format) of the approximate center of the Facility;
- c. a scaled Site plan map and its relation to each of the following:
 - i. local communities;
 - ii. structures and occupied buildings;
 - iii. transportation facilities;
 - iv. proposed routes of access;

- v. parks and protected areas; and
 - vi. water.
- d. a scaled Site plan map of the Site including individual and labeled Property Identifier(s) (PID) numbers, the Generating Facility, Interconnection Facilities to the Point of Interconnection, access roads; and
 - e. an outline of the Project Boundary and buildable area maps of the Site (shapefiles must include the following file extensions at a minimum: .shp, .shx, .dbf, and .prj). Access roads must use the line feature (if available on the shapefile software) with proposed road width.

5.7 PRICE

Proposals must include a fixed Energy Rate for the Agreement Term in \$/MWh to two decimal places. Proposals with variable Energy Rates, or those that include an escalator, will not be considered. Proponents should note that the Energy Rate will be indexed and adjusted in accordance with Exhibit “G” of the Agreement.

See Section 6.1 for more detail on the PA’s scoring methodology for Price.

5.8 COMMERCIAL OPERATION DATE

Proposals must include a scheduled Commercial Operation Date (“**COD**”) for the Project that must be on or before December 31, 2028, and a technically feasible plan to meet the scheduled COD. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. scheduled Project COD;
- b. Project timeline (which are encouraged to be presented in GANTT charts or other user-friendly formats), including:
 - i. a detailed timeline for the time period between the submission of the Proposal until the scheduled COD;
 - ii. key development milestones and dates for phases which include the Project’s design, procurement for Generation Equipment and key Major Equipment, major regulatory approval, permit milestones (see section 5.15.1), construction, and commissioning; and
- c. a description of the Project’s timeline risks, including assumptions for timing, the Proponent’s estimated likelihood of meeting the scheduled COD, and mitigation measures for risks to on-time completion.

5.9 ENERGY BID

The Project must supply energy for each year of the Agreement Term. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. the Energy Bid for each 12-month period during the Agreement Term that reflects the total energy output at the probability of exceedance at 50% (P50);
- b. an 8760-hour production profile that reflects the energy output at the probability of exceedance at 50% (P50) and 90% (P90) using either:
 - i. the most representative year within the last 10 years (2014-2023); or
 - ii. a five-year average of estimated production between 2019 – 2023; and
- c. a brief description of how the 8760-hour production profile was created, including the year(s) used.

5.10 NAMEPLATE CAPACITY

Proposals must include the Project nameplate capacity and the net capacity factor for each configuration. The Project will not be considered if the nameplate capacity is greater than 150 MW at alternating current (“**AC**”) capacity. Proposals for solar Projects must include nameplate capacity values for both the direct current (“**DC**”) and AC.

5.11 GENERATION TECHNOLOGY

Proponents must demonstrate that the Project will use generation technology that satisfies applicable certification requirements or that has been in commercial operation for three years (in accordance with the requirements below).

The generation technology must have received type certification or a site suitability assessment by a reputable and internationally recognized body such as Det Norske Veritas (DNV, formerly DNV-GL), TUV Nord, DEWI-UL, or another comparable, internationally recognized certifying body as reasonably determined by the PA, and must have achieved the industry standard certification(s) under International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards appropriate for the proposed technology and reflecting a minimum operational lifetime or design lifetime of at least 25 years. Generation technology that has begun the certification process as of the time the RFP has been issued but has not been in commercial operation for three years will satisfy this component of evaluation if the Proponent delivers a written statement signed by an authorized officer of the original equipment manufacturer of the generation technology that it reasonably expects to receive such certification by the scheduled Commercial Operation Date (see Section 5.8).

Changes to the generation technology will require approval by the PA during the RFP evaluation and award process or by NSPI during the Agreement negotiation process. The determination of whether to grant such approval will be subject to the discretion of the PA or NSPI, as the case may be, acting reasonably and in accordance with the requirements provided by the GIA and GIP, if applicable.

Proponents must include a description of the generation technology in their Proposals, including the following information:

- a. proposed original equipment manufacturer and model for each unit;
- b. number of units;
- c. capacity of each unit (e.g., solar panel, wind turbine, etc.);
- d. technical characteristics (such as specification sheets and power curves) and technical standards; and
- e. evidence of one of the following:
 - i. type certification by a reputable and internationally recognized body; or
 - ii. written statement signed by an authorized officer of the original equipment manufacturer of the generation technology that it reasonably expects to receive certification by the scheduled COD.

5.12 PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION

Proponents must demonstrate a plan to secure proven and effective procurement and construction contractors or service provider(s), which may be the Proponent, or other members of the Project Team, to deliver and manage the Project’s engineering, procurement and construction needs. The Proponent must demonstrate that the contractors and service providers have prior experience with similar projects (by reference to, among other things, type and size) involving a Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility of the same type as the Facility.

Proponents must include a procurement and construction service plan in their Proposals that must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. a list of proposed contractors and service providers for procurement and construction related activities (e.g., engineering, procurement, construction), together with a summary of their relevant experience;
- b. a summary of the proposed contractors and service providers' prior experience constructing or procuring materials for the development of at least one Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility of the same type as the Facility; and
- c. a description of the competitive process proposed to be used to obtain bids and cost assumptions for procurement and construction services.

Proponents are encouraged to review the Special Move Permit requirements to transport Generation Equipment and Major Equipment to the proposed Project Site on roads and structures in Nova Scotia. Considerations regarding Generation Equipment and Major Equipment weight, height and width limitations on Nova Scotia routes and structures should be part of conversations with turbine manufacturers and considered in Project economics. Spring weight restrictions should also be considered in Project timelines. Guidance has been prepared for Proponents to assist in conversations with turbine manufacturers and when estimating costs for the purpose of setting the Energy Rate. Guidance has been provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works and can be found in Appendix 8.4.

5.13 O&M

Proponents must demonstrate a plan to secure proven and effective O&M service providers for the Project. The Proponents must demonstrate that the service providers, which may be the Proponent, or other members of the Project Team, each have at least five years of prior experience operating generation technology for similar projects (by reference to, among other things, type and size). The O&M provider must provide 24/7 monitoring capabilities and must have the capabilities to allow the Proponent to meet its obligations under the Agreement.

Proponents must include an O&M service plan in their Proposals that must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. a list of proposed service providers for O&M related activities, together with a summary of their relevant experience;
- b. a summary of the proposed service providers' prior experience providing O&M for the development of at least one Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility of the same type as the Facility; and
- c. a description of the competitive process proposed to be used to obtain bids and cost assumptions for O&M services.

5.14 GOVERNANCE

Proposals must demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (“**ED&I**”) by including an ED&I Plan or by signing onto a public ED&I commitment. For the purpose of the RFP, ED&I refers to the following objectives:

- “equity” means a condition or state of fair, inclusive, and respectful treatment of all people. Equity does not mean treating people the same without regard for individual differences;
- “diversity” means the acceptance and respect of various human dimensions including race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religious beliefs, age, physical abilities, political beliefs, or other ideologies; and
- “inclusion” means the extent to which diverse members of a group, society or organization feel valued and respected.

Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. a completed ED&I Plan or
- b. information demonstrating that they have signed an eligible ED&I public commitment.

5.14.1 THE ED&I PLAN

The ED&I Plan must describe an approach to improving the gender balance and increasing the diversity within a Proponent's Canadian corporate or organizational structures as well as their broader hiring and supply chains in Canada. Examples include efforts to increase the proportion of women; gender-diverse people; Indigenous groups; racialized peoples; and persons with disabilities, (each an "**Underrepresented Group**") within the Proponent's Canadian organization structure and through its suppliers.

At a minimum, an ED&I plan must include the following information:

- a. baseline of activities and workplace development on equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- b. public approach to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- c. corporate anti-discrimination and anti-racism policies;
- d. available statistics on proportion of Underrepresented Groups or visible minorities employed at all levels of the Proponent's operations in Canada;
- e. description of processes for achieving equitable, diverse, and inclusive hiring and Proponent selection methods in Canada;
- f. employee benefits, such as parental leave, that support a more diverse workforce, and
- g. corporate activities that seek to increase or support diversity in Canada's energy sector, including training for hiring managers and staff.

5.14.2 PUBLIC COMMITMENTS

Proponents also have the option to sign an ED&I public commitment. The commitment can be regional, provincial, federal, or sector-level commitments that improve outcomes for Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and/or Underrepresented Groups. Examples of ED&I public commitments include 50 – 30 Challenge, Equal by 30, or Diversio Certification.

At minimum, an ED&I public commitment must aim to achieve the following objectives:

- reducing barriers to entry into the workforce;
- furthering workplace equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- furthering representation in the workplace and leadership, and
- furthering the advancement of members of Underrepresented Groups in the workplace.

Proponents that submit an ED&I public commitment must include the following information in their Proposal:

- a. name of the public commitment;
- b. organization managing the public commitment; and
- c. details of the public commitment including its:
 - i. objectives;
 - ii. timeframes; and
 - iii. metrics to be measured;
- d. overview of how the Proponent will meet the public commitment; and
- e. written confirmation from the coordinating organization as proof that the Proponent signed on to the public commitment.

5.15 RISK MANAGEMENT, APPROVALS & PERMITS

Proponents must submit a Proposal that sets out a viable path to obtaining the required material approvals and permits by demonstrating:

1. that it has conducted the appropriate level of due diligence on the expected impact the Project will have on the environment, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, human health, socio-economic, cultural, historical, archaeological, paleontological, and architectural features;
2. a clear understanding of which municipal, provincial, and federal approvals and permits (which may include Provincial and/or Federal Environmental Assessments) will be required to develop, construct, and operate the Project; and
3. that it has contacted the appropriate departments of Nova Scotia by December 31, 2023, to engage in preliminary conversations regarding the required approvals and permits, and strategies to mitigate environmental risks.

Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. a complete and detailed Environmental Risk Questionnaire (see Appendix 8.5)
- b. supporting evidence for the Environmental Risk Questionnaire, including but not limited to, the following:
 - i. a sound contour map showing sound levels in dBA at >40, >45, >50, >55 and >60, and the locations of Generation Equipment (e.g., wind turbine locations) and residences on a scaled map. The methodology for producing the maps should adhere to the ISO 9613-2 standard for outdoor sound propagation, and include baseline noise levels in cumulative noise prediction; and
 - ii. if applicable, field investigations or field surveys; and
- c. a complete and detailed Approvals & Permits Matrix (see Appendix 8.6), containing all anticipated approvals or permits required by the Project (e.g., Environmental Assessment, wetland alteration, zoning permit, highway permits, etc.).

5.15.1 APPROVALS & PERMITS MATRIX

Proponents are expected use the following procedure when preparing the Approvals & Permits Matrix:

- a. **Anticipated Regulatory Approvals and Permits:**
 - i. include each of the anticipated approvals and permits identified in the Approval and Permits Matrix; and
 - ii. include any additional anticipated approvals and permits required to develop, construct, and operate the Project.
- b. **Permit Type:** Identify the jurisdiction of the issuing authority for each anticipated approval and permit (i.e., a federal, provincial, or municipal government or agency).
- c. **Status and Path to Completion:** Describe the application status of each anticipated approval or permit, the actions the Proponent has taken at the time of submitting the Proposal, and the outstanding actions required to obtain the approval or permit.
- d. **Risk Assessment:** Classify the risk of failing to obtain anticipated necessary approvals or permits as required to meet the proposed COD as *low risk*, *medium risk*, or *high risk*:
 - i. *low risk* if the permit or approval is issued;
 - ii. *medium risk* if the Proponent can demonstrate an understanding of regulatory requirements and risks, a defined pathway to regulatory approval within the anticipated Project timelines, and a history of communication with governments and regulatory authorities and/or meaningful research on the requirements and timelines required to secure the necessary approvals and permits; or

- iii. *high risk* if the Proponent fails to demonstrate that it has conducted meaningful research on the requirements and timelines required to secure the necessary approvals and permits or cannot demonstrate a defined pathway to obtaining approvals or permits. Indications that a Proponent is at *high risk* include but are not limited to:
 - o the Proponent fails to contact the applicable governments and regulatory authorities to understand pathway to obtaining approvals and permits;
 - o the Proponent fails to demonstrate understand the timelines, costs, or scope of work associated with obtaining the necessary approvals and permits; or
 - o a conflict between the Project plan and the outstanding requirements to obtaining approvals and permits.
- e. **Anticipated Risk Mitigants:** Identify anticipated internal and external risk mitigants that may be associated with approvals or permits.

5.15.1.1 Governing Bodies and Agencies

Solely for the convenience of the Proponents, the PA notes that approvals, permits, guidance, letters of authority, or other types of authorizations may be required from one or more of the following governing bodies and agencies:

a. Province of Nova Scotia

- o Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
- o Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- o Department of Agriculture
- o Department of Environment and Climate Change
- o Department of Public Works
- o Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- o Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services
- o Department of Health and Wellness
- o Department of L'nu Affairs
- o Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage
- o Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
- o Nova Scotia Museum

b. Government of Canada

- o Environment and Climate Change Canada
- o Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- o Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- o Transport Canada

c. Municipal Governments

Requirements from municipal governments (including relevant by-laws) vary across municipalities. Proponents

are expected to understand the specific by-laws of the relevant municipality relating to, among other things, Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility development, noise, and municipal planning, including by-laws governing separation distances from habitable buildings (e.g., minimum distances from a proposed turbine).

Note: Proponents will be assessed on their engagement with municipalities in Section 6.3.1.

5.16 PROJECT RISK & MATURITY AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Proposals must score a minimum of 1 point for each the following scoring categories as Minimum Criteria (to be eligible to become the Selected Proposal):

- a. Section 6.2.1 (*Resource Assessment*);
- b. Section 6.2.2 (*Financing Experience & Plans*);
- c. Section 6.2.3 (*Experience*);
- d. Section 6.2.5 (*Project Site*);
- e. Section 6.3.1 (*Engagement with the General Public*); and
- f. Section 6.3.2 (*Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia*).

6. SCORED CRITERIA

After the PA concludes that a Proposal satisfies the Minimum Criteria, the PA will evaluate the Proposals using the Scored Criteria. Proponents that are eligible for points for a given scoring category will receive a single score (i.e., one numerical value based on a single row in the applicable evaluation rubric), not the cumulative value of the points for that scoring category. However, where the evaluation rubric for the applicable scoring category that allows for “Additional Point(s)”, the Proponent has the opportunity to be awarded the sum of the points and the additional points for that scoring category.

Scoring Category	Minimum Criteria?	Maximum Points
6.1 Price	Y	35
6.2 Project Risk & Maturity	Y	27
6.2.1 Resource Assessment	Y	6
6.2.2 Financing Experience & Plans	Y	6
6.2.3 Experience	Y	6
6.2.4 Environmental Risk	N	5
6.2.5 Project Site	Y	4
6.3 Local Engagement	Y	17
6.3.1 Engagement with the General Public	Y	12
6.3.2 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	Y	5
6.4 Social & Economic Benefits	N	21
6.4.1 Ownership	N	13
6.4.2 Social Programs	N	6
6.4.3 Economic Benefits	N	2

TOTAL	100
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6.1 PRICE

To succeed in the *Price* scoring category, Proponents must include an Energy Rate in their Proposal. All Energy Rates must meet the criteria outlined in Section 5.7. The PA will evaluate each configuration contained in a Proposal as follows:

- 1) each Energy Rate is eligible for a maximum of 25 points, allocated based on the percentile ranking of the Energy Rate. The PA will:
 - i. use the PERCENTRANK function in Microsoft Excel to establish a percentile value for each Energy Rate;
 - ii. subtract the percentile value from 1 to award the highest percentile to the lowest Energy Rate (inverse percentile); and
 - iii. multiply the inverse percentile value by 25 and round it to the nearest half point to determine the additional points.
- 2) The PA will award 10 additional points to all Energy Rate configurations less than \$65.00/MWh;

For example (below \$65/MWh):

- 1) *The Energy Rate configuration (\$62/MWh) is eligible for up to 25 points, allocated based on the percentile ranking of the Energy Rate:*
 - a. *The Energy Rate receives a PERCENTRANK output of 0.571 when compared to the lowest Energy Rate from each Proposal meeting the Minimum Criteria (see Section 5.7).*
 - b. *The percentile ranking output is subtracted from 1 to create an inverse percentile ranking ($1 - 0.571 = 0.429$)*
 - c. *This value is multiplied by 25 to calculate how many points are awarded ($.429 * 25 \text{ points} = 10.73$). The number of points is rounded to the nearest half point ($10.73 = 10.5 \text{ points}$)*
- 2) *The Energy Rate configuration (\$62/MWh) is below \$65.00/MWh and is awarded 10 additional points*
- 3) *The Proposal configuration receives 20.5 total points for Price (10.5 points + 10 additional points)*

For example (above \$65/MWh):

- 1) *The Energy Rate configuration (\$72/MWh) is eligible for up to 25 points, allocated based on the percentile ranking of the Energy Rate:*
 - a. *The Energy Rate receives a PERCENTRANK output of 0.786 when compared to the lowest Energy Rate from each Proposal meeting the Minimum Criteria (see Section 5.7).*
 - b. *The percentile ranking output is subtracted from 1 to create an inverse percentile ranking ($1 - 0.786 = 0.214$)*
 - c. *This value is multiplied by 25 to calculate how many points are awarded ($.214 * 25 \text{ points} = 5.35$). The number of points is rounded to the nearest half point ($5.35 = 5.5 \text{ points}$)*
- 2) *The Energy Rate configuration (\$72/MWh) is above \$65.00/MWh and is awarded 0 additional points*
- 3) *The Proposal configuration receives 5.5 total points for Price (5.5 points + 0 additional points)*

For the avoidance of doubt, the lowest Energy Rate configuration received by the PA will be awarded 25 out of 25 points, and the highest Energy Rate will be awarded 0 out of 25 points for *Price*, whereas any Energy Rate is eligible for the 10 additional points if it is below \$65.00/MWh.

6.1.1 SCORED CRITERIA FOR PRICE

0-25 points	Proposal configurations may receive up to 25 points based on the methodology described in Section 6.1.
10 additional points	The Energy Rate is less than \$65.00/MWh

6.2 PROJECT RISK & MATURITY

6.2.1 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Proponents must demonstrate a strong quantitative case that the Proposal’s expected annual and lifetime Project output will perform as projected. The more rigorous the resource assessment and the more Onsite Wind Data or Onsite Solar Data that has been collected, the more confidence the PA will have that the Renewable Low-Impact Electricity resource assessment is accurate. All Proposals must provide:

- a. a current resource assessment, as specified in Section 6.2.1.1 for wind Projects and Section 6.2.1.2 for solar Projects;
- b. a cover letter which includes:
 - i. a summary of the resource assessment;
 - ii. a description of the methodology used to conduct the resource assessment;
 - iii. a description and map of all onsite meteorological equipment utilized for data collection;
 - iv. a summary of energy analyses, including energy production estimates plus gross and net capacity factors at each turbine location; and
 - v. a summary of the uncertainty analyses conducted; and
- c. a resume or short biography of the Qualified Meteorologist that has authored the resource assessment.

For the purposes of this RFP, “**Onsite Wind Data**” means data that is collected from a Meteorological Tower that:

- a. is located:
 - i. on the portion of the Site on which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located;
 - ii. in simple terrain, within 5 km of the portion of the Site on which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located;
 - iii. in moderate to complex terrain, within 2 km of the portion of the Site on which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located, if evidence of correlation is included in the resource assessment report; or
 - iv. if using operational turbine SCADA data, within 3 km of the portion of the Site on which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located; and
- b. meets one of the following criteria for height (meters) and devices to characterize the wind speed and wind flow:
 - i. 30 meters or higher and that has been co-located with remote sensing equipment (LIDAR or SODAR), for which the equipment has been calibrated. Evidence of equipment calibration must be included in the Resource Assessment report;

- ii. 50 meters or higher that has been co-located with remote sensing equipment (LIDAR or SODAR), for which the equipment has not yet been calibrated. Must include a minimum of two wind speed measurement heights, separated by at least 15 meters;
- iii. A minimum height coincident with or higher than the lowest measurement level of a vertically measuring co-located remote sensing equipment (LIDAR or SODAR) used in the acquisition of wind speed and wind direction at multiple levels, for which the equipment has been calibrated. Evidence of equipment calibration must be included in the Resource Assessment report; or
- iv. 50 meters or higher, a minimum of two wind speed measurement levels separated by at least 15 meters, and a minimum of a single wind vane (unless other meteorological towers on the Site have valid wind vane measurements).

For the purposes of this RFP, “**Onsite Solar Data**” means data that is collected from a Solar Meteorological Tower that:

- a. is located on or within 1 km of the portion of the Site on which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located, in terrain that is similar to the buildable area and not impacted by existing objects (trees, near-by hills, existing structures, etc.); and
- b. meets one of the following criteria for devices to characterize the solar irradiance and other meteorological characteristics:
 - i. at minimum a pyranometer instrument (of Class A standard) is measuring global horizontal irradiance between one-two meters height and has been co-located with a redundant (and similar) sensor for redundancy, for which the equipment has been calibrated. Evidence of equipment calibration must be included in the resource assessment report;
 - ii. if bifacial modules are contemplated an albedometer around 1.5 meter height (unobstructed) informs of albedo (ratio of upwards facing and downwards facing irradiance);
 - iii. includes the following additional equipment: thermometers (to measure the ambient temperature), anemometer (around 1.5-meter height), wind vane, humidity sensor, pressure sensor, and rain gauge; and
 - iv. the data must be transmitted through a quality data logger where it is monitored for outages and instrument data recovery rates.

6.2.1.1 Wind Projects

To succeed in the *Resource Assessment* scoring category, Proponents that are submitting Proposals for wind Projects must include a wind energy resource assessment report (also known as an energy yield analysis) produced by a third-party or Proponent personnel, which must contain the following information:

- a. metadata consisting of:
 - i. coordinates and metadata regarding Onsite Wind Data and reference measurement locations;
 - ii. confirmation of the availability of raw measurement data from each measurement location and reference data (which must be produced upon the PA’s request);
 - iii. description of type of data (i.e., if long-term reference data such as from climatic weather stations or re-analyses such as MERRA-2, or ERA5 or Meteorological Tower); and
 - 1. if long-term reference data, correlation between reference stations and Onsite Wind Data, and percent data recovery; or
 - 2. if a Wind Meteorological Tower, height, sensor type, height of sensors, length of data record, start and stop (or most recent) dates of collection; and

- iv. geographic coordinates and technical specification documents for wind turbines, including turbine make and model and hub height for each turbine site (noting if more than one model is used in the same Project), and associated Meteorological Tower for each turbine (if applicable);
- b. data analysis consisting of:
- i. description of long-term mean annual hub-height wind speed prediction methodology including reference station selection, long-term adjustment of Onsite Wind Data, derivation, method and selection of wind shear exponent for extrapolation to hub height, and estimation of displacement height (if applicable);
 - ii. climate statistics including average air temperature and surface pressure, description of the derivation of average hub height air density, minimum and maximum observed air temperature, and turbulence intensity at mast height and/or hub height;
 - iii. wind rose at measurement locations including graphical representation and table of occurrences or frequency in discrete wind speed and wind direction bins;
 - iv. hub-height wind speed frequency distribution (“**WSFD**”) table for each measurement site and turbine position (if the same WSFD is used for multiple turbines report which turbines use which WSFD);
 - v. estimated long-term mean annual hub-height air density and wind speed at each turbine location; and
 - vi. description of wind flow modeling methodology (e.g., linear flow model, CFD, mesoscale model) and software or other method employed to spatially predict the Project wind field;
- c. energy analysis consisting of:
- i. estimated gross energy production and gross capacity factor at each turbine location;
 - ii. gross-to-net losses including turbine availability (contractual and non-contractual), balance of plant, turbine performance (e.g., high-wind hysteresis, high/low temperature shutdowns, site access/force majeure, power curve inaccuracy), environmental (e.g., icing, blade soiling and degradation), electrical line losses (e.g., internal collection system, gen-tie losses), curtailment (e.g., wind sector management, off-taker, avian or bat, or other environmental), and wake losses (internal and external wake and/or blockage or wind farm-atmosphere interaction losses);
 - iii. estimated long-term mean annual net energy production and net capacity factor at each turbine position; and
 - iv. table of monthly and diurnal average (12x24) Project net energy production and net capacity factor; and
- d. uncertainty analysis consisting of:
- i. itemization of individual wind speed and energy uncertainty quantities including uncertainties of measurements, reference data, climate variation, vertical extrapolation, wind flow modeling, wind speed frequency distribution, and gross-to-net losses; and
 - ii. energy output for one-year and ten-years for 90% and 99% probability of exceedance.

6.2.1.2 Solar Projects

To succeed in the *Resource Assessment* scoring category, Proponents that are submitting Proposals for solar Projects must include a solar energy resource assessment report (also known as an energy yield analysis), produced by a third-party or Proponent personnel, performed in industry standard software (such as PVsyst®), which must contain the following information:

- a. methodology consisting of:
 - i. solar analysis software utilized;
 - ii. solar resource validation that supports the accuracy of the data sets; and

- iii. the methodology from basis of design for all loss parameters (e.g., soiling, module degradation, availability, curtailment, etc.) and a list of all losses;
- b. energy analysis consisting of:
 - i. table of monthly and diurnal average (12x24) net energy production and net capacity factor;
- c. uncertainty analysis consisting of:
 - i. calculation method details due to resource uncertainty, variability uncertainty, modeling uncertainty, transposition uncertainty and other case specific uncertainties; and
 - ii. energy output for one-year and ten-years for 90% and 99% probability of exceedance; and
- d. if applicable, metadata consisting of:
 - i. historical meteorological data sets which should come from a reputable and commonly utilized source such as but not limited to SolarGIS, SolarAnywhere, Vaisala or the National Solar Radiation Database;
 - ii. if Onsite Solar Data are collected, the coordinates, installation date, data recovery percentage by month, instrumentation configuration and type, and calibration reports, maintenance schedules and logs;
 - iii. confirmation of the availability of raw measurement data from each measurement location and reference data (the PA may request such raw data from Shortlisted Proponents); and
 - iv. module-and-inverter-specific information including:
 - 1. racking type specifications;
 - 2. ground coverage ratio;
 - 3. footprint as GIS shapefile; and
 - 4. inverter and panel technology specifications

6.2.1.3 Scored Criteria for Resource Assessment

To account for differences of the data used in support of a resource assessment, the PA may adjust Configuration Scores by an increment of 0.5 points based on the PA's reasonable assessment of the quality of the data used to produce the resource assessment compared to industry standards. In making this assessment, the PA may consider factors including:

- the number of on-site measurement stations;
- the length of observations;
- the accuracy of sensor types;
- measurement heights (for wind projects);
- data recovery method and rate;
- the selection of long-term reference data sets; and
- the correlation of long-term reference data sets to on-site observations.

<p>1 point</p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes Onsite Wind Data with a data set of between six to 12 months from at least one Meteorological Tower; and b. includes at least 10 years of reference data. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. does not utilize Onsite Wind Data; and d. in the PA's discretion, is credible and sufficiently rigorous and follows widely accepted industry standards. <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes historical meteorological data sets from an uncommonly utilized source of hourly solar data; b. includes a data record of one to 10 years; and c. has a spatial resolution no greater than 20 km².
<p>3 points</p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes Onsite Wind Data with a dataset of more than 1 year from at least one Wind Meteorological Tower; and b. includes at least 10 years of reference data. <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data; b. includes a data record of one to 10 years; and c. has a spatial resolution no greater than 20 km².

<p>4 points</p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes Onsite Wind Data with a dataset of more than two years from at least one Meteorological Tower; and b. includes at least 15 years of reference data. <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data; b. includes a data record of 11-15 years; and c. has a spatial resolution less than 11 km².
<p>5 points</p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes Onsite Wind Data with a dataset of more than two years from at least one Wind Meteorological Tower; b. includes at least one measurement location with at least one year of data per 25 MW of nameplate capacity (e.g., two meteorological measurement locations for 26-50 MW, three for 51-76 MW, etc.); and c. includes at least 15 years of reference data. <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data; b. includes a data record of 16-19 years; c. has a spatial resolution less than 11 km²; and d. is validated and bias-corrected with at least 13 months of Onsite Solar Data.

6 points	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. includes Onsite Wind Data with a dataset of more than three years from at least one Meteorological Tower; b. includes at least one measurement locations with at least one year of data per 25 MW of nameplate capacity (e.g., at least three meteorological measurement locations for 26-50 MW, at least four for 51-76 MW, etc.); and c. includes at least 15 years of reference data. <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data; b. includes a data record of at least 20 years; c. has a spatial resolution less than 11 km²; and d. is validated and bias-corrected with at least 24 months of Onsite Solar Data.
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6.2.2 FINANCING EXPERIENCE & PLANS

Proponents must demonstrate they possess the financial capacity or support to construct and operate the Project. Proponents will have the opportunity to be awarded additional points for self-financing the Project or for receiving Soft Commitment(s) for 100% of the Total Costs.

To succeed in the *Financing Experience & Plans* scoring category, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. a description of one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate of at least 10 MW developed by the Project Team that achieved successful financing and commercial operation, and details in connection with such financing;
- b. a summary of the Total Costs;
- c. a comprehensive and reasonably achievable plan for how the Total Costs will be financed, including from sources of debt and equity, that includes a breakdown of the Total Costs, funding requests for the Project, and options of potential sources of funding, including:
 - i. status of discussions with prospective lenders and investors, including the current level of commitment or interest demonstrated by prospective lenders and investors and whether they have provided written representations regarding the extent of their commitment or interest; and
 - ii. expected material conditions precedent for financing the Project; and
- d. a description of any sources of federal funding (including ITC) used in the Energy Rate assumptions.

6.2.2.1 Soft Commitment(s)

A “**Soft Commitment**” means a fully executed commitment letter, term sheet, letter of intent, or other indication of intent in writing from an equity provider, lender, or source of financing other than debt or equity that states, at a minimum:

- 1) that such equity provider, lender, or other financing provider, as applicable, has reviewed the RFP and the Agreement, and the financial model (including Total Costs and projected revenues) of the proposed Project;

- 2) that such equity provider, lender or other financing provider agrees to advance or provide the amount of equity, debt, or other financing, as applicable, for the proposed Project specified in the commitment letter, term sheet, letter of intent, or other written indication of intent by the proposed date of financial closing, which may be subject to specified objective conditions precedent. For the purpose of this RFP, objective conditions precedent refer to those conditions precedent that require the satisfaction of clear and determinable conditions, such as the satisfaction of milestones or the provision of information. In addition, the equity provider, lender or other financing provider does not have broad discretion (such as the exercise of sole or absolute discretion) to determine whether such conditions precedent have been fulfilled. The Proponent should demonstrate that the conditions are expected to be satisfied, acting reasonably, in the ordinary course if the Proposal becomes the Selected Proposal; and
- 3) for an equity provider providing equity in the amount of 10% or more of the Total Costs, such equity provider has
 - i. a Tangible Net Worth of at least \$3,000,000 per MW of the nameplate capacity, prorated relative to the Total Costs, for each Proposal whereby the equity provider is providing equity in the amount of 10% or more of the Total Costs of the applicable Project, as indicated in its audited financial statements for the applicable equity provider from the past two fiscal years. The equity provider must show that it does not have to pledge more than half of its Tangible Net Worth to build the Project;
 - ii. an Investment Grade Credit Rating, and in such case, the Proponent must provide all available credit ratings for such equity provider from the following agencies: Standard and Poor's Rating Services ("**S&P**"), Moody's Investors Services Inc. ("**Moody's**"), Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited ("**DBRS**"), and Fitch IBCA, if and as applicable; however, if any such credit rating(s) are not publicly available, then the Proponent must provide a letter from the applicable rating agency confirming the credit rating of the equity provider; or
 - iii. confirmation letter from a financial institution (meeting the conditions provided in Section 6.2.2.1(4) that the equity provider has credit available under an approved facility sufficient to fund its equity contribution;
- 4) for a lender providing debt in the amount of 10% or more of the Total Costs, that such lender is a financial institution listed in Schedule I or II of the Bank Act (Canada), or is such other financial institution or other entity having the minimum credit rating (i) A with S&P, (ii) A3 with Moody's, (iii) A low with DBRS, or (iv) A with Fitch IBCA; however, if any such minimum credit rating(s) are not publicly available, then the Proponent must submit a letter from the applicable rating agency confirming the credit rating of the lender; and
- 5) for an equity provider or a lender providing debt in the amount of less than 10% of the Total Costs, detailed information about the equity provider's or lender's financial capability, to the full satisfaction of the PA.

To receive points for Soft Commitments, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. details of any Soft Commitments; and
- b. evidence in support of the Soft Commitments. If any commitments firmer than Soft Commitments have been achieved, provide such details in this section.

6.2.2.2 Self-Financing

Proponents may receive additional points for self-financing if they supplied all of the required capital to develop and construct a previous project and that they did not refinance the projects until after the project's commercial operation. A Project that is self-financed through project construction and then sold or refinanced through third party debt or equity before its commercial operation is not considered to be self-financed. In addition, a Proponent that intends to self-finance the Project must demonstrate that the relevant member of the Project Team has a Tangible Net Worth of at least \$3,000,000 per MW of the nameplate capacity for each Proposal that obtains points for self-financing Projects. Proposals that are seeking points for self-financing their Projects must share financial statements as described below. The Proponent must show that it does not have to pledge more than half of its Tangible Net Worth to build each Project.

To receive points for self-financing, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. details of self-financing; and
- b. evidence in support of eligibility for self-financing, which must include two years of audited financial statements.

6.2.2.3 Scored Criteria for Financing Experience & Plans

1 point	<p>The Proponent:</p> <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; and b. submits a plan for project financing that demonstrates the Project Team possesses the financial capacity or support to construct and operate the Project.
3 points	<p>The Proponent:</p> <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	<p>The Proponent:</p> <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	<p>The Proponent:</p> <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.
Deduction of 3 points	<p>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.,</p>

	adjustments made to Proponent name, size, Project layout, social benefits, etc.), at the discretion of the PA.
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6.2.3 EXPERIENCE

Proponents must demonstrate that their Project Team has previously developed and managed the operations of one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW. Proponents will have the opportunity to be awarded additional points commensurate with their experience developing and operating such projects. Proponents will be eligible for higher scores commensurate with their experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities that have a minimum of 80% of the Generating Facility’s proposed nameplate capacity. Furthermore, additional points will be available for demonstrating experience with eligible projects located in Nova Scotia, and for successfully interconnecting past projects to Interconnection Facilities at or above 69 kV.

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

- a. resumes or short biographies (limited to two pages) for Key Personnel; and
- b. a description of relevant planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating experience from the Project Team (name, location, type of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility, COD, and size expressed as a percentage of the capacity for the Facility).

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.
2 points	The Proponent demonstrates the Project Team’s experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating: <ol 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: <ol 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.

Deduction of 4.5 points	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.
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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 8.5). 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'kmaq 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.

6.2.4.1 Landscape Fragmentation and Degradation

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to relatively intact natural areas in designing and siting the Project. Relatively intact natural areas refer to lands that, while not necessarily "pristine," have low levels of anthropogenic disturbance at the landscape scale and are therefore critical to biodiversity conservation at the landscape level. These areas have a lower density of roads and other linear corridors such as power lines compared to other lands in the region and are generally comprised of more mature and less fragmented forests.

For the scoring purposes of this RFP, anthropogenic disturbance is measured by the density of roads and utility corridors and the prior land use. Proponents will be required to demonstrate the Project's impact to relatively intact natural areas in two ways, using the [Provincial Landscape Viewer](#):

- 1) identify if the Project Boundary overlaps with "**Mature Forest**" or "**Multi-Aged/Old Forest**" using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {"Forestry" → "Forestry" → "Old Forest Policy" → "Development Class"}, and noting the areas of "Mature Forest" and "Multi-Aged/Old Forest"; and
- 2) identify the density of roads (kilometers of roads / square kilometer) within the Site using the Provincial Landscape Viewer, by selecting the following layers: {"Nova Scotia Roads" → "Addresses Roads" → "Trans Canada Highway", "Highway", "Arterial Highway", "Collector Highway", "Local Road", "Ramp, Median Crossover", "Private Use", "Restricted"} (All road types except "Seasonal").

Note: Proponents must have all parent layers selected for sub-layers to populate.

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 is sited on Wetlands, Proponents can submit a summary of how they intend to mitigate any impacts to Wetlands.

6.2.4.6 Human Health

Proponents are encouraged to avoid and limit impact to human health by demonstrating the impacts of shadow flicker and turbine noise. This question is only relevant to wind projects; solar projects will receive full points for this section.

Projects that cause shadow flicker of less than 30 mins per day and/or 30 days per year at any permanent or seasonal receptor based on modeling will receive 0.5 points on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire. Proponents must submit evidence of shadow flicker modeling per Wind Guide to receive full points on this question of the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.

Projects that cause a cumulative noise level of less than 40 dB at any permanent or seasonal receptors will receive 0.5 points on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire. Proponents must submit evidence of noise mapping

or modeling that incorporates baseline noise, per the EA Wind Guide, to receive points for this question of the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.

6.2.4.7 The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia

Proponents will receive points for the question on the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) if a MEKS has been started and/or contracted in accordance with Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, [Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol](#).

6.2.4.8 Scored Criteria for Environmental Risk

0 points	The Proposal receives a score of less than 1.5 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
1 point	The Proposal receives a score of 1.5 – 2 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
2 points	The Proposal receives a score of 2.5 – 3 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
3 points	The Proposal receives a score of 3.5 – 4 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire.
4 points	The Proposal receives a score of 4.5 – 5 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire
5 points	<p>The Proposal receives a score of 5.5 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The Proposal has received EA approval with conditions on or before the Proposal Submission Deadline. EA approval must be wholly representative of the project being proposed, and applicability will be determined at the PA's discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, Proposals that have received EA approvals with conditions are not required to complete an Environmental Risk Questionnaire.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Any Projects considering submitting an EA application that have not yet met all the stated guidelines in the Wind Guide and have not been deemed ready by the EA Branch should not submit an application to EA Branch to receive points in this section.</i></p>

6.2.5 PROJECT SITE

Proponents must demonstrate the ability to secure the Site on private land or, where permitted, provincial Crown land. To succeed in the *Project Site* scoring category, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. summary of the Site, which, at a minimum, must:
 - i. identify the Generating Facility (including Major Equipment) and the Interconnection Facilities;
 - ii. for private land, include:
 - 1) PID numbers; and
 - 2) the number of hectares for each parcel;
 - iii. for Crown land, where permissible, include:
 - 1) the Project Boundary;
 - 2) the number of hectares in the Project Boundary; and
 - 3) PID numbers; and

- iv. identify that the Site does not overlap Protected Land by reference to layers in the [Parks and Protected Areas Map](#).
- b. description of the status of Site Control (e.g., lease, option, ownership);
- c. for private land, evidence of Site Control for the Generating Facilities and the equivalent right to construct and install Interconnection Facilities:
 - i. a Notice of Option to lease or purchase, and signature page;
 - ii. a Notice of Lease, and signature page;
 - iii. Title Deed; or
 - iv. evidence that an easement or other real property rights, approvals, or authorizations have been provided to grant access to use the land (for Interconnection Facilities only).

6.2.5.1 Generating Facilities

Proponents must demonstrate that no portion of their Generating Facilities will be located on Ineligible Land.

For Generating Facilities on private land, Proponents must demonstrate Site Control for at least 85% of the Site. Proposals that demonstrate Site Control for more than 85% but less than 100% of the Site on private land must provide mature plans for obtaining Site Control for the remainder of the Site (i.e., the remaining 15%). Proposals with 100% of the Generating Facility on private Land and with 100% Site Control are eligible for additional points.

6.2.5.2 Interconnection Facilities and Roads

Proponents must demonstrate that no portion of the Interconnection Facilities or access roads will be located on Protected Land.

For private lands underlying the Site where Interconnection Facilities or access roads will be located, Proponents must demonstrate they either have obtained, or have mature plans to obtain:

- a. an option to lease or purchase;
- b. a lease;
- c. ownership; or
- d. evidence that an easement or other real property rights, approvals, or authorizations have been provided to the satisfaction of the PA;

in each case, to grant access to construct and install the Interconnection Facilities and roads within the Site in compliance with Laws and Regulations.

For Crown lands where Interconnection Facilities or access roads will be located, Proponents must provide evidence of mature plans to obtain Crown land lease, easement, or other real property rights, approvals, or authorizations to the satisfaction of the PA. Proponents seeking to secure an easement or right of way for Interconnection Facilities or access roads on Crown land are encouraged to reference the [Application for the Use of Crown land](#). Please be advised that Proponents that have applied for an easement or right of way on Crown land following the [Application for the Use of Crown land](#) process will not be guaranteed the requested easement or right of way.

Proposals with 100% of the Interconnection Facilities on private Land and with 100% of the land secured through an option, a lease, ownership or an easement are eligible for additional points.

6.2.5.3 Scored Criteria for Project Site

<p>1 point</p>	<p>For the portion of the Site upon which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located, the Proponent demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. it is not on Ineligible Land; and b. that it has Site Control for at least 85% of the portion of the Site upon which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located; <p>AND</p> <p>For the portion of the Site upon which the Interconnection Facilities and access roads are proposed to be located, the Proponent demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. it is not on Protected Land; d. for any portion of the Site located on Crown land, that it has mature plans to obtain Crown land lease, easement, or other real property rights, approvals, or authorizations to the satisfaction of the PA; and e. for any portion of the Site located on private land, that it has the right or mature plans to secure the right to construct and/or install Interconnection Facilities and roads (in accordance with Section 6.2.5.2);
<p>Additional 1 point</p>	<p>For the portion of the Interconnection Facilities and access roads located on private land (if any), the Proponent demonstrates that it successfully secured the right to construct and/or install 100% of the Interconnection Facilities and access roads on private land in accordance with Section 6.2.5.2. For the avoidance of doubt, a Proponent with mature plans (in the absence of a right) to secure the lands upon which the Interconnection Facilities and access roads are located will not be entitled to an additional point.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>For the portion of the Interconnection Facilities and access roads located on Crown land (if any), the Proponent demonstrates that it successfully secured the right to construct and/or install 100% of the Interconnection Facilities and access roads on Crown land through an approved Crown land easement or right of way. For the avoidance of doubt, a Proponent with mature plans (in the absence of a right) to secure an easement or right of way on the Crown lands on which the Interconnection Facilities and access roads are located will not be entitled to an additional point.</p>
<p>Additional 2 points</p>	<p>The Proponent demonstrates that it has Site Control for 100% of the Site upon which the Generating Facility is proposed to be located.</p>

6.3 LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

6.3.1 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Proponents must engage with a diverse set of members of the general public using best practices described in Section 6.3.1.1. For the purpose of the Local Engagement scoring category, the general public includes, but is not limited to, staff from municipal, provincial and federal governments, municipal politicians and officials, members of Parliament, members of the Legislative Assembly, residents, farmers, local media, businesses, community associations, environmental and conservation organizations, wildlife advocates, manufacturing associations, boards of education, Medical Officers of Health, and chambers of commerce.

Further, Proposals will be awarded additional points if they can demonstrate more robust engagement, the lack of substantial local opposition in respect of the proposed Project, evolving their Proposal to address the public feedback, and support from local governments and/or groups. Proponents are expected to inform their engagement with the general public based on the approach described in Section 5 (Engagement and Consultation Activities) in the [Best Practices for Indigenous & Public Engagement](#).

The quality of each Proponent's engagement will be assessed on the types of opportunities for the general public to ask questions and provide feedback; the accuracy of the information the Proponent provides to the general public; the Proponent's responsiveness; and the engagement activities undertaken.

Proponents should carefully consider all input they receive from the general public. Proponents may include letters from local governments and/or groups that indicate support for the Project and/or the engagement process. Letters of support must be able to be verified by the PA. Finally, the PA will consider a summary of the comments sent by members of the general public to m5 Public Affairs by the Proposal Submission Deadline.

To succeed in the *Engagement with the General Public* scoring category, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. a summary of opportunities for the general public to engage with the Project that includes:
 - i. evidence of an accessible public posting with Proponent contact information and Project details (including Project location, lands, affected communities, grid interconnection location, ownership partners, and any planned social benefits) no later than November 8, 2023 (or later in certain circumstances);
 - ii. evidence of a clearly identified lead contact; and
 - iii. evidence of opportunities for feedback and questions prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline; and
- b. a summary of the information shared with the general public about the Project that includes evidence that information prepared and distributed is accurate, current, and accessible;
- c. a list of members of the general public that the Proponent has engaged with;
- d. a log of engagement activities with the general public including:
 - i. dates of engagement activities;
 - ii. format of engagement (e.g., public notice, town hall, written correspondence);
 - iii. copies of information and materials exchanged as part of that engagement; and
 - iv. summary of engagement;
- e. a summary of the short-term and long-term concerns and interests of members of the general public, the Proponent's strategy to address them, and specific examples of the implementation of and/or alignment with input from the general public;
- f. a report from m5 Public Affairs that summarizes and evaluates Proponents' efforts to engage with local communities. For the avoidance of doubt, the Proponent will not be expected to write this report, but may be expected to support the creation of this report by allowing early access to the information described in bullets (a) – (e) above;
- g. if applicable, documentation measuring local support and opposition (e.g., surveys); and
- h. if applicable, letter(s) of support from local governments and/or groups.

Note: Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia will be evaluated under Section 6.3.2. Furthermore, social programs will be evaluated under Section 6.4.2.2.

6.3.1.1 Scored Criteria for Engagement with the General Public

<p>1 point</p>	<p>The Proponent has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provided notice to communities in close proximity to the proposed Site of their intention to submit a Proposal for the GCP no later than November 8, 2023 b. publicly posted its contact information and Project details in a way that is easily accessible to the general public within 30 Business Days of the RFP Date of Issuance; c. identified a lead contact for questions and feedback; d. provided opportunities for comment and feedback prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline; e. ensured information distributed to the general public is accurate, current, and accessible through multiple channels (including a non-internet channel); and f. supported the creation a formal report by m5 Public Affairs to summarize feedback from the communities in close proximity to the Site.
<p>3 points</p>	<p>The Proponent has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provided notice to project communities in close proximity to the proposed Site of their intention to submit a Proposal for the GCP no later than November 8, 2023 b. publicly posted its contact information and Project details in a way that is easily accessible to the general public within 30 Business Days of the RFP Date of Issuance; c. identified a lead contact for questions and feedback; d. provided opportunities for comment and feedback prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline; e. ensured information distributed to the general public is accurate, current, and accessible through multiple channels (including a non-internet channel); f. conducted a range of activities to facilitate effective and efficient dialogue with members of the general public; and g. supported the creation a formal report by m5 Public Affairs to summarize feedback from the communities in close proximity to the Site.
<p>5 points</p>	<p>The Proponent has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provided notice to project communities in close proximity to the proposed Site of their intention to submit a Proposal for the GCP no later than November 8, 2023; b. publicly posted its contact information and Project details in a way that is easily accessible to the general public within 30 Business Days of the RFP Date of Issuance; c. identified a lead contact for questions and feedback; d. provided opportunities for comment and feedback prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline; e. ensured information distributed to the general public is accurate, current, and accessible in multiple channels (including a non-internet channel); f. conducted a range of activities to facilitate effective and efficient dialogue with members of the general public; and g. supported the creation of a formal report by m5 Public Affairs to summarize feedback from the communities in close proximity to the Site, and demonstrated

	examples of how the Proposal has evolved to address feedback received from the general public.
Additional 3 points	The Proposal has been awarded a minimum of 1 point for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> and the proposed Project is not the subject of substantial local opposition.
Additional 1-3 points	The Proposal has been awarded a minimum of 1 point for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> and has formed a community engagement or community liaison committee composed of members of communities in close proximity to the Site. The PA, will contact the committee to solicit direct feedback on the Proponent's community engagement, and award additional points in accordance with the level of engagement; and the committee has indicated that the Proponent has engaged with the community in manner that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Satisfactory (1 point) b. Above satisfactory (2 points) c. Exemplary (3 points)
Additional 1 point	The Proposal has been awarded a minimum of 1 point for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> and produces letters of support from local governments and/or local groups.

6.3.2 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MI'KMAQ OF NOVA SCOTIA

Proponents must demonstrate engagement with the Chiefs and Councils of Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia communities in proximity to the Site. For the avoidance of doubt, if more than one community is located in proximity to the Site, Proponents must demonstrate engagement with the Chiefs and Councils of all such communities. Proponents are expected to inform their engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia based on the approach described in [Proponents Guide: The Role of Proponents in Crown Consultation With The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia](#) (the "**Proponents Guide**"). Specifically, Proponents will be evaluated on their compliance with the "Principles of Engagement" and "Steps for Proponents to Follow When Engaging the Mi'kmaq" described in pages two to four of the Proponents Guide. Proposals will be eligible for additional points for carrying out their engagement in a robust and meaningful manner that demonstrates their commitment to the recommended steps and principles provided by the Proponents Guide. Proponents may include details on progress for completing a MEKS. Any expected MEKS must be conducted in accordance with [Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol, 2nd Edition](#).

To succeed in the *Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia* scoring category, Proposals must include:

- a. a summary of the Proponent's engagement activities with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia communities in proximity to the Site using the six-steps provided by pages three to four of the Proponents Guide; and
- b. evidence of material feedback from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia that has been implemented in the Project design and/or Proposal.

6.3.2.1 Scored Criteria for Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia

1 point	The Proponent demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. basic engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in proximity to the Site consistent with the six steps provided at pages 3 to 4 of the Proponents Guide; and b. evidence of an understanding of the principles of engagement as outlined on page
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	2 of the Proponents Guide.
2 points	The Proponent demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. robust engagement, or, where the Proponent does not receive feedback from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia (provided there is a reasonably opportunity for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia to provide such feedback) prior to the bid submission deadline, exemplary efforts to engage with, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in close proximity to the Site, consistent with the six steps provided at pages 3 to 4 of the Proponents Guide; and b. evidence of an applied understanding of the principles of engagement provided at page 2 of the Proponents Guide.
Additional 1 point	The Proposal has been awarded a minimum of 1 point for Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and includes a letter of support from Chiefs or Councils for Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia located in close proximity to Site or those that are most likely to be impacted by the Site.
Additional 2 points	The Proponent demonstrates that robust engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia resulted in the evolution of the Proposal to address their feedback.

6.4 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

6.4.1 OWNERSHIP

Proposals for Majority Owned Mi'kmaq Projects and Minority Owned Mi'kmaq Projects are eligible for *Ownership* points. Proposals are eligible for additional points commensurate with the number of Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia entities that hold an interest in the Project's ownership structure. For the purpose of this Section 6.4.1, each additional Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia entity entitling the Proponent to an additional point must deal at Arm's Length with each other and with the Proponent.

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

- a. a description of the Project's ownership structure;
- b. official documentation and other evidence setting out the details surrounding the Proponent's business structure, notably, whether the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia possess a majority or minority ownership interest in the Project;
- c. evidence the ownership structure is mature and formalized through official documentation such as constituting corporate or partnership documents to receive points; and
- d. supporting information to demonstrate interests in the Project.

6.4.1.1 Scored Criteria for Ownership

3.5 points	The Project is a Minority Owned Mi'kmaq Project.
6.5 points	The Project is a Majority Owned Mi'kmaq Project.
Additional 0.25 points up to a	If the Project is a Minority Owned Mi'kmaq Project, 0.25 points will be added for each Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia First Nation that holds an interest in the Project ownership structure, for a maximum of 3.25 additional points.

maximum of 3.25 points	
Additional 0.5 points up to a maximum of 6.5 points	If the Project is a Majority Owned Mi'kmaq Project, 0.5 points will be added for each Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia First Nation that holds an interest in the Project's ownership structure, for a maximum of 6.5 additional points.

6.4.2 SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Proposals will receive points based on their potential for furthering Capacity Building and for establishing a framework for a clearly defined and impactful Benefits Agreement for the benefit of local communities in close proximity to the Site or that are most likely to be impacted by the Project. In addition, Proposals that include Capacity Building Plans or Benefits Agreements that benefit an Underrepresented Group (in close proximity to the Site) will receive additional points. To succeed in the *Social Programs* scoring category, Proponents must include a Capacity Building Plan and/or a Benefits Agreement that satisfy the requirements described in this section.

6.4.2.1 Capacity Building

“Capacity Building” refers to the process of strengthening or developing future renewable energy and grid modernization projects in an organization or community, including by building knowledge and skills, advancing research, and increasing access to Renewable Low-Impact Electricity. Examples of Capacity Building initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- training, curriculum development and knowledge tools;
- workshops and engagement activities;
- peer-to-peer networks; and
- mentoring, apprenticeships, and targeted trainings.

To receive a point for Capacity Building, the Proponent must provide a clearly defined and mature **“Capacity Building Plan”** on one or more initiatives that it will advance in connection with the Project, containing:

- a. a detailed description of the Capacity Building activities and the beneficiaries; and
- b. details on the timing, cost, and execution of the Capacity Building Plan.

6.4.2.2 Benefit Agreements

“Benefits Agreements” are legally binding agreements negotiated between a Proponent and a beneficiary that is susceptible to suffer adverse impacts from a project, to participate in the benefits of resource development. To receive a point for a Benefits Agreement, the Proposal must include:

- a. satisfactory proof that a Benefits Agreement exists with an identifiable counterparty located in close proximity to the Site; or
- b. proof of a clearly defined, mature and impactful plan for the Proponent to enter into a Benefits Agreement (such as a joint letter with the impacted community)

6.4.2.3 Scored Criteria for Social Programs

2 points	The Proposal includes:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a Capacity Building Plan that directly benefits communities in close proximity to the proposed Site; or b. Proof of a Benefits Agreement or a clearly defined, mature, and impactful plan to enter into Benefits Agreement that directly benefits communities in close proximity to the proposed Site.
4 points	<p>The Proposal includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a Capacity Building Plan that directly benefits communities in close proximity to the proposed Site; and b. Proof of a Benefits Agreement or a clearly defined, mature, and impactful plan to enter into a Benefits Agreement that directly benefits communities in close proximity to the proposed Site.
Additional 2 points	<p>The Proposal includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a Capacity Building Plan; or b. Proof of a Benefits Agreement or a clearly defined, mature, and impactful plan to enter into a Benefits Agreement, <p>either of which is for the benefit of all Nova Scotians, the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia or another Underrepresented Group in close proximity to the proposed Site</p>

6.4.3 ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Meaningful engagement by Proponents with Nova Scotian partners is a vital part of economic growth in the region by creating industrial benefits and employment opportunities. As such, Proposals that demonstrate engagement and planned financial commitments with manufacturers, corporations, vendors, contractors, consultants, and service companies in the Province of Nova Scotia (collectively, the “**Nova Scotia Supply Community**”) will be prioritized.

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

- a. local economic development strategy overview, which must include at a minimum:
 - i. a statement on the Proponent's commitment to local economic growth; and
 - ii. a timeline and procurement forecast (which, among other things, should include Proponent information sessions);
- b. local employment strategy overview, which must include at a minimum:
 - i. a statement on general local employment considerations including prioritization for local hiring;
 - ii. the number of full-time equivalents (which equates to 2,000 person hours per year), for Nova Scotians over the Agreement Term;
 - iii. the number of full-time equivalents (which equates to 2,000 person hours per year), for Nova Scotians over the development and construction period;
 - iv. the percentage of jobs that will be granted to Nova Scotians; and
 - v. when appropriate, an explanation of why jobs are not proposed to be created for Nova Scotians (e.g., location restrictions, workforce restrictions, gaps in skills development.)
- c. local supply community strategy overview, which must include at a minimum:

- i. a statement on procurement preparation and plans including any engagements with the Nova Scotia Supply Community, and considerations on how the Nova Scotia Supply Community will be given a full and fair opportunity to participate on a competitive basis; and
 - ii. when appropriate, an explanation of why goods and services are not proposed to be procured from Nova Scotia (e.g., higher costs, services or goods were not available, lack of expertise, etc.); and
- d. a completed local expenditure table (see Section 6.4.3.1 and Appendix 8.7).

6.4.3.1 Local Expenditure Table

Points will be awarded based on the share of Project costs for construction and annual generation that are locally sourced from the Nova Scotia Supply Community, or that otherwise constitute a local expenditure. In addition to local expenditures, Proponents must identify non-local expenditures, total construction costs, and average annual generation costs. The methodology for estimating the total construction costs and annual generation costs is set out in the local expenditure table.

To be considered a local expenditure, the following requirements must be satisfied:

- a. for estimated local wages and salaries, such wages and salaries must be paid to Persons or organizations that are required to file income taxes with the Province of Nova Scotia in accordance with Laws and Regulations;
- b. for estimated local contracting and construction expenditures, the relevant contractors and workers must be required to file income taxes with the Province of Nova Scotia in accordance with Laws and Regulations;
- c. for goods to qualify as being manufactured in Nova Scotia, such goods must be substantially produced in Nova Scotia or there must be substantial value-added to them in Nova Scotia (which, for greater certainty, excludes basic assembly manufacturing); and
- d. for estimated local wholesale and retail purchases, such purchases must be from a Nova Scotia business or supplier with a store, warehouse, or office located in Nova Scotia.

Expenditures that fail to meet the above requirements will be considered non-local expenditures.

Only expenditures that directly pertain to construction or generation operations shall be eligible for inclusion in the local expenditure table. Costs that are not eligible for inclusion in the local expenditure table include, but are not limited to, interconnection costs, costs associated with social programs (such as Capacity Building, Benefits Agreements, and ED&I as that term is defined below), costs associated with engagement with the general public, costs associated with environmental studies, and municipal taxes.

The start date for eligible costs to be included in the local expenditure table shall be February 26, 2020, the date on which the Province announced an [amendment to the Electricity Act](#).

For the purposes of evaluating the local expenditure table:

- a. estimated dollars spent on locally sourced wages and salaries, and goods and services will be valued at 100% of their cost (i.e., without applying a discount); and
- b. estimated wholesale and retail purchases will be discounted by their approximate gross margins reflecting returns to local industry from purchases made in these sectors as follows:
 - i. direct local purchases from wholesale and retail businesses in Nova Scotia will be valued at 30% of the cost;
 - ii. land acquisition costs in Nova Scotia will be valued at 5% of the cost; and
 - iii. debt servicing costs will not be valued.

After any applicable discounts have been applied to the expenditures, the lifetime Project costs will be calculated as follows:

Lifetime Project costs = total construction costs + (average annual generation costs * the Agreement Term (25 years))

Finally, the discounted local expenditures will be divided by the lifetime Project costs to create a local benefit percentage.

To summarize, the local benefit percentage equals:

$$= \{100\% \times (\text{Direct local wages \& salaries}) + 100\% \times (\text{local Project costs}) \\ + 100\% \times (\text{local direct purchases from manufacturers}) \\ + 30\% \times (\text{Direct local purchases from wholesale and retail}) + 5\% \times (\text{local land costs}) + \} \\ \div \{\text{Total Construction Costs} + 25 \times (\text{Average Annual Generation Cost})\}$$

6.4.3.2 Scored Criteria for Economic Benefits:

0.5 points	The local benefit percentage is between 10% - 19%, as calculated using the methodology described in Section 6.4.3.1
1 points	The local benefit percentage is between 20% - 29%, as calculated using the methodology described in Section 6.4.3.1
1.5 points	The local benefit percentage is between 30% - 39%, as calculated using the methodology described in Section 6.4.3.1
2 points	The local benefit percentage is equal to or greater than 50% as calculated using the methodology described in Section 6.4.3.1
Deduction of 1 point	There is a material risk, as independently determined by the Procurement Administrator, that the Project will have a material negative impact on local economic activity (including public access to natural resources, wilderness tourism, and/or general tourism).

7. TERMS & CONDITIONS

7.1 GENERAL

This is an RFP and not a tender call. Neither the PA, the NRR, or NSPI intends or assumes any contractual or other obligations as a result of the issuance of this RFP, the preparation or submission of a Proposal by a Proponent, the receipt, opening, and consideration of a Proposal, the evaluation of Proposals, provision of additional information or conduct of presentations, the Proponent participation in any discussions or negotiations, or any other basis whatsoever arising out of this RFP.

Proponents will bear all costs and expenses in connection with their participation in this RFP. By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, a Proponent irrevocably and unconditionally waives any claims against the PA, the Nova Scotia Government, or NSPI relating to the Proponent's costs and expenses associated with participating in this RFP.

A Proponent shall not have any claim against the PA, the Nova Scotia Government, or NSPI for any compensation of any kind whatsoever as a result of participating in this RFP process, including without limitation to any claim for costs of the Notice of Intent Bid fee, Proposal preparation or participation in negotiations, or for loss of anticipated profits, whether based in contract (including fundamental breach), tort, equity, breach of any duty (including, but not limited to breach of the duty of fairness) breach of the obligation to only accept compliant proposals, or any other cause of action whatsoever.

Regardless of any other provision in this RFP, or any oral or written representation, promise or warranty provided to the Proponent by the PA (including any of the PA's officers, employees or agents) the PA will not be liable to the Proponent in relation to any matter relating to this RFP and any breach of this RFP by the PA or otherwise, including without limitation any claims based on the PA's breach of any express or implied warranty, or PA's negligence, intended conduct, omissions, or other wrongdoing.

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent agrees to indemnify the PA, the Nova Scotia Government and NSPI against any liability against any third party in relation to the third party's direct or indirect participation in this RFP, including (without limitation) the third party's submission of a Proposal to the Proponent in reliance on the PA's responsibilities to the Proponent under this RFP, whether this claim is based on the PA's breach of this RFP, or any express or implied warranty, or based on PA's negligence, intended conduct, omissions, or other wrongdoing.

7.2 RESERVED RIGHTS

Notwithstanding anything contained in this RFP, the PA reserves the right to:

- a. reject any Proposal in whole or part whether or not completed properly and whether or not it contains all necessary information;
- b. verify with any Proponent, including the Selected Proponent, or with any third party, any information set out in a Proposal in accordance with Section 7.5;
- c. disqualify a Proponent that submits a Proposal that contains misrepresentations or any other inaccurate or misleading information;
- d. disqualify a Proponent that has engaged in conduct prohibited by this RFP;
- e. make changes to this RFP or the form of Agreement (subject to receiving any required regulatory approval), including substantial changes, without any liability whatsoever to Proponents, provided that those changes are issued by way of Addenda in the manner set out in this RFP;
- f. waive any informality or irregularity in a Proposal at its discretion or to otherwise exercise administrative discretion with respect to a Proposal or a Proponent's compliance with this RFP;
- g. reject all Proposals in the event that no Proposal demonstrates acceptable value for Nova Scotia electricity customers;
- h. cancel all or any part of this RFP at any time and for any reason or to suspend this RFP in whole or in part for any reason for such period as the PA shall determine in its discretion, in each case without any obligation or any reimbursement to the Proponents; and
- i. enter into post-submission discussions with any one or more Proponent(s) regarding price, project scope, or any other term of a Proposal, and such other terms as the PA may require, and to request additional information and clarification regarding any Proposal.

The rights reserved to the PA in this RFP are in addition to any other express rights or any other rights which may be implied in the circumstances, and the PA shall not be liable for any expenses, costs, losses or any direct or indirect damages incurred or suffered by any Proponent or any third party resulting from the PA exercising any of its express or implied rights under this RFP.

7.3 NO LOBBYING

Proponents, their agents or representatives (including lobbyists acting in compliance with *the Lobbyists' Registration Act*, SNS 2001, c 34) are strictly prohibited from communicating with any officer, member or employee of the PA, the Government of Nova Scotia or any of its departments, including the NRR, NSPI, any Restricted Party or any other Person involved in with an aim to influence the outcome of the RFP process, other than applications for Permits, approvals, regulatory compliance purposes, technical arrangements or participating in public stakeholder processes. Failure to comply with this provision may result in disqualification of such Proponent from the RFP process.

7.4 COLLUSION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Proponent shall be involved in preparing the contents of a Proposal of any other Proponent, nor coordinate the contents of its Proposal, with that of any other Proponent who does not have partial or full ownership of the other Proponent. Each Proponent shall keep the contents of its Proposal confidential until the conclusion of this RFP.

No Persons involved in the preparation of a Proposal under this RFP and/or required by a Proponent to successfully implement its Proposal for this RFP and to comply with the Agreement shall engage in any activity or communication that results in a Conflict of Interest, collusion, or a violation of any of the civil or criminal provisions of the *Competition Act* (Canada). In the event a Proponent has, or may have, business relationships or business or other exchanges outside the scope of this RFP and any of them is concerned that such relationships or exchanges might be viewed by the PA as being non-compliant with this Section 7.4, they may request a decision from the PA on a confidential basis by submitting a description of the relationship to the PA by email at novascotia@cohoclimate.com.

Failure to comply with this Section 7.4 may result in disqualification of the Proponent from the RFP. The decision of the PA in any matters referred to in Section 7.4 is final and binding on the Persons requesting the ruling and all other Persons including all Proponents and the PA. The PA reserves the discretion to establish relevant processes, from time to time, relating to any of the foregoing including identifying any circumstances in which a decision may be reconsidered.

The PA may provide any circumstances and information relating to any decision, and the decision by it, regarding any of the foregoing to all Proponents if the PA, in its discretion, determines that the decision is of general application or is in the interests of a fair and transparent RFP process.

7.5 VERIFICATION

All statements, information and documentation submitted as part of the RFP process are subject to verification in accordance with the terms of this RFP. If such statements, information, or documentation are determined by the PA to be incorrect or misleading, the PA reserves the right to re-evaluate the Proponent compliance with this RFP and to revise the RFP submission's status, and, in the PA sole discretion, disqualify the Proponent, thereafter.

7.6 ASSIGNMENT AND CHANGE OF CONTROL

A Proponent shall not assign its Proposal to another Person (including by way of amalgamation or by operation of law). After the Proposal Submission Deadline, and, until the earlier of (a) the date whereby each Selected Proponent has executed the Agreement, and (b) December 31, 2028, a Proponent may not, directly or indirectly, be the subject of a change of Control (including by way of amalgamation or by operation of law), unless:

- a. the Proponent has received the prior written consent of the PA, which consent may be withheld at the PA's sole discretion; or
- b. The Proponent is, or is Controlled by, a company that is listed on a recognized stock exchange (a "**Public Company**") and
 - i. there is a change of Control of the required Proponent as a result of the trading of shares of such Public Company;
 - ii. the Proponent notifies the PA within 10 Business Days following such change of Control having effect; and
 - iii. the Proponent satisfies all reasonable requests from the PA to provide additional information in connection with the change of Control, including the names of the Persons who Control or otherwise indirectly or directly have an ownership interest in the Proponent, following such change of Control.

Failure to comply with this provision may result in disqualification of such Proponent from the RFP process.

7.7 INTERPRETATION

- 7.7.1 The following materials form part of and are incorporated into this RFP:
- a. the body of this RFP;
 - b. all appendices hereto; and
 - c. all Addenda.
- 7.7.2 Capitalized terms used in this RFP have the respective meanings ascribed to them in Appendix 8.2. Any conflict or inconsistency between the body of this RFP, the Appendices and any Addenda shall be resolved by interpreting the documents and information in the following order from highest priority to lowest priority:
- a. Addenda;
 - b. the body of this RFP; and
 - c. appendices hereto.
- 7.7.3 Unless otherwise specified, all references to money amounts are to Canadian dollars and cents and shall be rounded to the nearest cent.
- 7.7.4 Where the PA may take an action or make a determination under this RFP, the decision to take such action or make such determination shall be at the PA's sole and absolute discretion.
- 7.7.5 This RFP is made under and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with, the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.
- 7.7.6 Headings of Sections are inserted for convenience of reference only and do not affect the construction or interpretation of this RFP. A reference to "Section" means Sections of this RFP, unless otherwise specified.
- 7.7.7 Despite the fact that this RFP was drafted by the PA's legal and other professional advisors, Proponents acknowledge and agree that any doubt or ambiguity in the meaning, application or enforceability of any term or provision in this RFP shall not be construed against the PA or in favour of the Proponent when interpreting such term or provision, by virtue of such fact.
- 7.7.8 Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa and words importing gender include all genders.
- 7.7.9 If any provision of this RFP or its application to any party or circumstance is restricted, prohibited, or unenforceable, the provision shall be ineffective only to the extent of the restriction, prohibition, or unenforceability without invalidating the remaining provisions of this RFP and without affecting its application to the other party or circumstances.
- 7.7.10 A reference to a statute includes all regulations and rules made pursuant to the statute and, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of any statute, regulation or rule which amends, supplements, or supersedes any such statute, regulation or rule.
- 7.7.11 Unless otherwise specified, time periods within or following which any payment is to be made or act is to be done shall be calculated by excluding the day on which the period commences and including the day on which the period ends and by extending the period to the next Business Day following if the last day of the period is not a Business Day.

8. APPENDIX

8.1 POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (APPROVED BY THE UARB)

[●]

8.2 DEFINITIONS

AC	means alternating current.
Addendum	means any attachment to the RFP that may modify any of the terms and conditions of the originally released document.
Agreement	has the meaning set out in Section 1.2.
Agreement Term	means the 25-year term of the Agreement, subject to early termination in accordance with the provisions described in the Agreement.
Approval and Permit Matrix	means the approval and permit matrix based on the form provided in Appendix 8.6
Arm's Length	has the meaning set out in the <i>Income Tax Act</i> (Canada).
Benefits Agreement	has the meaning set out in Section 6.4.2.2.
Business Day	means a day, other than a Saturday or a Sunday or a statutory holiday, on which banks are open for business in the Province of Nova Scotia.
Capacity Building	has the meaning set out in Section 6.4.2.1.
Capacity Building Plan	has the meaning set out in Section 6.4.2.1.
Coho	means Coho Climate Advisors, LLC.
Commercial Operations Date or COD	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Configuration Form	means the component of the Proposal taking the form of the document entitled "Configuration Form" published on the RFP tab of the GCP website.
Configuration Score	has the meaning set out in Section 2.1.
Configuration Spreadsheet	means the component of the Proposal taking the form of the document entitled "Configuration Spreadsheet" published on the RFP tab of the GCP website.
Conflict of Interest	means any situation or circumstance where, in relation to this RFP process, a Proponent has an unfair advantage or engages in conduct, directly or indirectly, that may give it an unfair advantage, including: (a) having access to information in the preparation of its Proposal that is confidential to the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia and not available to other interested parties; (b) communicating with any official or representative of the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia with a view to influencing preferred treatment in this RFP process; or (c) engaging in conduct that compromises or could be seen to compromise the integrity of the open and competitive RFP process and render that process non-competitive or unfair.
Control	means, a. in relation to a Person that is a corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of:

- i. voting securities of the Person carrying more than 50% of the voting rights attaching to all voting shares of the Person and which are sufficient, if exercised, to elect a majority of its board of directors; or
 - ii. securities representing greater than 50% of the economic value of the Person;
 - b. in relation to a Person that is a partnership, limited partnership, trust or other similar entity, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of:
 - i. voting securities of such person carrying more than 50% of the voting rights attaching to all voting securities of the Person or
 - ii. securities representing greater than 50% of the economic value of the Person; and
 - c. for any other person, the ownership of securities or other interests entitling the holder to exercise direction over the activities of the Person
- (and “**Controls**”, “**Controlling**” and “**Controlled**” are defined accordingly).

DBRS	means Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited
DC	means direct current.
ED&I	has the meaning provided in Section 5.14.
ED&I Plan	means a plan for advancing ED&I as described in Section 5.14.1.
Energy Bid	the annual amount of electricity expected to be generated by the Facility under the Agreement.
Energy Rate	means the fixed Energy Rate over the Agreement Term in \$/MWh to the second decimal place.
Energy Resource Interconnection Service or ERIS	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Environmental Assessment	has the meaning set out in the <i>Environment Act</i> (Nova Scotia).
Environmental Risk Questionnaire	means the environmental risk questionnaire taking the form prescribed by Appendix 8.5.
Expansion	<p>means the addition of Generation Equipment to an existing Generating Facility (in commercial operation no later than the RFP Date of Issuance) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Facility	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.

GCP Portfolio Notification Date	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
GCP Regulations	has the meaning set out in Section 1.2.
Generating Facility	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Procedures.
Generation Equipment	means the equipment that is required to generate electrical current, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes turbines, modules, inverters, and trackers.
Generator Interconnection Agreement or GIA	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
Generator Interconnection Procedure or GIP	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
Green Choice Program or GCP	means the procurement of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity for the Nova Scotia Green Choice Program that is administered by the Procurement Administrator for the Province of Nova Scotia.
Ineligible Land	means land that is provincial Crown land or Protected Land.
Inquiries Deadline	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
Interconnection Customer	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Interconnection Facilities	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Interconnection Feasibility Study	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Interconnection Request	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Investment Grade Credit Rating	means a minimum credit rating of (i) BBB– with S&P, (ii) Baa3 with Moody's, (iii) BBB low with DBRS, or (iv) BBB- with Fitch IBCA, if applicable.
Key Personnel	means the individuals who are critical and responsible for developing, financing, owning, or operating the Project.
Laws and Regulations	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. applicable federal, provincial or municipal laws, orders-in-council, by-laws, codes, rules, policies, regulations and statutes; b. applicable orders, decisions, codes, judgments, injunctions, decrees, awards and writs of any court, tribunal, arbitrator, government agency or other Person having jurisdiction; c. applicable rulings and conditions or any license, permit certificate, registration, authorization, consent and approval of any Government Agency (including the Permits); and d. any requirements under or prescribed by applicable common law.
Major Equipment	means the equipment other than Generation Equipment and Interconnection Facilities that is necessary to deliver the energy output, including step-up transformers, switchgears, relays, and protection devices.

Majority Owned Mi'kmaq Project	means a Project in which the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia possess an ownership interest that is a Controlling interest.
MEKS	means Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study.
Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol	means a working document, developed by the Assembly of Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Chiefs, to identify the essential components of a Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia ecological knowledge study, as described in Assembly of Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol, 2 ed., Undated.
Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	means any of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nation of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nations; b. a company wholly owned by one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nations, either directly, indirectly, or beneficially; or c. a limited partnership in which the general partner is wholly owned by one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nation and in which one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nation are the only equity and voting limited partner(s).
Minimum Criteria	means the minimum criteria which Proposals must satisfy to be scored for this RFP (and for the avoidance of doubt, to be eligible to become a Selected Proposal).
Minority Owned Mi'kmaq Project	means a Project in which the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia possess an ownership interest that is not a Controlling interest.
Moody's	means Moody's Investors Services Inc.
Network Resource Interconnection Service or NRIS	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Network Upgrade	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Network Upgrade Costs	means the costs required to make the Network Upgrades.
New-Build	means a Generating Facility proposed as a Project that is not an Expansion or an existing Generating Facility (in commercial operation no later than the RFP Date of Issuance), and may include the construction of a Generating Facility on the Site of a previously operating renewable or non-renewable Generating Facility if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. all Generation Equipment is new; b. all other equipment, including Major Equipment, facilities, and physical infrastructure are new or substantially new; and c. such Generation Facility has a design life equal to or greater than the Agreement Term.
Notice of Intent to Bid	means the form described in Section 2.5.4.1.
Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
Nova Scotia Supply Community	has the meaning set out in Section 6.4.3.

NPCC	means the Northeast Power Coordinating Council.
NRR	means Nova Scotia’s Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
NSPI	means Nova Scotia Power Incorporated.
Onsite Solar Data	has the meaning set out in Section 6.2.1.
Onsite Wind Data	has the meaning set out in Section 6.2.1.
Person	means a natural person, firm, a company, a sole proprietorship, a corporation, a partnership, a limited partnership, a joint venture, a trust, a Government Agency or other entity of any kind.
Point of Interconnection	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Procurement Administrator or PA	has the meaning set out in the Regulations.
Project	means the Facility and any rights, property, and assets, whether real or personal and whether tangible or intangible, required by the Seller to design, construct, operate, maintain, rehabilitate or modify the Facility, or required by the Seller for use of the Site, including any contract or engagement for such purpose, permits, roads, and any land tenure and land tenure agreements.
Project Boundary	means the collection of various boundaries surrounding the footprints of land disturbed for the construction and development of the Generating Facility and the Interconnection Facilities up until the Point of Interconnection which shall consist of the polygons surrounding the land required for the Generating Facility (including Generation Equipment such as turbines, modules, inverters, and trackers, Major Equipment (such as step-up transformers, switchgears, relays, and protection devices)); Interconnection Facilities; and access roads.
Project Team	has the meaning set out in Section 1.3.2.
Proponent	means a Person registered under the RFP for the purpose of submitting a Proposal, having submitted or received transfer of a Notice of Intent to Bid, who is responsible to develop, finance, own and operate the Project. For greater certainty, the Proponent must have a Controlling interest in the Project at the time of Proposal submission and at the time that the Agreement is executed.
Proponents Guide	has the meaning set out in Section 6.3.2.
Proposal	means the proposal submitted by the Seller to the PA in connection with the RFP, as amended from time to time.
Proposal Completion Checklist	means the component of the Proposal taking the form of the document entitled “Proposal Completion Checklist” published on the RFP tab of the GCP website.
Proposal Submission Deadline	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
Protected Land	means land designated or pending to be designated as a park or protected area on the Parks and Protected Areas Map .
Public Company	has the meaning set out in Section 7.6

Public Utility	has the meaning set out in the in the <i>Electricity Act</i> (Nova Scotia).
Qualified Meteorologist	means a third-party or in-house meteorologist, engineer, or physical scientist with an advanced degree in a relevant field of study and at least seven years of experience conducting resource assessments for wind or solar energy projects.
Renewable Electricity Regulations	has the meaning set out in Section 1.2.
Renewable Low-Impact Electricity	has the meaning set out in the Regulations.
Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility	means a generating facility that generates Renewable Low-Impact Electricity and has received all approvals and permits required under the Regulations or any other applicable enactment.
Request for Debriefing Deadline	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
Request for Information	means the request for information regarding prospective Proposals as described in Section 2.5.2, that is based on the form published on the GCP website.
Request for Information Deadline	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.2.
Request for Proposal or RFP	means this request for proposals for the Green Choice Program.
Restricted Party	means a Person who had, or currently has, participation or involvement in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. any processes in connection with the RFP on behalf of the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia; or b. the design, planning, development, implementation, or evaluation of the RFP for the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia; or any other relationship with the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia related to the RFP; and who, as a result, and in the opinion of the PA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. has a Conflict of Interest or creates the perception of a Conflict of Interest in relation to the RFP; or may provide a material unfair advantage to any Proponent or confidential information to any Proponent that is not, or would not reasonably be expected to be, available to other Proponents.
RFP Date of Issuance	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
Scored Criteria	means the criteria by which Proposals are evaluated for selection in the GCP on the basis of a Configuration Score.
Selected Proponent	means a Proponent that submitted a Proposal that was selected by the PA as a Selected Proposal.
Selected Proposal	means the configuration from a Proposal that is selected for the GCP portfolio based on the RFP evaluation process.
Shortlist Portfolio	has the meaning set out in Section 2.1 of the RFP.

Shortlist Portfolio Interview Period	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
Shortlisted Proponent	has the meaning set out in Section 2.1 of the RFP.
Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.7 of the RFP.
Shortlisted Proposals	means a Proposal that has been selected for the Shortlist Portfolio.
Site	means the real property on, over, in or under which the Project is, or is to be, situated, as such property is described in the Proposal.
Site Control	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Soft Commitment	has the meaning set out in Section 6.2.2.1 of the RFP.
Solar Meteorological Tower	means a monopole or open lattice tower (including the tower, base plate, anchors, and hardware), and which may be outfitted with pyranometers (global horizontal irradiance), albedometers (albedo), thermometers, anemometers, wind vanes, barometer and hygrometer, booms to hold meteorological sensors, data logger (recording average, maximum, minimum, and standard deviation), meteorological sensor data (in no greater than 10-minute intervals), instrument wiring, telemetry devices used to quantify solar irradiance over a period of time at a given location.
Supplier	has the meaning within the GCP Regulations.
S&P	means Standard and Poor's Rating Services.
System Impact Study	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
System Operator	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
Tangible Net Worth	means in respect of a Proponent, at the time it submits a Proposal and without duplication, an amount determined in accordance with GAAP (or IFRS, if the Proponent has adopted such standard), and calculated as (a) the aggregate book value of all assets, minus (b) the aggregate book value of all liabilities, minus (c) the sum of any amounts shown on accounts of patents, patent applications, service marks, industrial designs, copyrights, trademarks and trade names, and licenses, prepaid assets, goodwill and all other intangibles.
Target Agreement Execution Period	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
Total Costs	means a Proponent's estimated costs of developing and constructing the Project to be raised by a combination of debt and equity.
Transmission Owner	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Transmission Provider	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
Transmission System	means the Nova Scotia energy transmission system operated by the System Operator.

Transmission System Interconnection Requirements or TSIR	means the Transmission System Interconnection Requirements published from time to time by the System Operator.
UARB	means the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.
Underrepresented Group	has the meaning set out in Section 5.14.1
Wetlands	Means land commonly referred to as marsh, swamp, fen or bog that either periodically or permanently has a water table at, near or above the land's surface or that is saturated with water, and sustains aquatic processes as indicated by the presence of poorly drained soils, hydrophytic vegetation and biological activities adapted to wet conditions as defined in the <i>Environment Act</i> as amended in 2006
Wind Meteorological Tower	means a monopole or open lattice tower (including the tower, base plate, anchors, and hardware), and which may be outfitted with anemometers, wind vanes, thermometers, barometer and hygrometer, booms to hold meteorological sensors, data logger (recording average, maximum, minimum, and standard deviation), meteorological sensor data (in no greater than 10-minute intervals), instrument wiring, telemetry devices, and remote sensing equipment (LIDAR and SODAR) used to characterize the wind speed and wind flow characteristics over a period of time at a given location.
WSFD	means wind speed frequency distribution.
Zone	means the zone assigned to a Project on the basis of the location of the Point of Interconnection as described in the transmission zone map at Appendix 8.8.

8.3 PROPONENT RESOURCES

Any questions or comments directly regarding a publicly available resource should be directed to the appropriate publishing party.

RFP Section	Resource
1 Introduction	
1.2 The Procurement Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Choice Program Public Webinars
2 RFP Process	
2.2.1 Information Sharing by PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Choice Program Website Green Choice Program Updates Green Choice Program Proponent Frequently Asked Questions Green Choice Program RFP and Additional Documents
2.9 Confidentiality and Privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act
3 Interconnection & Ancillary Services	
3 Interconnection & Ancillary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSPI Generation Interconnection Procedures (GIP)
3.1.2 Compensation Framework for Curtailment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA) Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)
3.1.5 Ancillary Services – Underfrequency Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transmission Service Interconnection Requirements (TSIR)
5 Minimum Criteria	
5.4 Cyber Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian Cyber Security Tool
5.14 VECs, Effects Management, Approvals & Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to Preparing an EA Registration Document for Wind Power Projects in Nova Scotia Guide to Addressing Wildlife Species and Habitat in an EA Registration Document The Wildlife Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables online database Endangered Species Act of Nova Scotia — and regulations — to identify species at risk: Species at Risk Public Registry for Species at Risk Act Significant habitat data relative to endangered species from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre The Ecological Land Classification Guide for Nova Scotia Information from the Canadian Wildlife Service on Wind Turbines and Birds: A Guidance Document for Environmental Assessment as well as Recommended Protocols for Monitoring Impact of Wind Turbines on Birds A map of Important Bird Areas for Maritimes Federal Critical Habitat Dataset Federal Recovery Strategies Provincial Recovery Plans Health Canada

6 Scored Criteria

6.2.4 Environmental Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provincial Landscape Viewer• Protected Areas Interactive Map
6.2.5 Project Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protected Areas Interactive Map• Application for the Use of Crown land
6.3.1 Engagement with the General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best Practices for Indigenous & Public Engagement, published by CanREA
6.3.2 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proponents Guide: The Role of Proponents in Crown Consultation With The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia• Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol

8.4 TRANSPORTATION PERMIT GUIDANCE

Resources	Contact Information
Self-Serve Online Permit Service	http://novascotia.ca/sns/access/drivers/special-move-permits Phone: The Service Nova Scotia Call Centre at 1-800-898-7668 (toll free) or 902-424-5851 Business and Consumer Registration HOURS: 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday Atlantic Time.
Routing and Transporting Support	NS Department of Public Works's roads or bridges please contact our 24-hour Operations Contact Center at 1-844-696-7737 or via email at dpw-occ@novascotia.ca and they will assign to the appropriate DPW staff for follow up.
Permits	
Special Move Permits	https://novascotia.ca/sns/paal/rmv/paal284.asp
Project Permits	https://novascotia.ca/sns/pdf/ans-drivers-smp-exceptional-moves.pdf
Regulations	
Weight and Dimension of Vehicle Regulations	https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/mvwd.htm
Spring Weight Restrictions	https://novascotia.ca/tran/trucking/springweight.asp

Overview of Process for Routing and Transportation of Turbines to Project Site:

- 1) Proponents engage with turbine manufacturers to gather quotes for the Green Choice Program RFP
- 2) Selected Proponents engage with turbine manufacturers for supply agreements. A turbine feasibility study and logistics analysis identifying the following information is required for any special move permits:
 - a. Timeline
 - b. Port landing
 - c. Route to site
 - d. Height of all components
 - e. Weight of all components
 - f. Length of all components
 - g. Width of all components
 - h. Configuration - Distribution of weight of components across axles on transport truck and weight of truck.
- 3) An analysis of proposed routes is conducted based on the above information submitted to identify and potential route challenges for weights and dimensions of turbine components.

Guidance

Special Move Permits and /or Exceptional Move Permits are required for any over dimension transport of goods or materials on Nova Scotia's public roads. The weight restrictions vary, and you should review [Weight and Dimension of Vehicle Regulations](#) for more information or contact Service Nova Scotia.

Spring weight restrictions will apply to all Special Move Permits unless road sections are spring weight exempt, such as the Nova Scotia 100 series highways. Spring weight restrictions can be expected between March and May but as timelines may differ, please visit the website for more information.

Special Move Permits will only be processed when all information is available. Submission of 'ghost' permits seeking information will not be processed. Reviews of routes will be done using information provided above as part of a Special Project Permit for Wind Turbine projects.

Many sections of Nova Scotia's highway infrastructure are not well suited for the exceptional weights and dimensions associated with the new, larger turbine sizes. Each structure that is proposed to be navigated with turbine components must be analyzed to ensure it can safely accommodate the proposed transport vehicle and turbine components.

Special moves requiring permits vary depending on the type of road, configuration, load dimensions and weights. Proposed moves exceeding these dimensions are considered exceptional moves and must proceed through this review to determine if they can be safely permitted, with or without investments or amendments to existing infrastructure or are unable to be accommodated.

Additionally, for further information regarding routing and transporting on NS Department of Public Works's roads or bridges please contact our 24-hour Operations Contact Center at 1-844-696-7737 or via email at dpw-occ@novascotia.ca and they will assign to the appropriate DPW staff for follow up.

These considerations should be part of your discussion with turbine manufactures as you decide on potential turbine models and quotes for your bid submission.

It is recommended that timing and insights from a preliminary analysis of transport to proposed project site that include the information contained in overview item #2 are beneficial when considering turbines for selection in your bid.

8.5 TEMPLATE: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK QUESTIONNAIRE

Category	Questions	No (0 pts)	Yes (+0.5 pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1. Does less than 30% of the Project Boundary 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 Project Boundary 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 Project Boundary avoid overlap with endangered or threatened species occurrences, core habitat, or critical habitat?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5. Does the Project Boundary 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 Projects; if solar respond "Yes")		
Category	Questions	No (-0.5 pts)	Yes (+0.5 pts)
Wetlands	7. Does the Project Boundary avoid overlap with Wetlands?		

Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS)	8. Has a MEKS been started and/or contracted for the Project?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	9. Does the 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 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 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

Table 1: Construction Activity

	Expenditure on local goods and services	Total expenditure
Direct wages & salaries (own company) <i>(Weight: 100%)</i>		
Management		
Assembly		
Installation		
FTE		
Management		
Assembly		
Installation		
Debt servicing costs (Weight: 0%)		
Land costs (Weight: 5%)		
Project costs (excluding wages & salaries)		
Contractor services		
<i>Electrical</i>		
<i>Site preparation</i>		
<i>Fabrication</i>		
<i>Other _____</i>		
Equipment rental		
Transportation		
Insurance/financial fees		
Engineering		
Legal		
Rental and leasing (excluding equipment)		
Office space		
Management office functions		
Environmental		
Other services: _____		

Direct purchases from manufacturers		
<i>Building materials</i>		
<i>Steel/rebar</i>		

	Expenditure on local goods and services	Total expenditure
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Concrete</i>		
<i>Building systems</i>		
<i>Other:</i>		
<i>Turbines</i>		
<i>Electronic components (including photovoltaic cells)</i>		
<i>Furnaces</i>		
<i>Chemicals</i>		
<i>Fabricated metal products (includes structural metal, boilers, and hardware)</i>		
Other manufactured goods:		

Direct purchases from wholesale and retail (Weight: 30%)		
<i>Building materials</i>		
<i>Steel/rebar</i>		
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Concrete</i>		
<i>Building systems</i>		
<i>Other:</i>		
<i>Turbines</i>		
<i>Electronic components (including photovoltaic cells)</i>		
<i>Furnaces</i>		
<i>Chemicals</i>		
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Fabricated metal products (includes structural metal, boilers, and hardware)</i>		
Office equipment/material		
Other goods: _____		

Contingency		
Total Construction Costs		

Table 2: Generation Operations

	Expenditure on local goods and services	Total expenditure
Direct wages & salaries (own company) <i>(Weight: 100%)</i>		
Management		
Equipment operators		
Repair and maintenance		
FTE		
Management		
Equipment operators		
Repair and maintenance		
Debt servicing costs (Weight: 0%)		
Project costs (excluding wages & salaries)		
Contractor services		
<i>Electrical</i>		
<i>Site preparation</i>		
<i>Fabrication</i>		
<i>Other _____</i>		
Equipment rental		
Transportation		
Engineering		
Insurance/financial fees		
Legal		
Rental and leasing (excluding equipment)		
Office space		
Management office functions		
Environmental		
Other services: _____		

Direct purchases from manufacturers		
<i>Building materials</i>		
<i>Turbines</i>		
<i>Electronic components (including photovoltaic cells)</i>		
<i>Furnaces</i>		
<i>Chemicals</i>		
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Fabricated metal products (includes structural metal, boilers, and hardware)</i>		
Other manufactured goods: _____		

	Expenditure on local goods and services	Total expenditure

Direct purchases from wholesale and retail (Weight: 30%)		
<i>Building materials</i>		
<i>Steel/rebar</i>		
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Concrete</i>		
<i>Building systems</i>		
<i>Other:</i>		
<i>Turbines</i>		
<i>Electronic components (including photovoltaic cells)</i>		
<i>Furnaces</i>		
<i>Chemicals</i>		
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Fabricated metal products (includes structural metal, boilers, and hardware)</i>		
Office equipment/material		
Other goods: _____		

Average Annual Generation Costs (five-year average)		

8.9 DEFINITION OF ZONES

Definition of Zones													
69 kV Line	Zone	69 kV Line	Zone	69 kV Line	Zone	138 kV Line	Zone	138 kV Line	Zone	230 kV Line	Zone	345 kV Line	Zone
L-5003	3	L-5044	4	L-5536	4	L-6001	2,3	L-6053	4	L-7001	2,3	L-8001	2
L-5004	3	L-5046	4	L-5537	4	L-6002	3,4	L-6054	4	L-7002	2,3	L-8002	2,3
L-5010	3	L-5047	4	L-5538	5	L-6003	3	L-6503	2	L-7003	2	L-8003	2
L-5011	3	L-5048	4	L-5539	4	L-6004	3,4	L-6507	2	L-7004	2	L-8004	1,2
L-5012	3	L-5049	3	L-5540	4	L-6005	3	L-6508	2	L-7005	2		
L-5014	3	L-5050	5	L-5541	4,5	L-6006	4	L-6510	1	L-7008	3,4		
L-5015	3	L-5053	4	L-5544	5	L-6007	3	L-6511	2	L-7009	3,4		
L-5016	3,4	L-5054	5	L-5545	4	L-6008	3	L-6512	1	L-7011	1,2		
L-5017	4	L-5055	5	L-5546	4	L-6009	3	L-6513	2	L-7012	1,2		
L-5019	4	L-5056	5	L-5547	4	L-6010	3	L-6514	2	L-7014	1		
L-5020	4	L-5057	5	L-5548	2	L-6011	3	L-6515	2	L-7015	1		
L-5021	4	L-5058	2	L-5549	2	L-6012	3,4	L-6516	1,2	L-7018	2,3		
L-5022	4	L-5500	2	L-5550	2	L-6013	4	L-6517	2	L-7019	2		
L-5023	4	L-5501	2	L-5551	4	L-6014	3	L-6518	2				
L-5024	4	L-5502	2	L-5555	1	L-6015	4	L-6521	2				
L-5025	4	L-5505	1	L-5559	1	L-6016	3	L-6523	2				
L-5026	4,5	L-5506	2	L-5560	1	L-6020	4	L-6527	3				
L-5027	4	L-5508	2	L-5561	1	L-6021	4	L-6531	4				
L-5028	2	L-5510	2	L-5563	1	L-6024	4	L-6533	1				
L-5029	2	L-5511	2	L-5564	1	L-6025	4	L-6534	1				
L-5030	2	L-5512	2	L-5565	1	L-6033	3	L-6535	2				
L-5031	3	L-5521	3	L-5569	1	L-6035	3	L-6536	2				
L-5032	3	L-5524	2	L-5571	1	L-6038	3	L-6537	1,2				
L-5033	4	L-5527	2	L-5572	1	L-6040	3	L-6538	1				
L-5035	4	L-5530	4	L-5573	1	L-6042	3	L-6539	1				
L-5036	4	L-5531	5	L-5575	1	L-6043	3	L-6543	2				
L-5037	3	L-5532	5	L-5576	1	L-6047	4	L-6545	1				
L-5039	3	L-5533	5	L-5579	1	L-6048	4	L-6548	2				
L-5040	2	L-5534	4	L-5580	1	L-6050	3	L-6549	1				
L-5041	3	L-5535	4,5	L-5581	5	L-6051	3	L-6551	2				
L-5042	3					L-6052	4	L-6552	2				

Notes:

- For lines that traverse more than one Zone, the Project's Zone will be determined by selecting the closest substation bus to the Point of Interconnection.
- The System Operator will provide clarification as to which Zone is applicable upon request.