

Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Released November 22, 2021

Note: Not all questions have been addressed within this FAQ document. The PA plans to release periodic updates on the RBP website and via email update. To the extent that a question is not addressed in a FAQ document, it will be addressed in the final draft of the RFP.

RFP Section	Question	Answer
General	Should Proponents submit a separate Expression of Interest (EOI) form for each Project they intend to submit?	<p>Proponents should submit an Expression of Interest form for each Project/Proposal with a unique Interconnection Request Number. This will ensure the PA can track Interconnection Requests for Proponents who wishes to have a minimum of 20 Business Days between the receipt of an Interconnection Feasibility Study (from an Interconnection Request that the System Operator has determined is valid as of October 15, 2021), and the Proposal Submission Deadline, per Section 2.5.2.</p> <p>In addition, the form now asks if Proponents will be submitting multiple Proposals per Site; instead of submitting multiple Expression of Interest forms, a Proponent can select this option.</p> <p>The EOI form(s) must be submitted via email to novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com by EOD Wednesday December 1st. The PA acknowledges that the EOI form is non-binding, but Proponents should submit information to the best of their knowledge at the time of EOI submission.</p>
1.3.1 Proponent Requirements	Can the Procurement Administrator provide clarity on NSPI ownership as it pertains to bids submitted to the RFP?	<p>NSPI will not be permitted to directly participate in the RFP, as the Renewable Electricity Regulation requires proponents to qualify as independent power producers (“IPP”), which excludes public utilities. NSPI will be authorized to participate as a minority participant within a proposed project if the following conditions are satisfied, subject to other eligibility requirements being met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 49% of the proponent’s voting securities shall be legally or beneficially, directly or indirectly, held by NSPI; • No more than 49% of all or any portion of the project shall be legally or beneficially, directly or indirectly, held by NSPI; and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSPI shall not be legally or beneficially, directly or indirectly, entitled to more than more than 49% of the revenues of Proponent or deriving from the Project (whether by contract or as fees, interest, distributions, security or otherwise).
2.7 Federal Funding	What is the CIB investment? How do prospective Proponents participate in a review of the draft CIB investment terms? How should buyers communicate with the CIB?	<p>The PA would like to communicate the following guidance from the CIB to Proponents:</p> <p>The CIB and the Province of Nova Scotia have advanced discussions regarding the potential for the CIB to invest in Projects that are successful under this RFP process. It is expected that any potential offer of investment from the CIB will be made to all Selected Proponents to ensure every Project could access this capital (subject to the Proposal and Project meeting the CIB's investment criteria).</p> <p>Proponents who have submitted an Expression of Interest will have the opportunity to review the CIB investment terms in December and provide feedback in January, in advance of the release of the final CIB investment terms. The PA will facilitate the review process by providing the CIB with the contact information of prospective Proponents who indicated interested in participating.</p> <p>Bidders are restricted from contacting the CIB about their projects as all communication between the project bidders and the CIB will be managed by the PA as part of the RFP.</p>
5.2 Renewable Low-Impact Electricity	Can storage participate in the RBP?	<p>The Rate Base Procurement is for renewable low-impact electricity generation. According to the Renewable Electricity Regulations (NS Reg 155/2010), this does not include electricity from storage, so Proposals which include energy from storage will not be eligible to participate in the RBP.</p>
6.1.4 Engagement with the General Public	Will letters of support that are submitted as a part of a Proponent's Proposal be kept confidential?	<p>Letters of support would be subject to the standards of disclosure and confidentiality outlined in the RFP in sections 2.8 and 2.9. For avoidance of doubt, the PA would still evaluate a letter of support that is not public or marked as confidential; the letter can be "private or public."</p>

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<p>6.1.5 Project Site</p>	<p>What should Proponents expect for the Crown land lease process?</p>	<p>The PA would like to communicate the following guidance from the Crown land team in the NRR to Proponents:</p> <p>The expected timeframe for obtaining a lease of Crown lands to develop a Site could take upwards of six months, depending on the specifics of the application. It is not uncommon for applications to take over a year to be processed and is dependent on various external factors. Issuing a lease for Crown lands requires extensive research, surveying, and a full Integrated Resource Management review of all Crown lands proposed for lease. The process also requires confirmation that formal consultation with the Mi'kmaq has been discharged, and is subject to a satisfactory environmental assessment, and Cabinet approval. The required process may uncover competing and pre-existing values, encumbrances, or rights associated with the proposed project footprint, which may or may not be capable of being mitigated or may result in further delays to resolve.</p> <p>By proposing to site a Project on Crown lands, Proponents are indicating their acceptance that the land on which they propose to construct their project is subject to the satisfactory completion of required components of the Crown lands lease process.</p>
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Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ARCHIVE: [Released October 15, 2021](#)

Note: Not all questions have been addressed within this FAQ document. The PA plans to release periodic updates on the RBP website and via email update. To the extent that a question is not addressed in a FAQ document, it will be addressed in Draft #2 of the RFP.

RFP Section	Question	Answer
General	Can the Procurement Administrator (PA) clarify which low-impact renewable generation types will be accepted for this procurement?	The Rate Base Procurement (RBP) Request for Proposals (RFP) will only be accepting projects which utilize wind or solar technology. Furthermore, Proponents should be aware of the Price cutoff of \$89/MWh. Proposals with an Energy Rate above \$89/MWh will not be accepted.
General	Can the PA provide resources for members of the general public of Nova Scotia?	The PA has launched a page on the RBP website, targeted to members of the general public of Nova Scotia. This page contains information and resources on how to engage with Projects and Proponents. The PA has also developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions , specifically for members of the general public of Nova Scotia. Please note that questions from the public regarding a specific development should be directed to the respective Proponent.

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Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ARCHIVE: [Released October 1, 2021](#)

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RFP Section	Question	Answer
General	When does the Procurement Administrator (PA) plan on releasing the draft Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)?	The draft PPA will be released the week of October 4 th , 2021. The Procurement Administrator will be accepting public and Proponent feedback for 7 days following the release of the PPA. The PA will release further instructions on how to submit feedback once the PPA is released. Please refer to the Updates tab of the RBP website for more information.
4.1 Minimum Criteria	Are hybrid (i.e., low-impact renewable generation paired with energy storage resources) resources allowed in the procurement?	Currently, the procurement is limited to low-impact renewable energy, which does not include energy from storage resources per the Regulations.
5.1.5 Site Control	Is a Crown Land lease granted prior to an EA approval?	A Crown land lease is not granted until the EA is approved and relevant conditions of the EA approval have been met. However, any steps required as part of the lease or EA that can be done in advance can be done in parallel. If Proponents need to conduct field studies on the Crown lands to inform their EA registration as required under their EA conditions, they can contact the Department for short term permission to conduct the work.

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Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ARCHIVE: [Released September 24, 2021](#)

Note: Not all questions have been addressed within this FAQ document. The PA plans to release periodic updates on the RBP website and via email update. To the extent that a question is not addressed in a FAQ document, it will be addressed in Draft #2 of the RFP.

RFP Section	Question	Answer
2.3 Communications	Is the Procurement Administrator (PA) accepting comments and questions? When will the second draft of the Request for Proposals (RFP) be released?	<p>The PA is not currently accepting questions or comments on the RFP process, draft, or the guidance issued in the FAQs.</p> <p>Draft #2 of the RFP will be released in early November. Following the release of the RFP, there will be a one-week period for Proponents and interested parties to submit questions or comments.</p>
5.1.8 Progress on Regulatory Approvals & Permits	What if a Project site is over 50% Crown land? A Proponent will not be able to secure a Feasibility Study by demonstrating Site Control. Is there a path for that Project be eligible to participate?	<p>Proposals with a Project Site that is over 50% of Crown lands cannot demonstrate 50% Site Control in the Interconnection Procedure with NSPI because the Crown land lease process will begin after the RFP has been awarded. These Proposals (and only these Proposals) are permitted to secure a Feasibility Study through the option to post a higher amount of security versus securing 50% Site Control, as outlined in 3.3.1(iii) of the Standard Generator Interconnection Procedures (GIP). Then, the Proposal will be subject to the Site Control requirements outlined in the RFP for Crown lands.</p> <p>All other Projects must demonstrate a minimum of 50% of Site Control, as defined in the GIP and outlined in Draft #1 of the RFP.</p>
5.1.10 Community Relations	What are the expectations for Proponents in terms of engagement with the local community near the Project Site?	<p>For clarity, Proponents are expected to undertake engagement activities appropriate to the stage of the project development, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging a diverse set of community stakeholders

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlining their concerns • Creating a long-term plan to address concerns and fulfill obligations <p>If a Proponent has not undertaken any engagement activities, they cannot include it in the Proposal and it will be incomplete. Incomplete Proposals that are not cured as described in the RFP are not be eligible to be scored.</p> <p>Proposals are eligible for additional points available based on if they exceed expectations for the level of engagement, appropriate to the stage of project development.</p> <p>For details on the types of best practices that will be expected and scored in the RFP, Proponents are encouraged to use available resources. The PA recommends the Wind Energy Development Best Practices for Indigenous and Public Engagement by CanREA.</p>
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Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ARCHIVE: [Released September 17, 2021](#)

This section to be treated as an archive, answers may have changed since its release

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RFP Section	Question	Answer
5.1.1 Interconnection	Update on Interconnection Request Deadline	<p>The Procurement Administrator is writing to share the dates by which Proponents must submit and finalize an Interconnection Request Deadline. Proponents must submit an Interconnection Request by 10/01/21 and finalize their Interconnection Request (i.e. the request is deemed valid by NSPSO) by 10/15/21 (the "Interconnection Request Deadline") for their Projects to be highly likely to receive a completed Feasibility Study by the RFP Proposal Submission Date, and be eligible to participate in the RBP.</p> <p>For Projects already in the queue that seek to increase the capacity of their Interconnection Request, NSPI will be able to transfer the deposit from the initial request (minus costs already incurred that cannot be reused), and efficiently move the Project through the Generator Interconnection Procedure. Proponents also have until 10/15/21 to notify NSPI if they wish to increase the capacity of their Interconnection Request.</p> <p>As a reminder, the maximum Name Plate Capacity of a Project participating in the RBP is 100 MW. The Name Plate Capacity of the Project must be between 40% and 100% of the Name Plate Capacity in the Interconnection Feasibility Study as per the modifications permitted under section 4.4.1 of the GIP.</p>

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		In the upcoming weeks, the PA will share a more detailed timeline that includes the Interconnection Request Deadline. We can share that we expect the RFP Release Date to be in early December.
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Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ARCHIVE: [Released September 10, 2021](#)

This section to be treated as an archive, answers may have changed since its release

RFP Section	Question	Answer
General	When will Draft #2 of the RFP be released? When is the RFP Date of Issuance?	<p>The PA will announce a timeline to Proponents in approximately two weeks' time, including the expected release date for Draft #2 of the RFP and the RFP Date of Issuance. We appreciate your patience as we ensure the timeline is firm before announcing it.</p> <p>To the extent we have updates prior (including on the deadline to submit or revise an Interconnection Request), the PA will notify Proponents via email, Updates and/or FAQs.</p>
General	Why are the questions limited to proponents after this time? Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) and Balance of Plants (BOP) contractors may want to seek clarity.	The PA intends to limit questions to Proponents after the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline to ensure the PA can provide high-quality, timely responses to Proponents. After the Inquiries Deadline, the PA will not accept any inquiries, including from Proponents. Before the Inquiries Deadline, Proponents can ask questions on behalf of OEM and BOP contractors.
General	Could the Procurement Administrator (PA) clarify in the near term whether Nova Scotia Power, Incorporated (NSPI) is allowed to compete with other IPPs as a minority shareholder (49% and less)?	As previewed in the last FAQ, at a minimum, the RFP will require that proponents meet the definition of IPP provided by the Renewable Electricity Regulations. As per the Renewable Electricity Regulations, an IPP must have no more than 49% of its voting securities owned by a public utility (e.g., NSPI). Furthermore, to ensure a fair and competitive procurement process, the forthcoming Draft #2 of the RFP will include further eligibility requirements to restrict NSPI from owning more than 49% of the assets of an IPP.
2.4.8 Target PPA Execution Date	Will proponents be expected to execute the PPA that is approved by the Utilities and Review Board (UARB) without substantive changes?	At the conclusion of the RFP process, the PA may award, at its discretion, one or more Selected Proponents with an opportunity to execute a Power Purchase Agreement for

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		Renewable Low-Impact Electricity with NSPI. The standard form of the PPA will be prepared by the PA, in consultation with NSPI and approved by the Utility and Review Board. Proponents will be expected to execute a substantially similar PPA.
2.5.1 SREPs	If a Proponent receives Conditional Approval from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program (SREPs) grant funding, can you confirm that the Proponent would be able to restate its proposed price to reflect the absence of the SREPs funds or terminate the PPA without penalty if the SREP funding isn't ultimately awarded for any reason?	The PA understands that SREPs funding is not guaranteed, even with "Conditional Approval" from the SREPs team. We will provide guidance on Proponent risk in the scenarios that SREP funding is not awarded in Draft #2 of the RFP. Regardless, Proponents will need to receive Conditional Approval as outlined above to include SREPs funding in their PPA Price.
2.6.3 Cost Responsibility for Interconnection and Network Upgrades	Is it intended that all system/network integration costs be socialized so that proponents only need consider their project specific interconnections costs? If the answer is "no" then how are proponents to determine the price impacts of the system/network integration costs as the ultimate selection of the portfolio of projects and its composition (size, geographic location, etc.) as well as a proponent's place in the stack of projects will greatly vary the system/network integration costs (and impact costs)?	System/network integration costs will be socialized provided project-related network upgrade costs do not exceed the threshold amount for the zone the proponent wishes to interconnect to. Threshold amounts per zone will be provided in the PPA. For further reference, these threshold amounts are consistent with the amounts indicated in the PPA for the 2011 procurement, adjusted for inflation.
2.6.4.2 Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement	Could the PA please clarify which zones apply to the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement portion of the RFP?	Projects in Zone 1 and 5 must forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement. Projects in Zone 2, 3, and 4 do not have to forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement.
2.6.5.1 Required Ancillary Services	What are the required Ancillary Services for a proposed wind energy project?	The required Ancillary Services are outlined in the Transmission System Interconnection Requirements (TSIR) document .
2.6.5.1 Required Ancillary Services	Will additional value be given for the ability to provide ancillary services beyond the required ancillary services?	No, additional value will not be given for the ability to provide ancillary services outside of the services required by the TSIR.

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<p>2.9 Confidentiality and Privacy</p>	<p>Does every confidential document need to be explained, or can a grouping of documents such as turbine technology be grouped together? Can you confirm that any confidentially marked documents will be treated as such even in the absence of such a letter?</p>	<p>The PA intends to treat all documents in its possession as confidential except in the circumstances enumerated in section 2.9 of the draft RFP and the PA's right to disclose the proposals to other government agencies as described in section 2.8</p> <p>Documents provided to the PA may be subject to disclosure under the Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act. The PA is providing Proponents with the opportunity to identify all or part of a document that it is being supplied to the PA in confidence in the event of a freedom of information request. It is the responsibility of a proponent to review the applicable legislation and determine what portions of the documents it wishes to mark as confidential.</p>
<p>3.3.3.2 Determine Selected Proponent(s) & Selected Proposal(s)</p>	<p>If the Portfolio minimum of 1200 gigawatt hours (GWh) is not reached, will the RFP still proceed with the available projects?</p>	<p>Yes, that is the intent.</p>
<p>4.7 Capacity</p>	<p>Can you confirm that site capacity cap will remain at 100 megawatts (MW)?</p>	<p>The PA can confirm the cap of 100 MW will not change.</p>
<p>5.1.1 Interconnection</p>	<p>Please confirm that a Project with a completed Feasibility Study that has been withdrawn from the queue after 30 days is eligible to participate in the RFP?</p>	<p>Proponents must have a completed Feasibility Study, but the Interconnection Request is not required to be "active" to be eligible to participate in the RFP. Specifically, the Feasibility Study must have been completed on or after January 1, 2020.</p>

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ARCHIVE: [Released September 03, 2021](#)

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RFP Section	Question	Answer
General	Could the Procurement Administrator (PA) provide some clarity on the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) timeline?	<p>The PPA will be released to Proponents for feedback in mid-September. Proponents (and others) will be granted a week to provide comments and questions.</p> <p>The PA will assimilate feedback into a revised PPA and submit to the Utilities and Review Board (UARB) in early October. The UARB review and approval process can take up to four weeks.</p> <p>The PPA will be subject to comment and review in accordance with the UARB's processes. More information about the UARB's processes is available here.</p>
General	Can Proponents receive feedback on their Proposal, in order to improve it for future Requests for Proposals (RFP)?	Yes. The PA will incorporate a Debrief for Proponents who are not selected in the Rate Based Procurement (RBP) RFP. Details to follow in Draft #2.
General	Could the PA clarify in the near term whether Nova Scotia Power, Inc (NSPI) is allowed to compete with other IPPs as a minority shareholder (49% and less)?	The PA is finalizing guidance and will share it soon.
1.1 Purpose	Is the procurement goal in megawatt hours (MWh) or megawatts (MW) or both?	The Target RBP Portfolio size is 1,200 gigawatt hours (GWh) of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity. The Procurement Administrator aims to procure a minimum of 1,200 GWh and a maximum of 1,500 GWh of Renewable Low Impact Electricity to meet this aim. See Section 3.3.1 (Target Portfolio Size) of the RFP Draft for details.

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1.3 Proponents	Can you provide a definition of Independent Power Producer (IPP)?	<p>The definition of IPP to be used in the RFP is the same as the definition of IPP in the Renewable Electricity Regulations (NS Reg 155/2010):</p> <p>"Independent power producer" means a renewable low-impact electricity generator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) of which no more than 49% of the securities entitling the holders to vote for the election of its directors are held by a public utility in combination with any affiliate of the public utility, and (ii) that sells electricity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in the Province to public utilities for retail sales to the utilities' customers, or (b) for export outside of the Province.
1.3 Proponents	Can you please clarify if the Proponent is not registered with Nova Scotia's "Registry of Joint Stock Companies", can they submit a Proposal without being disadvantaged during the proposal assessment and award process?	<p>Yes, there is no advantage to registering with the Nova Scotia' Registry of Joint Stock Companies' prior to the Interconnection of the Project.</p> <p>Nova Scotia law requires all businesses operating within the Province to register with the Nova Scotia' Registry of Joint Stock Companies' (with some exceptions for New Brunswick businesses who are registered with the New Brunswick' Corporate Affairs Registry'). The status of a Proponent's business registration does not preclude the submission of a Proposal in response to this RFP.</p> <p>However, Proponent will need to provide a plan to register with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies if they cannot provide evidence of good standing within the Registry at the time of submission.</p>
2.2 Milestones and Timeline	Does the Notice of Intent to Bid Fee apply by Proponent, Proposal, or Project?	<p>Proponents must submit a Notice of Intent to Bid Form and Fee for each Proposal. Each Proposal must consist of the RFP bid materials for a single Project (single interconnection point).</p>

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2.4.2.2 Notice of Intent to Bid Fee	Can Proponents wire transfer the bid fee instead of physical deliverance via cheque?	No. The Notice of Intent to Bid Fee is payable by either a certified check or bank draft to the Nova Scotia Minister of Finance by the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline. See Section 2.4.2.2 for details.
2.5.1 SREPs	How does a Proponent demonstrate Conditional Approval through Natural Resources Canada's Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program (SREPs)? How does that align with the existing SREPs Application Process?	<p>The Project will need to receive "Conditional Approval" from the SREPs team in order for pricing with SREPs funding to be scored; this is an arrangement with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) specific to the Rate Base Procurement.</p> <p>Conditional Approval is defined as Projects that have received "Project Approval" from the SREPs team, pending selection through the Rate Base RFP. Project Approval is defined in Section 7.3 of the SREPs Applicant Guide.</p> <p>There is no guarantee that a Proponent will receive SREPs funding but the SREPs team is working to align with the timeline and process of this RFP. This is also why it is recommended interested Proponents submit a Registration Form at the NRCan website as soon as possible. Following this, proponents will need to submit their application to SREPs for review and assessment. The SREPs process is continuous, and the team will advise Proponents on how to improve their application to obtain funding.</p> <p>The PA and the SREPs team will release specific details on how Proponents will demonstrate Conditional Approval (e.g. letter, notification) within Draft #2 of the RFP. For more specific information on the SREPs process, you can reach out to NRCan directly at nrcan.sreps-erite.nrcan@canada.ca.</p>
2.5.2 CIB	Could you please confirm whether the intention is for only those projects which are selected to receive an investment offer from the Canada Investment Bank (CIB)?	Yes, the intention is for the CIB investment offers to be contingent on Proponents/Projects being awarded the RBP RFP and executing a PPA with NSPI.

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2.5.2 CIB	What details can you provide on the CIB investment offer?	The CIB product is still under development. It will be socialized with the market and Proponents and the intent is to ensure adequate time for input before it is incorporated into the RFP.
2.6.2 Compensation Framework for Curtailment	Why do proponents need to make the decision between Network Resource Interconnection Service (NRIS) vs Energy Resource Interconnection Service (ERIS)?	As per the Section 3.2 of the Nova Scotia Power Generation Interconnection Procedures (GIP), "At the time the Interconnection Request is submitted, Interconnection Customer must request either Energy Resource (ER) Interconnection Service or Network Resource (NR) Interconnection Service."
2.6.4.1 Congestion Management Alternative	Could the PA please explain the 20MW cap for Proposals for Projects in Zone 1?	The 20 MW cap will not be applicable in Draft #2 of the RFP.
2.6.5.1 Required Ancillary Services	What additional information can the PA provide on ancillary services?	The PA will provide additional details on ancillary services in the upcoming weeks.
2.8 Proposal Disclosure	Can you please clarify whether the PA will disclose bids to the CIB and NRCAN in cases even where the Proponent does not intend to rely on federal funding?	Draft #2 of the RFP will clarify that the PA will not disclose bids to the CIB or NRCAN if the Proponent is not relying on federal funding.
2.8 Proposal Disclosure	Can the RFP strictly limit the allowed disclosure of information to what is absolutely necessary between the PA and NSPI (e.g. Interconnection Status, Resource Assessment, Progress on Regulatory Approvals and Permits, etc.)?	Yes. The PA will provide additional parameters on Proposal Disclosure to NSPI in Draft #2 of the RFP.
3.2.1 Minimum Criteria	How should project sizes be structured in bids? Can each Project be bid separately?	A Proponent will be able to submit multiple bids for the same Proposal/Project, within parameters. Details will be provided in Draft #2 of the RFP.
3.3.1 Target RFP Portfolio Size	Please explain the 10% project attrition rate, is this based on experience in other jurisdictions?	The attrition rate is based on assumptions from prior Nova Scotia procurements.

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4.7 Capacity	What is the minimum project size for this RFP? Are Distribution Network Projects eligible to participate in the RFP?	There is no minimum project size currently being contemplated. However, projects are required to adhere to the transmission IX procedures as distribution-level Project will not be considered for this procurement. Typically, projects > 5W are interconnected at the transmission level.
4.8.1.3 Minimum Criteria (Resource Assessment)	Proponents asked a range of questions related to the Minimum Criteria for Wind Resource Assessments including, but not limited to: - Hub height measurement requirement - Minimum meteorological data timeframes - The use of LIDAR and SODAR devices	The PA is actively considering these questions and comments and will provide guidance.
4.8.1.5 Minimum Criteria (Site Control)	Demonstration of a minimum of 50% Site Control for Crown lands will likely be a timing challenge. How is this issue anticipated to be addressed?	The process described in Draft #1 will allow Proponents to demonstrate sufficient site control to participate in the RBP. Details are still being developed by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (formerly the Departments of Lands and Forestry and Energy and Mines) and the PA and will be shared when appropriate.
5.1.1 Interconnection	A Proponent may want to adjust or submit an Interconnection Request (e.g. in response to the cap change from 80 MW to 100 MW) and is concerned about meeting the Minimum Criteria associated with Interconnection. In addition, determining the Commercial Operations Date (COD) is likely dependent on Nova Scotia Power timelines in completing the System Impact Study (SIS) and Interconnection Facilities Study, how will the impact of those timelines be addressed?	The PA will set a date by which Proponents must submit an Interconnection Request for their Projects to be highly likely to receive a completed Feasibility Study by the RFP Proposal Submission Date, and be eligible to participate in the RBP. This date is expected to be in the next few weeks but details are still being finalized. For Projects already in the queue that seek to increase the capacity of their Interconnection Request, NSPI will be able to transfer the deposit from the initial request (minus costs already incurred that cannot be reused), and efficiently move the Project through the Generator Interconnection Procedure. The PA will share additional details in the next FAQ. With respect to the System Impact Study (SIS) and the Interconnection Facilities Study, NSPI is bound to the

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		Generation Interconnection Procedure (GIP), as approved by the UARB. The Proponent is responsible for ensuring their timeline to the Commercial Operation Date allows for NSPI to complete the System Impact Study (SIS) and the Interconnection Facilities Study in the timeframe outlined in the GIP.
5.1.1 Interconnection	Please confirm that a Project with a completed Feasibility Study that has been withdrawn from the queue after 30 days is eligible to participate in the RFP?	<p>The PA will provide guidance on Minimum Criteria related to Interconnection/the Feasibility Study in the next FAQ. Specifically, the PA intends to identify a date by which the Project must have received a Feasibility Study by.</p> <p>For additional clarity, the Interconnection Request is not required to be "active" to be eligible to participate in the RFP. The PA will share additional details in the next FAQ.</p>
5.1.2 Experience	Could the PA please define "similar size and scope" as it pertains to this and other sections?	The PA will address this in a future FAQ document, or within Draft #2 of the RFP
5.1.5 Site Control	<p>Under the current draft RFP, developers would need to install met towers and gather 6 months of wind data for the purpose of the RFP. Met Tower installation on Crown land is not possible without a Letter of Authority (LOA) from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (formerly known as the Department of Lands and Forestry).</p> <p>How can the PA address this concern?</p>	<p>The PA is still actively working with the Crown lands team to allow Proponents interested in developing a low impact renewable electricity project on Crown lands to participate in the RFP.</p> <p>When considering this process, we will consider the challenges presented by the Resource Assessment requirements and provide more guidance at a future date.</p>
5.1.6 PC&O	Does the Proponent already need to have definitively picked construction contractors, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) providers etc. If not, what is acceptable?	It is not expected that the Proponent have firm agreements in place. The PA will share the level of detail Proponents will need to supply related to their procurement, construction and operations plans in Draft #2 of the RFP.

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<p>5.3.1 Ownership</p>	<p>The current draft RFP seems to indicate that a Project with a majority ownership by two (2) Mi'kmaq communities will obtain 0.5 points for each community and an extra 0.5 points because of the involvement of more than one community. That means a total of 1.5 points. Is that correct? If not, we kindly ask the PA to clarify.</p>	<p>Yes. As currently drafted, an additional half point is awarded for the participation of more than one Mi'kmaq community, in addition to the half point for each community.</p>
<p>5.4 Grid Benefits</p>	<p>Can you provide more details on the exact definition of zones (e.g. the far east part of Zone 2)?</p>	<p>The PA is working with NSPI to provide a resource with a detailed definition of each zone.</p>
<p>6.3.1 Collusion and Conflict of Interest</p>	<p>Please clarify if a proponent involves an energy storage system developer or project developer that is potentially involved in other bids does this apply to the collusion provision?</p>	<p>The PA would refer Proponents to the language Section 6.3.1 Collusion and Conflict of Interest in the RFP:</p> <p>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 6.3.1, then 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@customerfirstrenewables.com.</p>
<p>6.3.4 Assignment and Change of Control</p>	<p>With no draft PPA currently available, will the assignment of the PPA to a special purpose vehicle (as typically necessary for project financing) be allowed?</p>	<p>Yes, the assignment of the PPA to a special purpose vehicle will be allowed.</p>

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ARCHIVE: [Released July 27, 2021](#)

This section to be treated as an archive, answers may have changed since its release

Question	Answer
Will this program be run directly by the government or through Nova Scotia Power?	The Province of Nova Scotia has appointed CustomerFirst Renewables to serve as the Procurement Administrator for the Rate Bate Procurement. The Supplier will be awarded a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI).
Will the RFP be competitive and open for bids from Independent Power Producers?	Yes. The Rate Bate Procurement will be a competitive RFP procurement process.
Any idea of the timing of the RFP?	See the timeline in the deck shared with stakeholders with the July 22 Webinar (Updates & Resources tab on RBP Website). Please note that the timeline is subject to change.
Do you need to be based in Nova Scotia to compete, or is it open to provinces outside of Nova Scotia?	<p>The Project must be physically located in Nova Scotia and connect to the Nova Scotia grid and transmission system to be eligible.</p> <p>Independent Power Producers (IPPs) with experience operating a renewable low-impact electricity project in Nova Scotia will receive additional points but it is not a minimum requirement for an IPP to have experience operating renewable low-impact electricity.</p>
NSPI is not allowed to respond to the RFP. Are NSPI permitted to have a minority stake?	The Procurement Administrator will follow up on this question later.
Will there be a security fee and/or a penalty for not meeting COD?	Yes. Delay damages in the form of \$[TBD]/MW/Day will be a provision within the PPA.
Do you have a % of ownership requirement for local first nation or municipality?	The exact scoring criteria are not finalized yet. There will be a requirement to have a substantial ownership and partnership claim to achieve the maximum number of points.

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<p>Will any COD between 2023-2025 will have same scoring point?</p>	<p>While suggested on the call that there would not be a preference for earlier COD, this component is still under active discussion.</p>
<p>Is the price of \$/kWh the most important consideration for the RFP? Will the solar renewable projects bidding at higher price than Wind have the possibility to win the RFP?</p>	<p>This RFP aims to find the lowest cost solution for ratepayers. To reflect that, the price section of the scoring criteria, measured in \$/MWh, has more points than other sections (40 points out of 100 total).</p> <p>All low-impact renewable energy are eligible to bid into the RFP, but projects that cannot compete on the lowest cost of energy the Project may wish to wait for potential future opportunities.</p>
<p>What commitment is there from NSP for them to respond to Feasibility Studies already in process by the deadline for bid submissions?</p>	<p>The Procurement Administrator is discussing the processing of Feasibility Studies with NSPI and will provide guidance.</p>
<p>Wind is considered a low-impact renewable energy in the regulations. Will preference be given on onshore vs. offshore?</p>	<p>There will be no points allocated specific to the type of low-impact renewable energy Project.</p> <p>Offshore wind permitting and authorizations are still under discussion between the Province and the Government of Canada. Timelines for offshore wind may not align with the COD's for this procurement.</p>
<p>On criterion 3.1 (Ownership & Partnerships), to get full points, does an entity have to submit proposals that contemplate ownership for both local First Nation and NS municipality? Or might full points be allocated if the entity provides majority ownership to one or the other?</p>	<p>As currently contemplated, a Supplier may receive points for ownership or partnership by any Underrepresented Group, including municipalities. Meaningful partnerships and majority ownership structures with the Mik'maq of Nova Scotia are also eligible for additional points.</p> <p>In some parts of the RFP, the IPP is eligible for additional points based on benefit to an Underrepresented Group. Underrepresented Groups are including but not limited to women; gender-diverse people; LGTBQ, racialized groups, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples; racialized people; and persons with disabilities.</p>

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<p>Does a proposal's energy production and auxiliary services have to be at the same location on the grid?</p>	<p>The ancillary services prescribed within the TSIR and GIA are tied directly to the source of generation and, as such, have to be co-located on the grid.</p>
<p>Are other groups such as African Nova Scotian groups going to be evaluated the same for equity contributions for projects as First Nations groups. If not, will positive evaluation still be given to projects that target these groups as beneficiaries?</p>	<p>See response above regarding underrepresented groups and their substantive and meaningful participation in the renewable energy project. Partnerships or ownership structures will need to demonstrate an advanced state of maturity. A letter of support from an underrepresented group is insufficient to represent meaningful partnership or ownership. However, points may be allocated under other local and social benefits that consider underrepresented groups where the benefits to these groups are clear (e.g. benefits agreements).</p>
<p>What is the reasoning behind the 80 MW cap on project capacities for the upcoming RFP? How likely is this cap to remain?</p>	<p>The reasoning behind the cap is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Encourage a diversification of projects in the portfolio 2) Encourage additional benefits associated with the Project (e.g. ownership, capacity building, Benefit Agreements) <p>IPPs are welcome to submit comments to the Procurement Administrator on the cap to the when the Draft RFP is released in early August.</p>

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