

NOVA SCOTIA  
RATE BASE PROCUREMENT  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**DRAFT #2**

**Issued:** NOVEMBER 17, 2021

**By:** CUSTOMERFIRST RENEWABLES, THE PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR

**On Behalf Of:** THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

**DRAFT**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 PURPOSE.....	5
1.2 THE PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR.....	5
1.3 PROPONENTS.....	5
1.3.1 <i>Proponent Requirements</i> .....	5
1.3.2 <i>Project Team &amp; Key Personnel</i> .....	6
1.3.3 <i>Primary and Secondary Contacts</i> .....	6
1.3.4 <i>Registry of Joint Stock Companies</i> .....	6
1.4 AWARD OBLIGATIONS.....	6
<b>2. RFP PROCESS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 SUMMARY.....	6
2.2 COMMUNICATIONS.....	7
2.2.1 <i>Information Sharing by PA</i> .....	7
2.2.2 <i>Inquiries and Comments</i> .....	7
2.3 DUE DILIGENCE BY PROPONENTS.....	7
2.4 PROPOSALS.....	8
2.5 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS.....	8
2.5.1 <i>Milestones and Timeline</i> .....	8
2.5.2 <i>Expression of Interest Deadline</i> .....	9
2.5.3 <i>RFP Date Of Issuance</i> .....	9
2.5.4 <i>Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline</i> .....	9
2.5.5 <i>Inquiries Deadline</i> .....	10
2.5.6 <i>Proposal Submission Deadline</i> .....	10
2.5.7 <i>Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date</i> .....	10
2.5.8 <i>Shortlisted Portfolio Interview Period</i> .....	10
2.5.9 <i>RBP Portfolio Notification Date</i> .....	10
2.5.10 <i>Delivery of Final Report on the RFP</i> .....	11
2.5.11 <i>Request for Debriefing Deadline</i> .....	11
2.5.12 <i>Target Agreement Execution Date</i> .....	11
2.6 CHANGES TO PROPOSAL.....	11
2.7 FEDERAL FUNDING.....	11
2.8 PROPOSAL DISCLOSURE.....	11
2.9 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY.....	12
2.10 ADDENDA.....	13
<b>3. INTERCONNECTION &amp; ANCILLARY SERVICES.....</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1.1 <i>Nova Scotia Transmission Network</i> .....	13
3.1.2 <i>Compensation Framework for Curtailment</i> .....	13
3.1.3 <i>Cost Responsibility for Interconnection and Network Upgrades</i> .....	14
3.1.4 <i>Options to Mitigate Risk of Significant Upgrade Costs</i> .....	14
3.1.5 <i>Ancillary Services – Underfrequency Events</i> .....	15
<b>4. PROPOSAL EVALUATION.....</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 ORGANIZATION & COMPLETENESS.....	15
4.2 WINNOWING AND AWARD PROCESS.....	15
4.2.1 <i>Target RBP Portfolio Size</i> .....	15
4.2.2 <i>Shortlist Portfolio Selection</i> .....	15
4.2.3 <i>RBP Portfolio Selection</i> .....	16
4.2.4 <i>Tie-breaker Mechanisms</i> .....	16

<b>5. MINIMUM CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1 PROPONENT REQUIREMENTS .....	17
5.2 RENEWABLE LOW-IMPACT ELECTRICITY .....	17
5.3 NEW-BUILD OR EXPANSION.....	17
5.4 CYBER SECURITY .....	17
5.5 INTERCONNECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY.....	17
5.6 LOCATION .....	18
5.7 PRICE .....	18
5.8 COMMERCIAL OPERATION DATE.....	18
5.9 ENERGY BID.....	19
5.10 NAMEPLATE CAPACITY.....	19
5.11 GENERATION TECHNOLOGY .....	19
5.12 PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION .....	20
5.13 O&M .....	20
5.14 VECs, EFFECTS MANAGEMENT, APPROVALS & PERMITS .....	20
5.14.1 VECs & Effects Management Table.....	21
5.14.2 Approvals & Permits Matrix.....	21
5.15 PROJECT RISK AND MATURITY .....	23
<b>6. SCORED CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>23</b>
6.1 PROJECT RISK .....	24
6.1.1 Resource Assessment .....	24
6.1.2 Financing Experience and Plans.....	29
6.1.3 Experience .....	31
6.1.4 Engagement with the General Public.....	32
6.1.5 Project Site.....	34
6.1.6 Environmental Risk .....	37
6.1.7 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia .....	39
6.2 PRICE .....	40
6.2.1 Scored Criteria for Price.....	41
6.3 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.....	41
6.3.1 Ownership .....	41
6.3.2 Economic Benefits.....	42
6.3.3 Social Programs.....	44
6.3.4 Governance.....	46
6.4 ZONE .....	47
<b>7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>48</b>
7.1 GENERAL .....	48
7.2 RESERVED RIGHTS.....	48
7.3 NO LOBBYING.....	49
7.3.1 Collusion and Conflict of Interest .....	49
7.3.2 Verification.....	50
7.3.3 Assignment and Change of Control .....	50
7.3.4 Interpretation .....	50
<b>8. APPENDIX .....</b>	<b>52</b>
8.1 POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (APPROVED BY THE UARB).....	52
8.2 DEFINITIONS.....	53
8.3 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST .....	60
8.4 NOTICE OF INTENT TO BID.....	62
8.5 ORGANIZATION AND COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST .....	65
8.6 PROPONENT RESOURCES .....	69

8.7	EXAMPLE: CROWN LAND DESKTOP SCAN .....	72
8.8	TEMPLATE: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK QUESTIONNAIRE .....	73
8.9	TEMPLATE: VECs & EFFECTS MANAGEMENT TABLE .....	74
8.10	TEMPLATE: APPROVALS & PERMITS MATRIX .....	75
8.11	TEMPLATE: LOCAL EXPENDITURE TABLE(S) .....	76
8.12	ZONE MAP .....	80
8.13	DEFINITION OF ZONES.....	81

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE

The Rate Base Procurement (“**RBP**”) aims to attract innovative 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 1,100 gigawatt hours (“**GWh**”) of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity with an energy source of wind or solar from Independent Power Producers. The goals of the RFP are to 1) ensure a fair, transparent, and competitive procurement, and select one or more Proposals for Renewable Low-Impact Electricity generated by solar or wind, that provide the best value from for Nova Scotia Power Inc. (“**NSPI**”) electricity ratepayers.

Renewable energy development offers significant economic benefit opportunity to many rural areas in Nova Scotia and significant advancement towards achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Once the Project(s) are operational, the RBP is anticipated to help achieve the Province’s renewable electricity standard of 80 per cent by 2030 and support the Province’s goal of achieving a 53 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

## 1.2 THE PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR

The Province of Nova Scotia has appointed CustomerFirst Renewables (“**CFR**”) as the Procurement Administrator (“**PA**”) to carry out the third-party administration of the RFP. The PA will administer this RFP in accordance with the Regulations and 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 the broader stakeholder community. 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**”).

CFR is an independent advisor that partners with impact-oriented clients to develop actionable strategies, procure tailored energy and water solutions, and optimize performance over time. Since 2010, CFR has grown their team and client base, accumulating a track record for securing high-impact solutions. In 2020 alone, its clients transacted on over 1.1 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy off-take.

To support the design of an RFP process that will meet these the PA’s objectives, the PA has offered and shared public [webinars](#), released draft RFPs and solicit 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, other government agencies within the Province of Nova Scotia, and other organizations were invited to join in these activities leading up the RFP’s issuance.

## 1.3 PROPONENTS

### 1.3.1 PROPONENT REQUIREMENTS

Proponents must be Independent Power Producers. 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 the Agreement is executed, if applicable. 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/or is not otherwise entitled to more than 49% of revenues under the Agreement or deriving from the Project (whether by contract or as fees, interest, distributions, security or otherwise).

## 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. intends to be assessed on either Minimum Criteria or Scored Criteria; and
  - iii. should include technical, financial and legal advisors, and resource assessment consultants (including the Qualified Meteorologist), but shall not include any lenders or any technical or legal advisors to such lenders (collectively, the “**Project Team**”).

## 1.3.3 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CONTACTS

On the Notice of Intent to Bid form the Proponent must designate a primary and secondary contact to whom all communication 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 associated with 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. To participate in the RFP process, Proponents must register to conduct business in Nova Scotia prior to the Interconnection of the Project. For 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 there are no associated points with registry.

## 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 identified in the Agreement. The standard form Agreement prepared by the PA in consultation with NSPI and approved by the Utility and Review Board (“**UARB**”), is included in Appendix 8.1.

## 2. RFP PROCESS

### 2.1 SUMMARY

The RFP will be released on the RFP Date of Issuance, after which Proponents will have eight weeks to prepare a Proposal. Proponents must submit a Notice of Intent to Bid form and 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 for the Minimum Criteria.

The second phase consists of Scored Criteria which are evaluated and awarded priority points using the rubric provided in Section 6. The sum of these points produces a proposal score for each configuration (“**Proposal Score**”). Each Proposal configuration may receive a maximum Proposal Score of 100 points. After both phases of the evaluation are complete, the PA will identify a portfolio of Projects to be shortlisted and will advance in the RBP process (“**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 (for Renewable Low-Impact Electricity with NSPI).

## 2.2 COMMUNICATIONS

### 2.2.1 INFORMATION SHARING BY PA

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

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

These updates will be communicated through the following streams:

- a. via the Rate Based Procurement [website](#), where:
  - i. the PA will post all updates onto the [Updates](#) tab;
  - ii. the PA will post updated versions of the FAQ to the [FAQ](#) tab; and
  - iii. the PA will post the RFP and associated documents including Addenda on the [RFP](#) tab; and
- b. via email, where the PA will maintain mailing lists and notify lists with relevant updates.

To be added to the mailing list, please contact the PA directly at [novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com](mailto:novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com).

The PA expressly reserves the right, in its discretion, to make changes to this RFP, the Agreement (until it is submitted to the UARB), 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 shall report any errors, omissions, or ambiguities to the PA at [novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com](mailto:novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.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 allowed to ask questions until the Inquiries Deadline. All communication must be directed to the PA email address to [novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com](mailto:novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com). The PA will not be responsible for, nor be obliged to 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 two Business Days for a response or an acknowledgement of the question and an estimate of when the PA will be able to provide a response. In keeping with principles of fairness, transparency and competitiveness of the RFP process, questions and comments received in the manner prescribed above that request clarification of the RFP may be posted on the website with the PA’s response, but the identity of any party asking any question or making any comment will not be revealed.

## 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 RBP, including in the preparation and delivery of their Proposal. Proponents are responsible for carrying out any

independent investigations, surveys, and studies which they consider necessary or 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 8.6.

## 2.4 PROPOSALS

Each Proposal must contain a single Project and no more than three configurations. A configuration consists of a unique Energy Rate/Energy Bid pair, with all other specifications of the Proposal remaining the same. Configurations for the same Project will receive the same score on all Scored Criteria except for *Price* (refer to Section 6.2). To the extent a prospective Proponent wishes to submit a Proposal for a prospective Project that will overlap with the Site for another Project but intends for the Proposals be scored differently for categories other than *Price*, the prospective Proponent must submit a second Notice of Intent to Bid form, Proposal and fee. However, to the extent a Proponent submits multiple configurations for a Project in a Proposal, multiple Proposals, or if multiple Projects seek to use the same Site on Crown land, only a single configuration per Site is eligible to become the Selected Proposal.

A complete Proposal consists of the following documents:

- a. Bid Form; and
- b. Bid Spreadsheet.

## 2.5 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

### 2.5.1 MILESTONES AND TIMELINE

The following timeline sets out the schedule of milestone dates and times in this RFP process. All times provided are in Halifax time.

RFP MILESTONE	DATE
<b>Expression of Interest Deadline</b>	December 1, 2021
<b>RFP Date of Issuance</b>	[●]
<b>Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline</b>	10 Business Days after the RFP Date of Issuance
<b>Inquiries Deadline</b>	15 Business Days before the Proposal Submission Deadline
<b>Proposal Submission Deadline</b>	The later of: (a) 40 Business Days after the RFP Date of Issuance OR (b) 20 Business Days after either: (i) the last Interconnection Feasibility Study included in Expression of Interest form has been completed; or (ii) the PPA has been approved by the UARB.
<b>RBP RFP Evaluation</b>	The 30 Business Days following the Proposal Submission Deadline
<b>RBP Shortlist Portfolio Notification Date</b>	30 Business Days after the Proposal Submission Deadline
<b>Shortlist Portfolio Interview Period</b>	Within 15 Business Days after the RBP Shortlist Portfolio Notification Date
<b>RBP Portfolio Notification Date</b>	15 Business Days after the Shortlist Portfolio Interview Period
<b>Delivery of Final Report on RFP</b>	Within 60 Business Days after the RBP Notification Date
<b>Target Agreement Execution Date</b>	40 Business Days after the RBP Portfolio Notification Date

<b>Request for Debriefing Deadline</b>	7 Business Days after the later of (a) the date whereby each Selected Proponent has executed the Agreement; and (b) December 31, 2025
--	---

The PA reserves the right to amend the above timelines by Addendum, from time to time, including to accelerate or postpone any of the dates, or add, eliminate, or re-order any of the steps.

## 2.5.2 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DEADLINE

Prospective Proponents are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest form (refer to Appendix 8.3) to the PA via email ([NovaScotia@customerfirstrenewables.com](mailto:NovaScotia@customerfirstrenewables.com)) before midnight on the Expression of Interest Deadline. The Expression of Interest form is non-binding and is not a requirement to participate in the RBP RFP.

However, the Expression of Interest form is a necessary step for Proponents who wish:

1. to review the draft CIB investment terms in advance of the RFP Date of Issuance; and/or
2. 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

For avoidance of doubt, a prospective Proponent who has not submitted an Expression of Interest may still submit a Notice of Intent to Bid form. In addition, the information submitted on an Expression of Interest is explicitly subject to change prior to Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline and the submission of the Notice of Intent to Bid form.

The PA will share the contact information of prospective Proponents electing to submit an Expression of Interest with the CIB to facilitate the disclosure of the draft CIB investment terms in advance of the RFP date of issuance. The PA will not share any details from the Expression of Interest form with NSPI. The PA will use the Interconnection Request number provided by prospective Proponents in Expression of Interest forms 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 RBP website on the RFP tab. Prospective Proponents will be notified of the RFP Date of Issuance at least 5 days in advance, on the RBP 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 form(s) for each Proposal by the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline.

### 2.5.4.1 Notice of Intent to Bid Form

Prospective Proponents must submit the completed Notice of Intent to Bid form(s) (refer to Appendix 8.4) to the PA via email ([NovaScotia@customerfirstrenewables.com](mailto:NovaScotia@customerfirstrenewables.com)) before midnight on the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline, in order to become a Proponent. Proponents may change the information contained in the Notice of Intent to Bid form in their Proposal. Upon receipt of the Notice of Intent to Bid form, the PA will share a link with Proponents 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 Canadian dollars (“**CAD**”) 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 by the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline. 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 via registered mail courier to the c/o NRR, at the following address:

1690 Hollis Street PO Box 2664  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7  
Attention: Bernice Webb

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 Proponent that do not submit a Proposal or to Proponents that do not become a Selected Proponent.

## 2.5.5 INQUIRIES DEADLINE

After the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline, only Proponents will be permitted to ask questions to the PA, up until the Inquiries Deadline.

## 2.5.6 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Prospective Proponents will have the opportunity to complete and deliver their Proposal from the RFP Date of Issuance 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 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 the Proposal Score for each Proposal. The PA will use the Proposal Scores to select 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 SHORTLISTED PORTFOLIO INTERVIEW PERIOD

Proponents selected as Shortlisted Proponents will be invited to attend an interview with the PA during the Shortlist 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 a Proposal, and (2) to develop confidence in a 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 on their Proposal and development capabilities for no more than 30 minutes. The PA will then have the opportunity ask questions in respect of the Proposal(s) 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 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 assist it in conducting the evaluation.

## 2.5.9 RBP PORTFOLIO NOTIFICATION DATE

On the RBP Portfolio Notification Date, the PA will aim to notify the Selected Proponent(s), if any, that their Proposal(s) have been selected for the RBP 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 DELIVERY OF FINAL REPORT ON THE RFP

The PA is required by the 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 Regulations.

## 2.5.11 REQUEST FOR DEBRIEFING DEADLINE

Any Proponent 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 the PPA has been executed. The PA will share additional 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 Section 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, cost, 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 DATE

The Target Agreement Execution Date represents the date that the PA and NSPI aim for the Selected Proponent(s) to execute the Agreement.

## 2.6 CHANGES TO PROPOSAL

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

## 2.7 FEDERAL FUNDING

Proponents are encouraged to explore all federal funding opportunities to make their Energy Rate more competitive, which may include opportunities through Natural Resources Canada's ("NRCan") Smart Renewables Electrification Pathways Program ("SREPs") and the Canada Infrastructure Bank ("CIB"). To facilitate the goals of the RFP, Proposals in the RFP Shortlist will be summarized and shared with CIB and NRCan for their review for potential financing or funding in accordance with Section 2.7.

## 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, other advisors retained by the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia for the purpose of preparing or administering this RFP, and, if the Proponent has applied or has indicated that it will apply for federal funding or financing in connection with its Proposal, to NRCan and the CIB. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the PA may disclose:

- a. a summary of any applicable Shortlisted Proposal to the CIB and NRCan for their review for potential financing or funding;
- b. 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; and

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

For greater clarity, the Proponent irrevocably authorizes and consents to any representative of the PA releasing, disclosing, providing, delivering and otherwise making available to other representatives of the PA, any and all such information relating to connections, proposed connections, meters, meter data pertaining to a proposed or contracted facility, an LDC account (as applicable) of the Proponent or Facility as the PA or its representatives may advise is required in connection with the evaluation and administration of a Proposal.

The PA may disclose all or part of any Proposal to NSPI, if:

- a. the PA, acting reasonably, determines that such disclosure is critical for the purpose of preparing or administrating this RFP; however, the PA may not disclose a Proposal's Energy Rate to NSPI under this clause 2.8(a);
- b. required to by Laws and Regulations; or
- c. the Proposal is selected (for the purpose of executing the Agreement(s)).

## 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 propriety 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 in accordance with Section 2.2.1 at the PA's discretion. If the PA chooses, at its discretion, 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 "RFP" tab on the RBP 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 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 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 as well (two lines from Lingan to Port Hastings, and three lines from Port Hastings to Brushy Hill via Onslow). 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 0.

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. Proponents that are in the RBP portfolio and execute the Agreement, and that select NRIS for their Project (excluding Proponents that have selected the Congestion Management Alternative), will be provided compensation for curtailment in accordance with application provisions of the Agreement and the [Generator Interconnection Agreement](#) ("**GIA**").

### 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 unless it elects the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative (refer to Section 3.1.4.2.)

### 3.1.4 OPTIONS TO MITIGATE RISK OF SIGNIFICANT UPGRADE COSTS

NSPI's ratepayers will be paying for the energy delivered to NSPI under the Agreement(s) as well as Network Upgrade Costs that may be triggered by these Projects. There is a material risk that large generation development in Cape Breton and the Western Zone (the Western Zone being roughly the area between Kentville and Digby) could trigger costly Network Upgrades, the costs of would be borne by NSPI's ratepayers. These locations are captured in Zones 1 and 5, as set out in Appendix 0. Programs are available to facilitate the participation from Proponents with Projects in Zones with the greatest risks of significant Network Upgrade Costs. Proponents for Projects located in Zone 1 (Cape Breton) or Zone 5 (Western) will be required to select either the Congestion Management Alternative or the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative in their Proposals to become eligible become the Selected Proponent. Proponents that select the Congestion Management Alternative shall not select the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative, and vice versa.

#### 3.1.4.1 Congestion Management Alternative

Proponents with a Project located in Zone 1 or Zone 5 may elect the Congestion Management Alternative in their Proposals to assume congestion risks in consideration for a higher point score in the *Zone* evaluation criterion in the RFP evaluation process. Proponents that select the Congestion Management Alternative agree to be bound by applicable provisions of the Agreement, as described below.

Proponents with a Project located in Zone 1 or Zone 5 that wish to elect the Congestion Management Alternative will do so by indicating in their Proposal that they agree to pursue the Congestion Management Alternative and to comply with the applicable provisions of the Agreement, which include:

- a. proceeding with both NRIS and ERIS for the System Impact Study under the GIP;
- b. acknowledging the right of NSPI to require the Proponent to pursue ERIS should specified Project-related Network Upgrade costs exceed the relevant thresholds provided by the Agreement; and
- c. acknowledging that no compensation will be provided through the Agreement for curtailment due to congestion for Proponents that select this alternative.

#### 3.1.4.2 Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement

Proponents may elect the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative in their Proposals to assume the costs of Network Upgrades caused by their Project in consideration for additional priority points in the *Network Upgrade Cost* criterion in the RFP evaluation process. Proponents with a Project with a Point of Interconnection located in Zone 1 or Zone 5 that wish to elect the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative will do so by indicating in their Proposal that they agree to pursue the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative and to comply with the applicable provisions of the Agreement, which include:

- a. acknowledging that they will assume the costs of required Network Upgrades;

- b. acknowledging that they will be reimburse NSPI for any payments received for Network Upgrade costs under the GIA; and
- c. acknowledging that they will provide additional Performance Security of \$50,000/MW of nameplate capacity of the Facility.

### 3.1.5 ANCILLARY SERVICES – UNDERFREQUENCY EVENTS

Nova Scotia has approximately 600 MW of installed wind generation capacity and off-peak loads of less than 700 MW in summer months, presenting a challenge to integrate variable output generation in certain hours. Generation Facilities will be required to Ancillary Services under the circumstances provided by the [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 showed 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 ORGANIZATION & COMPLETENESS

The PA will review Proposals for completeness and organization prior to evaluating RFP submissions by comparing the contents of the Proposal to the organization and completeness checklist provided in Appendix 8.5. Proponents wishing to have its Proposals evaluated will be required to submit a complete and correctly organized Proposal on the Proposal Submission Deadline. However, if a Proposal is missing a necessary component, the Proponent will be notified and will have 24 hours from the time it receives such notice to produce the missing component. If a Proponent is unable to produce the missing component within 24 hours of such time, it will not be eligible to participate in the RFP.

### 4.2 WINNOWING AND AWARD PROCESS

#### 4.2.1 TARGET RBP PORTFOLIO SIZE

In order to meet the RBP's objective of procuring a minimum of 1,100 GWh of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity, the PA is aiming to procure a minimum of 1,200 GWh and a maximum of 1,500 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 RBP Portfolio ~20% larger than the minimum size of the RBP Portfolio or 1,500 GWh.

The PA is also tasked with identifying the best value Renewable Low-Impact Electricity solutions for Nova Scotians. The Scored Criteria are designed to ensure that the lowest cost Projects, assuming they meet the eligibility requirements, will become the Selected Proposals for the benefit of NSPI's ratepayers. 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 RBP portfolio, pending guidance from the NRR.

#### 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 if 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 using the Scored Criteria; if it does not, it is not eligible to be scored.

#### 4.2.2.2 Scored Criteria

Eligible Proposals will be evaluated using Scored Criteria to produce a Proposal Score for each configuration. The PA will stack the highest scoring configuration for each Proposal that meets the Minimum Criteria based on the Proposal Score. From this stack, the PA will select the highest performing Proposals to fill a Shortlist Portfolio with up to 2,250 GWh (consisting of 1.5x the upper bound of the RBP Portfolio). In situations where a Proposal contains more than one configuration or a Proponent (or more than Proponent who do not deal at Arm's Length) submits more than one Proposal for the same Site, the PA will only add the Energy Bid of the configuration with the highest Proposal Score to fill the Shortlist Portfolio, rather than the sum of the Energy Bids from all configurations. For the purposes of this Section, Sites included in a Proposal will be deemed to be the same if there is any overlap in the lands described as the Site. If there are not enough Proposals to fill a Shortlist Portfolio of 2,250 GWh, the Shortlist Portfolio will consist of all the Proposals that obtained the Minimum Criteria. Proponents will be notified of their selection as a Shortlisted Proposal by the Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date.

### 4.2.3 RBP 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 influence the Proposal Score. The process surrounding the Proponent interviews are described in Section 2.5.8.

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

To select the RBP portfolio, the PA will stack the configurations for the Shortlisted Proposals from lowest to highest Proposal Score. From this stack, it will select the highest performing Projects to fill a RBP portfolio between 1,200 – 1,500 GWh, or a reduced size in the circumstances where appropriate. From the Shortlist Portfolio, the PA will not select the configuration with the highest Proposal Score in the event that the Energy Bid for that configuration exceeds the available portion of the RBP portfolio to be procured. The PA will select no more than one scoring configuration for each Proposal or for multiple Proposals that seek to use the same Site. In the unlikely scenario that a configuration is being considered that was not the single highest configuration for the Proposal based on the available portion of the RBP portfolio, and it has a lower Proposal Score than a Proposal that was not selected for the Shortlist Portfolio, the PA may to revisit configurations of the same or similar size that have a higher Proposal Score.

### 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 Proposal Score under Section 6. (Scored Criteria), the PA will award the higher ranking to the Proposal with the higher score for *Price* (Section 6.2) to the thousandths place 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 (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;
- b. Project Team, including the Project roles of members of the Key Personnel (refer to Section 1.3.2); and
- c. 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. high level Project summary (150 words maximum);
- b. description of the Project (800 words maximum);
- c. primary energy source for the Project's Renewable Low-Impact Electricity (i.e., solar or wind);
- 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 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, incident reporting, and customer data privacy);
- b. completion of the [Canadian Cyber Security Tool](#), a virtual self-assessment (for their organization's operational resilience and cyber security posture) and inclusion of the results; and
- c. 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 as well a reference appropriate standards and tools.

### 5.5 INTERCONNECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Proponents must have completed an Interconnection Feasibility Study from the System Operator dating back no later than January 1, 2020. 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 connected to the Transmission System. For clarity, Facilities connected to the distribution network are not eligible to participate in the RFP. The Project layout includes the Facility (including all Generation Equipment), the Interconnection Facility, and access road. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. latitude and longitude of the approximate center of the Facility and the Zone the Facility is located in;
- b. map of the Site 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
- c. scaled site plan map of the Site including the Generation Facility, Interconnection Facilities to the Point of Interconnection, and access roads; and
- d. the following location maps as GIS shape files:
  - i. outline of the Project boundary and buildable area maps;
  - ii. list of on-site or relevant nearby measurement positions and reference station positions; and
  - iii. diagram of the Facility and the Interconnection Facilities to the Point of Interconnection.

## 5.7 PRICE

Proposals must include a fixed Energy Rate for the Agreement Term in \$CAD/MWh to the thousandth decimal place. The Energy Rate must be no higher than \$89/MWh. Proposals with Energy Rates that include an escalator will not be considered. Refer to Section 6.2 for more detail.

## 5.8 COMMERCIAL OPERATION DATE

Proposals must include a scheduled Commercial Operation Date (“**COD**”) for the Project that must be prior to December 31, 2025, and a defined and mature plan to meet the scheduled COD. Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- a. 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 COD
  - ii. key development milestones and dates for phases which include the Project's design, procurement (for major equipment including Generation Equipment), major regulatory approval and permit milestones (e.g., avian and bat studies, seasonal studies), construction, and commissioning; and
- b. a description of the Project's timeline risks, including the Proponent's estimated likelihood of meeting the scheduled COD, and mitigation measures

## 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:

- c. Energy Bid for each 12-month period during the Agreement Term for each configuration that reflects the total energy output at the probability of exceedance at 50% (P50);
- d. An 8760-hour production profile for a representative year that reflects the energy output at the probability of exceedance at 50% (P50)

## 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 100 MW. Solar projects must include both the direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC) capacities.

## 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).

Proponents must include a description of 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.); and
- d. technical characteristics (such as specification sheets and power curves) and technical standards.

The Generation Technology must have received type certification 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 NSPI, 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 of at least 25 years. Alternatively, Generation Technology that has not obtained the certification will satisfy this component of the evaluation if the Proponent produces a statement from the original equipment manufacturer that the proposed generation technology or a closely related model has deployed at least 1,000 MW of commercial projects that have operated for a minimum of three years. Generation Technology that has begun the certification process as of the time the RFP 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 (refer to 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 PPA negotiation process. The determination of whether to grant such approval will be subject to the discretion of the PA and NSPI, as the case may be, acting reasonably and in accordance with the requirements provided by the GIA and GIP, if applicable.

## 5.12 PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION

Proponents must demonstrate a plan to secure proven and effective contractors or service providers to deliver or manage the Project's engineering, procurement and construction needs. Service providers must demonstrate prior experience with similar projects (by reference to, among other things, type and size) involving Renewable Low-Impact Electricity. If the proposed service provider cannot demonstrate this experience, the PA will evaluate the associated risk to determine its eligibility.

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

- a. proposed service providers for procurement and construction related activities (e.g., engineering, procurement, construction), together with a summary of their relevant experience; and
- b. proposed service providers must demonstrate sufficient prior experience with Renewable Low-Impact Electricity projects of the same type as the Project.

## 5.13 O&M

Proponents must demonstrate that they have established a plan to secure proven and effective O&M services for the Project. Each proposed O&M provider, which may be the Proponent or a third-party provider, must have at least five years of experience operating generation technology similar to the Project, having a minimum nameplate capacity of 10 MW. The O&M provider must include 24/7 monitoring capabilities and must have the capabilities to allow the Proponent to meet its obligation under the Agreement. Proponents must include an O&M service plan in their Proposals, that must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. description of the competitive process proposed to be used to obtain bids and cost assumptions for O&M service; and
- b. proposed O&M service provider(s), together with a summary of their relevant experience.

## 5.14 VECS, EFFECTS MANAGEMENT, APPROVALS & PERMITS

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

- a. demonstrating 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; and
- b. demonstrating 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. For avoidance of doubt, these approvals and permits may or may not be associated with a VEC.

Proponents should note that the expected impact of the Project and the required approvals and permits are unique for each Proposal. As described in Section 2.3, Proponents are responsible for conducting their due diligence in connection to the RFP. If a Proponent identifies a risk related to the minimum criteria for *VECs, Effects Management, Approvals & Permits*, the Proponent is expected elaborate on the magnitude of the risk and include a plan to mitigate it.

To satisfy the *VECs, Effects Management, Approvals & Permits* criterion, Proponents must demonstrate that they have a viable path to obtaining the required material approvals and permits, which must be supported by the following information in their Proposals:

- a. a complete and detailed VECs & Effects Management Table (refer to Appendix 8.9) and supporting evidence;
- b. a complete and detailed Approvals & Permits Matrix (refer to Appendix 8.10), containing:
  - iii. all anticipated approvals or permits listed in the VECs & Effects Management Table; and
  - iv. any and all other necessary anticipated approvals or permits required by the Project (e.g. zoning permit, highway permits, etc.)

#### 5.14.1 VECs & EFFECTS MANAGEMENT TABLE

Proponents must include a VECs & Effects Management Table (refer to Appendix 8.9) in their Proposal. As a guide to preparing the VECs & Effects Management Table, Proponents should use the [Guide to Preparing an EA Registration Document for Wind Power Projects in Nova Scotia](#). Proponents are expected use the following procedure when preparing the Regulatory Approval Risk Survey:

- a. **Valued Environmental Components (VECs) and Effects Management Category:** Consult the Proponent's Guide to Wind Power Projects: Guide for preparing an Environmental Assessment Registration Document for guidance each VEC included in Appendix 8.9.
- b. **Summary of Potential Impacts:** Conduct due diligence to assess the Project's potential impacts on each VEC. Summarize the extent to which each VEC is expected to be impacted by the Project. The Proponent must include supporting evidence in their Proposal to justify their conclusions.
- c. **Risk Assessment & Mitigation:** Identify and describe the risks associated with the VEC, if any. If there is an associated risk, explain the probability and magnitude of said risk, and provide a mitigation plan.
- d. **Anticipated Approvals or Permits:** Write "Yes" or "No" in response to if there are any anticipated approvals or permits relevant to the VEC and Effects Management category. If "Yes," list each approval and permit.

#### 5.14.2 APPROVALS & PERMITS MATRIX

Proponents are expected use the following procedure when preparing the Regulatory Approval Risk Survey:

- a. **Anticipated Regulatory Approvals and Permits:**
  - i. include each of the anticipated approvals and permits identified in the VECs & Effects Management Table
  - 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, and 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, Medium 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 agencies and/or meaningful research on the requirements and timelines required to secure the necessary approvals and permits; or
  - iii. *High Risk* if the Proponent has not 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* includes but is not limited to,
    - o the Proponent fails to contact the applicable governments and regulatory agencies 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.

#### 5.14.2.1 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, Low-Impact Renewable Electricity 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 6.1.4.

## 5.15 PROJECT RISK AND MATURITY

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 6.1.1 (*Resource Assessment*)
- b. Section 6.1.2 (*Financing Experience & Plans*)
- c. Section 6.1.3 (*Experience*)
- d. Section 6.1.5 (*Project Site*), and
- e. Section 6.1.7 (*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 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)" (e.g., refer to section 6.1.2.3) the Proponent has the opportunity to be awarded the sum of the priority points and the additional points for that scoring category.

Scoring Category	Minimum Criteria?	Maximum Points
<b>6.1 Project Risk and Maturity</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>31</b>
6.1.1 Resource Assessment	Y	5
6.1.2 Financing Experience & Plans	Y	5
6.1.3 Experience	Y	5
6.1.4 Engagement with the General Public	N	5
6.1.5 Project Site	Y	4
6.1.6 Environmental Risk	N	4
6.1.7 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	Y	3
<b>6.2 Price</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>6.3 Social and Economic Benefits</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>21</b>
6.3.1 Ownership	N	13
6.3.2 Economic Benefits	N	4
6.3.3 Social Programs	N	3
6.3.4 Governance	N	1
<b>6.4 Zone</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>8</b>

## 6.1 PROJECT RISK

### 6.1.1 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

To succeed in the *Resource Assessment* scoring category, 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 on-site data that has been collected, the more confidence the PA and key Project stakeholders will have that the Renewable Low-Impact Energy resource assessment is accurate. All Proposals must provide a current resource assessment, as well as the professional backgrounds of the Qualified Meteorologist that has authored the resource assessment.

#### 6.1.1.1 Wind Projects

To satisfy 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
  - i. coordinates and metadata regarding configuration of project-specific and reference measurement locations and type (e.g., meteorological towers, sodar, lidar, long-term reference data such as from climatic weather stations or re-analyses such as MERRA-2 or ERA5), including tower height, sensor type, height of sensors if on a tower, length of data record, start and stop (or most recent) dates of collection, correlation between reference stations and on-site measurements, and percent data recovery;
  - ii. confirmation of the availability of raw measurement data from each measurement location and reference data (the PA may request raw data if the Proponent is shortlisted); and
  - iii. geographic coordinates and technical specification documents for wind turbines, including and turbine model (if more than one model is used in same project) and hub height, and associated meteorological tower for each turbine (if applicable);
- b. data analysis
  - i. description of long-term mean annual hub-height wind speed prediction methodology including reference station selection, long-term adjustment of on-site data, derivation, method and selection of wind shear exponent for extrapolation to hub height, 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 wind speed, gross energy production and gross capacity factor 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
    - 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 (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
    - i. itemization of individual wind speed and energy uncertainty quantities including uncertainties of measurements, reference data, vertical extrapolation, 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.

### 6.1.1.2 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. metadata
  - i. historical meteorological data sets from a reputable and commonly used source such as but not exclusive to SolarGIS, SolarAnywhere, Vaisala or the National Solar Radiation Database;
  - ii. if on-site solar data are collected, the 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 Proponent); 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;
- b. methodology
  - 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.
- c. energy analysis
- i. table of monthly and diurnal average (12x24) net energy production and net capacity factor; and
- d. uncertainty analysis
- 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.

### 6.1.1.3 Scored Criteria for Resource Assessment

To account for the nuances of the resource assessment, the PA may adjust Proposal 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. This may include but is not limited to number of on-site measurement stations, length of observations, accuracy of sensors, measurement heights (for wind projects), data recovery, and selection of long-term reference data sets.

<p><b>1 point</b></p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. includes six to 12 months of onsite meteorological data from at least one meteorology tower equal to or greater than 2/3 of the proposed hub height; and</li> <li>b. includes at least 10 years of reference data.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. does not include onsite data or onsite data that does not meet the standard above; and</li> <li>b. in the PA's discretion, is credible and sufficiently rigorous and follows widely accepted industry standards.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. includes underlying meteorological data sets from an uncommonly utilized source of hourly solar data;</li> <li>b. includes a data record of 1-10 years;</li> <li>c. has a spatial resolution greater than 11 km<sup>2</sup>; and</li> <li>d. is not validated with on-site meteorological measurements of at least one year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 points</b></p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. includes onsite meteorological data with a dataset of more than one year from at least one meteorology tower equal to or greater than 2/3 of the proposed hub height; and</li> <li>b. includes at least 10 years of reference data.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data;</li> <li>b. includes a data record of 11-15 years;</li> <li>c. has a spatial resolution greater than 11 km<sup>2</sup>; and</li> <li>d. is validated and bias-corrected with 13-15 months of on-site solar meteorological measurements.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3 points</b></p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. includes onsite meteorological data with a dataset of more than 2 years from at least one met tower equal to or greater than 2/3 of the proposed hub height; and</li> <li>b. includes at least 15 years of reference data.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data;</li> <li>b. includes a data record of 16-20 years;</li> <li>c. has a spatial resolution less than 11 km<sup>2</sup>; and</li> <li>d. that is validated and bias-corrected with 13-15 months of on-site solar meteorological measurements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 points</b></p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. includes onsite meteorological data with a dataset of more than two years from at least one meteorology tower equal to or greater than 2/3 of the proposed hub height;</li> <li>b. at least one measurement location (meteorology tower, lidar, or sodar) with at least 1 year of data per 25 MW of nameplate capacity (e.g., two meteorology measurement locations for 26-50 MW, three for 51-76 MW, etc.); and</li> <li>c. includes at least 15 years of reference data.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data;</li> <li>b. includes a data record of at least 20 years;</li> <li>c. has a spatial resolution less than 11 km<sup>2</sup>; and</li> <li>d. that is validated and bias-corrected with greater than 15 months of on-site solar meteorological measurements.</li> </ul>

<p><b>5 points</b></p>	<p>For wind Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. includes meteorological data with a dataset of more than three years from at least one meteorology tower equal to greater than 2/3 of the proposed hub height;</li> <li>b. includes more than one measurement location (meteorology tower, lidar, or sodar) with at least one year of data per 25 MW of nameplate capacity (e.g., more than two meteorology measurement locations for 26-50 MW, more than three for 51-76 MW and so forth); and</li> <li>c. includes at least 15 years of reference data.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>For solar Projects, the resource assessment is conducted by a Qualified Meteorologist and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. utilizes meteorological data sets from a commonly utilized source of hourly solar data;</li> <li>b. includes a data record of at least 20 years;</li> <li>c. has a spatial resolution less than 11 km<sup>2</sup>; and</li> <li>d. is validated and bias-corrected with at least 24 months of on-site solar meteorological measurements.</li> </ul>
------------------------	---

## 6.1.2 FINANCING EXPERIENCE AND PLANS

Proponents must demonstrate that their Project Team has previously financed at least one Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility of at least 10 MW that has been brought to commercial operation, and proponents will have the opportunity to be awarded additional points commensurate with their experience financing such projects. Proponents are expected to provide a comprehensive and achievable plan for financing the Project by demonstrating their understanding of the Total Costs, a path for how these costs will be financed, including from sources of debt and equity, and the status of discussions with lenders and investors. Proponents must clearly outline any sources of federal funding used in the Energy Rate assumptions and provide supporting documentation to that effect.

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

- a. a description one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities of at least 10 MW developed by the Proponent that achieved successful financing and commercial operation, and details in connection with such financing;
- b. breakdown of the Total Costs;
- c. details surrounding all potential sources of funding and funding requests, 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 in respect of their level of such commitment or interest;

- ii. expected material conditions precedent for financing the Project; and
- iii. details on any Soft Commitments, and evidence that the Soft Commitments fulfill the standards in Section 6.1.2.1

To receive a point for Self-Financing, Proponents must include the following information in their Proposals:

- i. a description of one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities of at least 10 MW developed by the Proponent within 48 months from the RFP Date of Issuance that were self-financed in the amount of at least 80% of the Total Costs;
- ii. a written statement confirming the intent to self-finance the Project; and
- iii. two-years of audited financial statements in conformity with GAAP (or IFRS, if the Proponent has adopted such standard), which identify total assets, total liabilities, intangible assets and Tangible Net Worth (each determined in accordance with GAAP (or IFRS, if the Proponent has adopted such standard), with the following parameters:
  - 1. for newly formed, or unincorporated organizations such as limited partnerships, Proponents must provide financial statements of parent organizations, and, in the case of a limited partnership, the general partners;
  - 2. if audited financial statements are not available, Proponents must provide reviewed financial statements together with a statutory declaration from an officer, partner, or principal stating that such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Proponent in conformity with GAAP (or IFRS, if the Proponent has adopted such standard); and
  - 3. if reviewed financial statements are not available, Proponents must provide unaudited financial statements with a statutory declaration from an officer, partner, or stating that such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Proponent in conformity with GAAP (or IFRS, if the Proponent has adopted such standard)

### 6.1.2.1 Soft Commitment

A Soft Commitment means a fully executed 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:

- a. that such equity provider, lender, or other financing provider, as applicable, has reviewed the RFP and the Agreement, and the financial model (including projected costs and revenues) of the proposed Project;
- b. that such equity provider, lender or other financing provider agrees to enter into negotiations to advance or provide the amount of equity, debt, or other financing, as applicable, for the proposed Project specified in the commitment letter by the proposed date of financial closing, which may be subject to specified objective conditions precedent; and
- c. any expected condition precedents that must be satisfied to secure the financing, provided that such conditions precedent are objective in nature. For the purpose of this RFP objective conditions precedent refer to those conditions precedent that require the satisfaction of clear, determinable, and non-discretionary milestones, or, the provision of information to the financier. Condition precedents that are subject to the broad discretion of the financier will not be considered objective.

In addition, if a Proponent intends to utilize the CIB investment product, the CIB investment will be considered a Soft Commitment.

### 6.1.2.2 Self-Financing

For the purpose of this RFP, 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. Proponents that seek additional points for self-financing their Projects must meet specific criteria. Such Proponents must provide the information described in Section 6.1.2. The Proponents must confirm that they supplied all of the required capital to develop and construct the previous projects (in accordance with Section 6.1.2) and that they did not refinance the projects until after the project's commercial operation. In addition, a Proponent that intends to self-finance the Project must demonstrate a Tangible Net Worth of \$3,000,000 per MW of the nameplate capacity by sharing financial statements as described in Section 6.1.2.

### 6.1.2.3 Scored Criteria for Financing Experience Plans

<b>1 point</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience financing one or two Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities of at least 10 MW each.
<b>2 points</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience financing between three to nine Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities of at least 10 MW each.
<b>3 points</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience financing 10 or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities of at least 10 MW each.
<b>Additional 1 point</b>	The Proponent has received Soft Commitment(s) for the Total Costs.
<b>Additional 2 points</b>	The Proponent:  (a) has received Soft Commitment(s) for the CIB investment for the Total Costs, which will finance no more than 50% of the Project; and meets the criteria for self-financing in Section 6.1.2.2, or  (b) meets the criteria for self-financing in Section 6.1.2.2

### 6.1.3 EXPERIENCE

Proponents must demonstrate that their Project Team had previously developed and managed the operations of at least one Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility with a minimum nameplate capacity of 10 MW and proponents will have the opportunity to be awarded additional points commensurate with their experience developing and operating such projects. Furthermore, additional points will be available if the prior projects were located in Nova Scotia.

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

- a. resumes 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 proposed Project).

### 6.1.3.1 Scored Criteria for Experience

<b>1 point</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Facilities of at least 10 MW each, each representing less than 80% of the Project's nameplate capacity.
<b>2 points</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating one or two Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Facilities of at least 10 MW each, each representing at least 80% of the Project nameplate capacity.
<b>3 points</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating between three to nine (inclusive) Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Facilities of at least 10 MW each, each representing at least 80% of the Project nameplate capacity.
<b>4 points</b>	The Proponent demonstrates experience planning, developing, financing, constructing, and operating at least 10 Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Facilities of at least 10 MW each, each representing at least 80% of the Project nameplate capacity.
<b>Additional 1 point</b>	The Proponent has achieved commercial operation for at least one Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Facility of 10 MW or more in Nova Scotia.

### 6.1.4 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Proponents must demonstrate that they have engaged with a diverse set of stakeholders from the general public including:

- local community representatives;
- government representatives (municipal, provincial, and federal);
- Underrepresented Groups; and
- any other stakeholders who may have an interest in the proposed Project.

Further, Proposals will be awarded additional points if they can demonstrate local support for the Project by the lack of substantial and well-organized local opposition and/or documentation identifying formal support from key stakeholders (e.g., letters of support from municipalities or local community groups).

*Note:* Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia will be evaluated under Section 6.1.7. Furthermore, the introduction of social programs or community benefits to the general public (including Underrepresented Groups), will be reflected in the evaluation under in Section 6.3.3.2.

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

- a. list of stakeholders from the general public that the Proponent has engaged with;
- b. communication log that includes,
  - 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
- c. a summary of the short-term and long-term concerns and interests of stakeholders;
  - d. Proponent's short-term and long-term strategy to address the concerns and interests raised by stakeholders; and
  - e. if applicable, documentation identifying formal support from a key stakeholder

Without limiting the generality of Section 7.3.2, the PA may, at its discretion, conduct due diligence to, among other things, verify representations made in a Proposal in respect of the Proponent's engagement activities and to ensure that there are no material omissions. The PA may reflect the findings from its due diligence when evaluating the Proposal.

#### 6.1.4.1 Scored Criteria for Engagement with the General Public

<b>0 points</b>	The Proponent has conducted no meaningful community outreach.
<b>1 point</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Proponent has conducted basic outreach through engagement activities with a diverse set of stakeholders and can outline their key concerns and interests; and</li> <li>b. the Proponent has a high level pre-COD and post-COD plan to address the concerns and further the interests raised by a diverse set of community stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>2 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the Proponent has conducted robust outreach with a diverse set of stakeholders through engagement activities and can outline their key concerns and interests; and</li> <li>b. the Proponent has a detailed short-term and long-term plan to address the concerns and further the interests raised by a diverse set of stakeholders. The Proponent can demonstrate that it has made a meaningful attempt to incorporate feedback from stakeholders into its pre-COD and post-COD plan</li> </ul>
<b>3 points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. the Proponent has conducted robust outreach with a diverse set of stakeholders through engagement activities and can outline their key concerns and interests;</li> <li>d. the Proponent has a detailed short-term and long-term plan to address the concerns and further the interests raised by a diverse set of stakeholders. The Proponent can demonstrate that it has made a meaningful attempt to incorporate feedback from stakeholders into its pre-COD and post-COD plan; and</li> <li>e. The Proponent provides documentation identifying formal support from a key stakeholder (e.g., private or public Letter of Support).</li> </ul>

<b>Additional 2 points</b>	The Project has achieved a minimum of 1 point for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> and does not have substantial, well-organized local opposition to its development.
----------------------------	--

## 6.1.5 PROJECT SITE

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

- a. map of all of the lands required for the Site, including the individual and labeled Property Identifier(s) (PID) numbers;
- b. summary of all land parcels in the Site, which, at a minimum, must include
  - i. PID numbers
  - ii. the number of hectares for each parcel,
  - iii. whether the parcel is private land or Crown land;
- c. description of the status of Site Control ( e.g., lease, option, ownership,) or status of Crown land leasing process)
- d. for Sites on private land, evidence of Site Control:
  - 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 of an easement (for Interconnection Facilities only).
- e. for Sites on Crown land:
  - i. the original of the Crown Land Desktop Scan; and
  - ii. if a parcel shown on an original Crown Land Desktop Scan is classified as “red” (refer to 6.1.5.3.1), an details in connection with the revised Site.

### 6.1.5.1 Generation Facility

Proponents must demonstrate Site Control for 85% of the Site for a Generation Facility on private land, for Sites located on Crown land, that 100% of the Site does not have any Critical Flaws (refer to Section 6.1.5.3). For Projects located both on private land and Crown land:

- the Proponent must have Site Control for 85% of the portion of the Site that is on private land; and
- the Proponent must demonstrate the absence of any Critical Flaws on the portion of the Site that is on Crown land.

Projects located on Crown land are not guaranteed to obtain a Crown lease, even without a Critical Flaw identified (refer to Section 6.1.5.3). As a result, such Projects are eligible to participate in the RFP, but the additional risk of not having Site Control is reflected in the scoring.

Proposals that demonstrate Site Control for 85% 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 Generation Facility on Private Land and with 100% Site Control are eligible for additional points.

### 6.1.5.2 Interconnection Facilities

For private lands, underlying the Site where Interconnection Facilities 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
- d. an easement; or

in order to construct and/or install the Interconnection Facilities.

For Crown lands, underlying the Site where Interconnection Facilities will be located, Proponents must comply with the requirements governing the Sites for Generation Facilities as described in Section 6.1.5.1 (i.e., the submission of Crown Land Desktop Scan) apply to the Interconnection Facilities. 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.

### 6.1.5.3 Crown Land

It is a Minimum Criterion for Projects sited on Crown land that the final Project layout does not overlap with any areas containing a Critical Flaw. As part of a preliminary review of the proposed Site, Proponents proposing to locate their Project on Crown land must submit data as part of the Notice of Intent to Bid process to the NRR through the PA to receive a Crown Land Desktop Scan. Proposals must use a Crown Land Desktop Scan to demonstrate in their Proposals that there are no Critical Flaws in the proposed Site. The intent of the Crown Land Desktop Scan is to assess the risk that a Proponent will not obtain a Crown land lease, by identifying overlaps with data layers representing Crown land values that include, biodiversity, land protection and recreational uses.

**Note that a Crown Land Desktop Scan that does not reveal any Critical Flaws does not guarantee that a Site will be awarded a Crown land lease. The Crown Land Desktop Scan does not include ground truthing or site visits to confirm that data for each site is accurate, and, as such, additional diligence is required.** Following the Crown Land Desktop Scan, new information may become available that would increase the risk of a Critical Flaw later in the process, preventing the Proponent from obtaining a Crown land lease. Alternatively, during the detailed IRM review, risk ratings may decrease upon ground truthing of digital

data layers. In addition to producing the Crown Land Desktop Scan, Proponents should conduct due diligence to select a low-risk Site, including by using the resources in Appendix 8.6.

Proponents should note that Selected Proponents will have the opportunity to begin the formal Crown land leasing process administered by the Crown land team in the NRR.

#### 6.1.5.3.1 CROWN LAND DESKTOP SCAN: PROCESS & OUTPUT

The Crown Land Desktop Scan process is summarized as follows:

- 1) **Notification:** Proponent notifies the PA and Crown land team if it plans on using Crown land on the Notice of Intent to Bid Form.
- 2) **Scan Data Collection:** Proponent shares Site data on the information sharing platform and the PA shares it with the Crown land team within five Business Days of the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline. The data shared with the PA will be in the form of shapefiles of the proposed Project layout included in the Proposal that includes:
  - a. Generation Facilities (including large scale Generation Equipment such as turbines and modules);
  - b. Interconnection Facilities (including Major Equipment such as the main transformers and substations); and
  - c. access roads.

The shapefiles must include the following associated file extensions at a minimum: *.shp*, *.shx*, *.dbf*, and *.prj*.

- 3) **Issue Crown Land Desktop Scan:** The Crown Land team will conduct a desktop scan and provide an output, which the PA will return to Proponents within 10 Business Days of the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline and five Business days after the scan data is due on the information sharing platform;
- 4) **RFP Process:** Proponents use the Crown Land Desktop Scan to revise their Proposals prior to submission. For any Projects using Crown land, the PA reviews the Site for Critical Flaws. Proposals with Sites that have a Critical Flaw are not eligible to be scored. Selected Proposals are eligible to apply for the Crown land lease application process.

The output of the Crown Land Desktop Scan is a map and a table with the following assessment of risk:

- **“green:”** the proposed Site contains no overlaps with existing data layers at time of the scan;
- **“yellow:”** the proposed Site overlaps with at least one data layer that will require confirmation and may allow for mitigation measures;
- **“orange:”** the proposed Site overlaps with at least one data layer that will require confirmation. It could be determined that the site requires difficult mitigations or may not be eligible to be developed under the Project;
- **“red:”** the proposed Site overlaps with at least one data layer that results in a Critical Flaw resulting in the Project’s disqualification from the RFP.

Refer to Appendix 8.7 for a sample Crown Land Desktop Scan map and corresponding table.

Upon receipt of the map, the Proponent will then have an opportunity to revise their project layout to avoid high risk areas that would result in a Critical Flaw, before submitting the Proposal. Proponents should note that the output will not include access roads.

**For the avoidance of doubt, except in the case that a proposed site is located in a “red” zone – resulting in its disqualification – the Crown Land Desktop Scan does not indicate whether a proposed Site will be approved for a lease on Crown land. The additional risk associated with Crown land is captured in the Scored Criteria.**

#### 6.1.5.4 Scored Criteria for Project Site

<p><b>1 point</b></p>	<p>For the portion of the Site upon which the Generation Facility is proposed to be located, the Proponent demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. for a Site (or portion of the Site) located on Private land, that it has Site Control for at least 85% of the portion of the Site; or</li> <li>b. for a Site (or portion of the Site) located on Crown land, that 100% of the Site does not contain a Critical Flaw.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>For the portion of the Site upon which the Interconnection Facility is proposed to be located, the Proponent demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. for a Site (or portion of the Site) located on private land, that it has mature plans to secure the right to construct and/or install Interconnection Facilities on 100% of the portion of the Site (in accordance with Section 6.1.5.2);</li> <li>or</li> <li>d. for a Site (or portion of the Site) located on Crown land, that 100% of the Site does not contain a Critical Flaw.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional 1 point</b></p>	<p>The Proponent demonstrates, for a Site (or portion of the Site) located on private land, that it successfully secured the right to construct and/or install Interconnection Facilities on 100% of the portion of the Site (in accordance with Section 6.1.5.2.) For the avoidance of doubt, Proponents with mature plans to secure the lands upon which the Interconnection Facilities are located will not be entitled to an additional point.</p>
<p><b>Additional 2 points</b></p>	<p>The Proponent demonstrates that it has Site Control for 100% of the portion of the Site upon which the Generation Facility is located.</p>

#### 6.1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Proponents will be evaluated on their ability to develop the Project and minimize its impacts on the local and surrounding environment. To score the Proposal, the PA will evaluate the Proponent’s responses to an Environmental Risk Questionnaire (refer to Appendix 8.8) on the basis of the following three 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; and
- 3) *fine-filter biodiversity elements*: the extent to which the Project impacts endangered rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species.

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

- a. complete Environmental Risk Questionnaire; and
- b. the following maps that include the Project layout, 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; and
  - v. Special Management Practice Zones.

Prior to preparing Proposals, proponents are encouraged to contact NRR and the Protected Areas and Ecosystems Branch of NSECC to conduct a preliminary assessment whether a proposed Site may overlap with lands under consideration for conservation or land protection.

#### 6.1.6.1 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 Site 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:* Proponent’s must have all parent layers selected for sub-layers to populate.

### 6.1.6.2 Regional Ecological Connectivity

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

### 6.1.6.3 Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements

Proponents are encouraged to avoid lands with rare or vulnerable ecosystems and species 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](#):

- identify if the Site 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";
- identify if the Site 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
- identify if the Site 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.

### 6.1.6.4 Scored Criteria for Environmental Risk

<b>0 points</b>	The Proponent receives a score of 2 or less on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire
<b>3 points</b>	The Proponent receives a score of 3 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire
<b>4 points</b>	The Proponent receives a score of 4 or 5 on the Environmental Risk Questionnaire

## 6.1.7 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, and for completing a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS). The MEKS Protocol has been prepared on behalf of the

Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs. If Proponents are to complete a MEKS, it must be done in accordance with the Protocol. This information is in the Proponents Guide.

To succeed in the *Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia* scoring category, Proponents must include the following in their Proposal:

- a. a summary of the Proponents' 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. if applicable, a complete MEKS

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

<b>1 point</b>	The Proponent demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. basic engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia communities in proximity to the Site consistent with the six-steps found on pages three to four of the Proponents Guide; and</li> <li>b. evidence of an understanding of the principles of engagement as outlined on page two of the Proponents Guide.</li> </ul>
<b>2 points</b>	The Proponent demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. robust engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia communities in proximity to the Project consistent with the six-steps found on pages three to four of the Proponents Guide; and</li> <li>b. evidence of an applied understanding of the principles of engagement as outlined on page two of the Proponents Guide</li> </ul>
<b>Additional 1 point</b>	The Proponent has completed a MEKS.

## 6.2 PRICE

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

- 1) the PA will identify the Lowest Energy Rate;
- 2) the PA will validate the Energy Rate for each configuration against the Price Threshold
- 3) if the Energy Rate is below the Price Threshold, the PA will calculate a pro-rata score for each Proposal configuration based on the Lowest Energy Rate by:
  - i. dividing the Lowest Energy Rate by the Energy Rate; and
  - ii. multiplying the quotient derived from step 2(a) by 40 points

$$\text{Pro-rata score} = \text{Lowest Energy Rate} / \text{Energy Rate} \times 40 \text{ points}$$

- 4) if the Energy Rate is above the Price Threshold, the PA will calculate a pro-rata score for each Proposal configuration based on the Lowest Energy Rate by:
  - iii. dividing the Lowest Energy Rate by the Energy Rate; and
  - iv. multiplying the quotient derived from step 2(a) by 5 points

**Pro-rata score = Lowest Energy Rate / Energy Rate x 5 points**

For example, if the Energy Rate is below the Price Threshold:

- 1) The PA will compare the Energy Rate (\$50) to the Price Threshold (\$66.34); since the Energy Rate is below the Price Threshold, the Project will be scored using the pro-rata score calculated in Step 3.
- 2) The Lowest Energy Rate is \$30 and the Energy Rate in the applicable configuration of the Proposal is \$50
- 3) The PA will divide \$30 (the Lowest Energy Rate) by the Energy Rate (\$50) and will multiply that value by 40 points
- 4)  $(\$30/\$50) * 40 \text{ points} = 24 \text{ points}$
- 5) The PA will round the output to the nearest half point.
- 6) The Proposal will receive 24 points for *Price*.

For example, if the Energy Rate is above the Price Threshold:

- 1) The PA will compare the Energy Rate (\$50) to the Price Threshold (\$66.34); since the Energy Rate is below the Price Threshold, the Project will be scored using the pro-rata score calculated in Step 4.
- 2) The Lowest Energy Rate is \$30 and the Energy Rate in the applicable configuration of the Proposal is \$80
- 3) The PA will divide \$30 (the Lowest Energy Rate) by the Energy Rate (\$80) and will multiply that value by 5
- 4)  $(\$30/\$80) * 5 \text{ points} = 2 \text{ points}$
- 5) The PA will round the output to the nearest half point.
- 6) The Proposal will receive 2 points for *Price*.

### 6.2.1 SCORED CRITERIA FOR PRICE

<b>For Energy Rates below the Price Threshold</b>	A Proposal with an Energy Rate below the Price Threshold may receive up to 40 points based on the pro-rata calculation of the Energy Rate in the Proposal in comparison to the Lowest Energy Rate, based on the methodology described in Section 6.2.
<b>For Energy Rates above the Price Threshold</b>	A Proposal with an Energy Rate above the Price Threshold may receive up to 5 points based on the pro-rata calculation of the Energy Rate in the Proposal in comparison to the Lowest Energy Rate, based on the methodology described in Section 6.2.

## 6.3 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

### 6.3.1 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 6.3.1, 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. Furthermore, Proposals for a Majority Owned Municipal Project or a Minority Owned Municipal Project are each eligible for a specified amount of *Ownership* points as well.

To succeed in the *Ownership* scoring category, Proponents must provide details of the Projects’ ownership structure and official documentation and other evidence setting out the details surrounding the Proponent’s corporate structure, notably, whether the Mi’kmaq First Nation of Nova Scotia or a Municipality possess a majority or minority ownership interest in the Project. The Project ownership structures must be mature and formalized through official documentation such as constituting corporate documents to receive points. Proponents must also include supporting information to demonstrate their interests in the Project.

### 6.3.1.1 Scored Criteria for Ownership

<b>1.5 points</b>	The Project is a Minority Owned Municipal Project
<b>3 points</b>	The Project is a Majority Owned Municipal Project
<b>3.5 points</b>	The Project is a Minority Owned Mi’kmaq Project
<b>6.5 points</b>	The Project is a Majority Owned Mi’kmaq Project
<b>Additional 0.5 points up to a maximum of 6.5 points</b>	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 a in the Project’s ownership structure, for a maximum of 6.5 additional points.
<b>Additional 0.25 points up to a maximum of 3.25 points</b>	If the Project is Minority Owned, 0.25 points will be added for each Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia First Nation that holds a in the Project ownership structure, for a maximum of 3.25 additional points

## 6.3.2 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 periodized.

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 percentage of jobs that will be granted to Nova Scotians; and
  - iv. 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.)
- d. a completed local expenditure table (refer to Section 6.3.2.1).
- i. Proponents must demonstrate their planned financial commitments using the local expenditure table in the format provided by Appendix 8.11.

### 6.3.2.1 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 in Nova Scotia (which, for greater certainty, excludes basic assembly manufacturing);
- 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 any of the above requirements will be considered non-local expenditures.

### 6.3.2.2 Scoring of the Local Expenditure Table

In the process of estimating the total construction costs and average annual generation costs for the Nova Scotia Supply Community, different classes of local expenditures will be discounted or aggregated at different rates. 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).

- 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:

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

### 6.3.2.3 Scored Criteria for Economic Benefit:

After the local benefit percentage has been estimated using the methodology described in Section 6.3.2.1, the PA will evaluate the Economic Benefit scoring category as follows:

Pro-rata score = (local benefit percentage/highest local benefit percentage) x 4 points

- 1) The PA will identify the highest submitted local benefit percentage.
- 2) The PA will divide the local benefit percentage in each Proposal by the highest local benefit percentage
- 3) The PA will multiple the quotient derived from step 2 by 4 points to produce a pro-rata score
- 4) The PA will round the pro-rata score to the nearest half point to award points for *Economic Benefit*

<b>0 – 4 points</b>	The Proposal is entitled to a maximum of 4 points equivalent to its pro-rata score of its local benefit percentage based on the methodology described in this Section 6.3.2.
<b>Deduction of 1 point</b>	There is a material risk that Project will have a material negative impact on local economic activity (including public access to natural resources, wilderness tourism, or general tourism), which may be demonstrated through public engagement or PA's due diligence.

### 6.3.3 SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Proposals will receive points based on their potential for furthering Capacity Building and for establish a framework for a clearly defined and impactful Benefits Agreement for the benefit of local communities. In

addition, Proposals that include Capacity Building Plans or Benefits Agreements that benefit the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and/or an Underrepresented Group will receive an additional point. 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.

### 6.3.3.1 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 ("**Capacity Building**"). 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;
- mentoring, apprenticeships, and targeted trainings;
- community energy planning;
- feasibility, engineering, environmental studies; and
- resource assessments.

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

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

### 6.3.3.2 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 ("**Benefits Agreement**"). To receive a point for a Benefits Agreement, the Proposal must include a copy of the Benefit Agreement (which may be heavily redacted), satisfactory proof that a Benefits Agreement exists with an identifiable counterparty, or proof of a clearly defined, mature and impactful plan for the Proponent to enter Benefits Agreement, such as a joint-letter with the impacted community.

### 6.3.3.3 Scored Criteria for Social Programs

<b>1 point</b>	The Proposal includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a Capacity Building Plan; or</li> <li>b. Proof of a Benefits Agreement or a clearly defined and impactful plan for a Benefits Agreement.</li> </ol>
<b>2 points</b>	The Proposal includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a Capacity Building Plan; and</li> <li>b. Proof of a Benefits Agreement or a clearly defined and impactful plan for a Benefits Agreement.</li> </ol>
<b>Additional 1 point</b>	Either the Capacity Building Plan or the Benefits Agreement (or the clearly defined and impactful plan for a Benefit Agreement) is for the benefit of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia or an Underrepresented Group.

## 6.3.4 GOVERNANCE

Proposals will receive points based on demonstrating 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:

- a. “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;
- b. “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
- c. “inclusion” means the extent to which diverse members of a group, society or organization feel valued and respected.

To succeed in the *Governance* scoring category, Proponents must include (a) a completed ED&I Plan, or (b) information demonstrating they have signed onto an ED&I public commitment, in their Proposals.

### 6.3.4.1 The ED&I Plan

The ED&I Plan should 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; Other 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.

### 6.3.4.2 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:

- a. reducing barriers to entry into the workforce;

- b. furthering workplace equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- c. furthering representation in the workplace and leadership, and
- d. furthering the advancement of members of Underrepresented Groups in the workplace.

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

- 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;
  - iii. metrics to be measured; and
  - iv. specifics;
- 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.

#### 6.3.4.3 Scored Criteria for Governance

<b>1 point</b>	The Proposal includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a completed ED&amp;I Plan; or</li> <li>b. evidence that the Proponent has signed onto an ED&amp;I public commitment.</li> </ul>
----------------	--

## 6.4 ZONE

Points will be awarded based on the location of the Project’s proposed Point of Interconnection. The Transmission System is divided into five Zones. Appendix 0 includes a map of the Transmission System and the general location of each Zone. A listing of all transmission circuits has been provided for greater clarity in Appendix 8.13. Because some transmission circuits cross over two Zones, the Zone assigned to a Project is determined by the Zone where the Point of Interconnection is located. The table below tabulates how points will be allocated based on the assigned Zone and the Network Upgrade Cost risk mitigation election.

<b>2 points</b>	Facilities with a Point of Interconnection in Zone 1 (Cape Breton) or Zone 5 (Western) that select the Congestion Management Alternative.
<b>4 points</b>	Facilities with a Point of Interconnection in Zone 1 (Cape Breton) or Zone 5 (Western) that select the Forgo Network Upgrade Reimbursement Alternative.
<b>6 points</b>	Facilities with a Point of Interconnection in Zone 2 (Mainland).
<b>8 points</b>	Facilities with a Point of Interconnection in Zone 3 (Metro Halifax) and Zone 4 (East Valley / South Shore).

## 7. TERMS AND 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 any 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 Proponent with a Selected Proposal, or with any third party any information set out in a Proposal in accordance with Section 7.3.2;
- 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 PPA (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 benefits 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 (as defined below) or any other Person involved in development, administration or evaluation activities in respect of the RFP 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 stakeholdering processes. Failure to comply with this provision may result in disqualification of such Proponent from the RFP process.

### 7.3.1 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 PPA 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).

Failure to comply with this Section 7.3.1 may result in disqualification of the Proponent from the RFP. The decision of the PA in any matters referred to in Section 7.3.1 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.

In the event an 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 7.3.1, 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](mailto:novascotia@customerfirstrenewables.com). The decision of the PA in any matters referred under this Section 7.3.1 is final and binding. 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.

## 7.3.2 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.

## 7.3.3 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 later of (a) the date whereby each Selected Proponent has executed the Agreement, and (b) December 31, 2025, 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 in 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.

## 7.3.4 INTERPRETATION

7.3.4.1 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.

7.3.4.2 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.

7.3.4.3 Unless otherwise specified, all references to money amounts are to Canadian dollars and cents and shall be rounded to the nearest cent.

7.3.4.4 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.

- 7.3.4.5 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.
- 7.3.4.6 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.
- 7.3.4.7 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.
- 7.3.4.8 Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa and words importing gender include all genders.
- 7.3.4.9 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.
- 7.3.4.10 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.
- 7.3.4.11 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

<b>Addenda</b>	means any attachment to the RFP that may modify and of the terms and conditions of the originally released document.
<b>Agreement</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 1.2.
<b>Agreement Term</b>	means the 25-year term of the Agreement, subject to early termination in accordance with the provisions described in the Agreement.
<b>Arm's Length</b>	has the meaning set out in the Income Tax Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. 1 (5th Supp.))
<b>Benefits Agreement</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.3.3.2.
<b>Bid Form</b>	means the component of the Proposal taking the form of the document entitled "Bid Form" published on the RFP's information sharing platform.
<b>Bid Spreadsheet</b>	means the component of the Proposal taking the form of the document entitled "Bid Spreadsheet" published on the RFP's information sharing platform.
<b>Business Day</b>	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.
<b>CAD</b>	means Canadian Dollars.
<b>Capacity Building</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.3.3.1.
<b>Capacity Building Plan</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.3.3.1.
<b>CFR</b>	means CustomerFirst Renewables LLC.
<b>CIB</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.7.
<b>Commercial Operations Date or COD</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Congestion Management Alternative</b>	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
<b>Control</b>	means, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. in relation to a Person that is a corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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</li><li>ii. securities representing greater than 50% of the economic value of the Person;</li></ul></li><li>b. in relation to a Person that is a partnership, limited partnership, trust or other similar entity, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. voting securities of such person carrying more than 50% of the voting rights attaching to all voting securities of the Person or</li></ul></li></ul>

- 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).

<b>Crown Land Desktop Scan</b>	means the output generated in respect of Crown land, as described in section 6.1.5.3.1.
<b>Critical Flaw</b>	means a component of a parcel of Crown land that precludes that land from being the subject of a Crown lease and from serving as a Site.
<b>NRR</b>	means Nova Scotia’s Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
<b>ED&amp;I</b>	has the meaning provided in Section 6.3.4.
<b>ED&amp;I Plan</b>	means a plan for advancing ED&I as described in Section 6.3.4.1.
<b>Energy Bid</b>	the annual amount of electricity expected to be generated by the Generation Facility under the Agreement.
<b>Energy Rate</b>	means the fixed Energy Rate over the Agreement Term in \$/MWh to the third decimal place.
<b>Energy Resource Interconnection Service or ERIS</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Environmental Risk Questionnaire</b>	means the environmental risk questionnaire taking the form provided by Appendix 8.8.
<b>Expansion</b>	means the addition of Generation Equipment to an Existing Generation Facility that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. has not commenced construction or installation prior to the contract date;</li> <li>b. is not intended to replace or refresh any Generation Equipment that operates at the Existing Generation Facility;</li> <li>c. generates Energy output in addition to the Energy output of other Generation Equipment that operates or operated at the existing Generation Facility;</li> <li>d. does not include any of the energy generation capacity available from the Existing Generation Facility; and</li> <li>e. has a design life equal to or greater than the Agreement Term.</li> </ul>
<b>Expression of Interest</b>	means the an expression of interest to submit a Proposal, that is based on the form provided in Appendix 8.3.
<b>Expression of Interest Deadline</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
<b>Facility</b>	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
<b>Generation Facility</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Procedures.

<b>Generation Equipment</b>	means the equipment that is required to generate electrical current, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes units, turbines or panels.
<b>Generation Technology</b>	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
<b>Generator Interconnection Agreement or GIA</b>	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
<b>Generator Interconnection Procedure or GIP</b>	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
<b>Independent Power Producer or IPP</b>	has the meaning set out in the Regulations.
<b>Inquiries Deadline</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
<b>Interconnection Customer</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Interconnection Facilities</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Interconnection Feasibility Study</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Interconnection Request</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Key Personnel</b>	means the individuals who are critical and responsible for developing, financing, owning, or operating the Project.
<b>Laws and Regulations</b>	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. applicable federal, provincial or municipal laws, orders-in-council, by-laws, codes, rules, policies, regulations and statutes;</li> <li>b. applicable orders, decisions, codes, judgments, injunctions, decrees, awards and writs of any court, tribunal, arbitrator, government agency or other Person having jurisdiction;</li> <li>c. applicable rulings and conditions or any license, permit certificate, registration, authorization, consent and approval of any Government Agency (including the Permits); and</li> <li>d. any requirements under or prescribed by applicable common law.</li> </ul>
<b>Lowest Energy Rate</b>	means the lowest Energy Rate that has been submitted across all Proposals.
<b>Major Equipment</b>	means the equipment other than Generation Equipment that is necessary to deliver the Energy output (e.g., main transformers, inverters, trackers).
<b>Majority Owned Mi'kmaq Project</b>	means a Project in which the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia possess an ownership interest that is not a Controlling Interest.
<b>Majority Owned Municipal Project</b>	means a Project in which a Municipality possesses an ownership interest that is not a Controlling interest.
<b>Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol</b>	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 <a href="#">Assembly of Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol, 2 ed, Undated.</a>

<b>Minimum Criteria</b>	means the minimum criteria which Proposals must satisfy to be scored for the Rate Base Procurement (and for the avoidance of doubt, to be eligible to become a Selected Proposal)..
<b>Minority Owned Mi'kmaq Project</b>	means a Project in which the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia possess an ownership interest that is not a Controlling Interest.
<b>Minority Owned Municipal Project</b>	means a Project in which a Municipality possesses an ownership interest that is not a Controlling Interest.
<b>Municipality</b>	means a municipality located in the Province of Nova Scotia that is duly constituted according to the laws of Nova Scotia.
<b>Network Resource Interconnection Service or NRIS</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Network Upgrade Costs</b>	means the costs required to make the Network Upgrades.
<b>Network Upgrade</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>New-Build</b>	means a Generation Facility proposed as a Project that is not an Expansion or an Existing Generation Facility, and may include the construction of a Generation Facility on the Site of a previously operating renewable or non-renewable generation facility if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. all Generation Equipment is new;</li> <li>b. all other equipment, including Major Equipment, facilities, and physical infrastructure are new or substantially new; and</li> <li>c. such Generation Facility has a design life equal to or greater than the Agreement Term.</li> </ul>
<b>Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
<b>Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia</b>	means any of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nation of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nations;</li> <li>b. a company wholly owned by one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nations, either directly, indirectly, or beneficially; or</li> <li>c. a limited partnership in which the general partner is wholly owned by one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities and in which one or more Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq community are the only equity and voting limited partner(s).</li> </ul>
<b>Nova Scotia Supply Community</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.3.2.
<b>NPCC</b>	means the Northeast Power Coordinating Council.
<b>NRCan</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.7.
<b>NSPI</b>	means Nova Scotia Power Incorporated.

<b>Other Indigenous Group</b>	means an Indigenous group or community (notably a First Nation), that is not part of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.
<b>Procurement Administrator or PA</b>	has the meaning set out in the Regulations.
<b>Person</b>	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.
<b>Point of Interconnection</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Price Threshold</b>	means the threshold of \$66.34/MWh, derived from the average incremental rate of generation established in the 2021 UARB-approved "Tariffs."
<b>Project</b>	means the Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation 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.
<b>Project Team</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 1.3.2 of the RFP.
<b>Proponent</b>	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.
<b>Proponents Guide</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.1.7.
<b>Proposal</b>	means the proposal submitted by the Seller to the Procurement Administrator in connection with the RFP, as amended from time to time.
<b>Proposal Score</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.1.
<b>Proposal Submission Deadline</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
<b>Public Company</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 7.3.3
<b>Public Utility</b>	has the meaning set out in the in the Electricity Act, S.N.S. 2004, c. 25.
<b>Qualified Meteorologist</b>	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.
<b>Rate Base Procurement or RBP</b>	means the rate base procurement of Renewable Low-Impact Electricity that administered by the Procurement Administrator for the Province of Nova Scotia.
<b>RBP Portfolio Notification Date</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
<b>Regulations</b>	means the Renewable Energy Regulation, NS Reg 155/2010 under the Electricity Act, S.N.S. 2004, c. 25.

<b>Renewable Low-Impact Electricity</b>	has the meaning set out in the Regulations.
<b>Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facility</b>	has the meaning set out in the Regulations.
<b>Request for Debriefing Deadline</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1.
<b>Request for Proposal or RFP</b>	means the request for proposals for the Rate Base Procurement.
<b>Restricted Party</b>	means a Person who had, or currently has, participation or involvement in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any processes in connection with the RFP on behalf of the PA or the Government of Nova Scotia; or</li> <li>b. the design, planning or implementation 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;</li> </ul> and who, as a result, and in the opinion of the PA has a (real or perceived) conflict of interest in relation to the RFP.
<b>RFP Date of Issuance</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
<b>Scored Criteria</b>	means the criteria by which Proposals are evaluated for selection in the Rate Base Procurement on the basis of a Proposal Score.
<b>Selected Proponent</b>	means the Proponent that submitted a Selected Proposal.
<b>Selected Proposal</b>	means a Proposal that is selected for the RBP Portfolio based on the RFP evaluation process.
<b>Shortlist Portfolio</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.1 of the RFP.
<b>Shortlisted Proponent</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.1 of the RFP.
<b>Shortlisted Portfolio Interview Period</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
<b>Shortlisted Proposals</b>	means a Proposal that has been selected for the Shortlist Portfolio.
<b>Shortlisted Proposal Notification Date</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
<b>System Impact Study</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>System Operator</b>	has the meaning set out in the Agreement.
<b>Site</b>	means the lands upon which the Project will be located.
<b>Site Control</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Soft Commitment</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.1.2.1 of the RFP

<b>Tangible Net Worth</b>	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.
<b>Target PPA Execution Date</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 2.5.1 of the RFP.
<b>Total Costs</b>	means a Proponent's estimated costs of developing and constructing the Project to be raised by a combination of debt and equity.
<b>Transmission Owner</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Transmission Provider</b>	has the meaning set out in the Generator Interconnection Agreement.
<b>Transmission System</b>	means the Nova Scotia energy transmission system operated by the System Operator.
<b>TSIR</b>	means the Transmission Service Interconnection Requirements.
<b>UARB</b>	means the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.
<b>Underrepresented Group</b>	has the meaning set out in Section 6.3.4.1.
<b>VEC</b>	means a valued environmental component within the meaning of Appendix 8.9
<b>VECs, Effects Management &amp; Approvals Risk Survey</b>	means the risk survey that is based on the form provided in Appendix 8.9.
<b>WSFD</b>	means wind speed frequency distribution.
<b>Zone</b>	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 0 and Appendix 8.12.

## 8.3 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Expression of Interest form is available on the [RFP tab](#) of the website.

Updated November 22, 2021

# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

*RFP for Nova Scotia's Rate Base Procurement*

### Prospective Proponent Information:

Name of Prospective Proponent

NOTE: Proponents should submit an Expression of Interest form for each Project/Proposal with a unique Interconnection Request Number.

Does the Proponent intend on submitting multiple Proposals for the same Site and with the same Interconnection Request? If yes, prospective Proponents should only submit one Expression of Interest form.

Yes

No

### Expected Proposal Configurations:

Does the prospective Proponent plan on submitting multiple configurations within their Proposal?

Yes

No

If yes, fill in the Expected Nameplate Capacity for each configuration below. If no, fill in the Nameplate Capacity in "Configuration 1 Nameplate Capacity" only.

Expected Configuration 1 Nameplate Capacity

Expected Configuration 2 Nameplate Capacity

Expected Configuration 3 Nameplate Capacity

### Contact Information:

Contact Name:

Contact Email Address:

Contact Phone Number:

## Project Information

Type of Low-Impact Renewable Energy:

Select:

New-Build or Expansion:

Select:

Does the prospective Proponent already have a completed Feasibility Study?

Yes  No

Does the prospective Proponent seek to have a minimum of 20 days between the receipt of a Feasibility Study (from an Interconnection Request that has been deemed valid by NSPSO on or before 10/15/21), and the Proposal Submission Deadline?

Yes  No

If a Proponent seeks to have a minimum of 20 days between the receipt of the Feasibility Study and the Proposal Submission Deadline, include the Interconnection Request # and the Point of Interconnection:

Interconnection Request Number:

Point of Interconnection:

Does the prospective Proponent seek to have the contact information on this form shared with the CIB to have the opportunity to review the CIB investment terms in advance of the RFP Date of Issuance?

Yes  No

Expected COD:

The latitude/longitude of the approximate center of the Project:

The Zone that the Project is located in:

Select:

Does the prospective Proponent seek to submit a Proposal sited on Crown land?

Yes  No

Does the prospective Proponent seek to utilize SREPs funding?

Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8.4 NOTICE OF INTENT TO BID

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO BID FORM

*RFP for Nova Scotia's Rate Base Procurement*

### Proponent Information:

Name of Proponent:

Proponent Address:

### Primary Contact Information:

Name of Primary Contact:

Primary Contact Email Address:

Primary Contact Phone Number:

## Project Information

Project Name:

Type of Low-Impact Renewable Energy:

Select:

New-Build or Expansion:

Select:

### Interconnection Feasibility Study

Interconnection Request Number:

ERIS, NRIS, or both:

Select:

Point of Interconnection:

Interconnection Voltage

Expected COD:

The latitude/longitude of the approximate center of the Project:

The Zone that the Project is located in:

Select:

Is the project sited on Crown lands?

*\*If yes, Proponents must upload a shape file to the folder named "Crown land shape file" in the Notice of Intent to Bid Folder by MM/DD/YY.*

Yes

No

**Proposal Configurations:**

Does the Proponent plan on submitting multiple configurations within their Proposal?

Yes

No

If yes, fill in the Nameplate Capacity for each configuration below. If no, fill in the Nameplate Capacity in "Configuration 1 Nameplate Capacity" only.

Configuration 1 Nameplate Capacity

Configuration 2 Nameplate Capacity

Configuration 3 Nameplate Capacity

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 8.5 ORGANIZATION AND COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST

This checklist will serve as a reference for Proponents to organize the Proposal and to ensure completion of the Bid Form and the Bid Spreadsheet. Proponents should include the input in the location described below. If the input location is described as information sharing platform folder, this shall refer to the folder hosted on the information sharing platform.

### **Minimum Criteria:**

RFP Section	Required Input	Input Location	Included?
5.1 Proponent Requirements	Legal name of Proponent	Bid Form	
	Project Team, including the Project roles of members of the Key Personnel	Information sharing platform folder	
	Description of corporate structure and ownership breakdown	Bid Form	
5.2 Renewable Low-Impact Electricity	Project Summary	Bid Form	
	Description of the Project	Bid Form	
	Primary energy source (Wind or Solar)	Bid Form	
	Description of the Project's technical risks	Bid Form	
	Project Timeline	Bid Form	
5.3 New Build or Expansion	Identification of the Project as a New-build Project or Expansion Project	Bid Form	
5.4 Cyber Security	Description of how the Proponent will use cyber-security tools and adhere to standards on security	Bid Form	
	Report results from the Canadian Cyber Security Tool (CCST)	Bid Form	
	Description of cyber security measures and controls that will be used to mitigate cyber risks	Bid Form	
5.5 Interconnection Feasibility Study	Interconnection details	Bid Form	
	Completed Interconnection Feasibility Study	Bid Form	
	Single-line diagram	Bid Form	
5.6 Location	Latitude/longitude; and Zone	Bid Form	
	Map of the Project Site (relationships)	Bid Form	
	Map of the scaled site plan, including Generation Facility, Interconnection Facility to the point of interconnection and access roads	Bid Form	
	GIS shape files	Information sharing platform folder	
5.7 Price	Energy rate	Bid Form	
5.8 Commercial Operation Date	Scheduled commercial operation date	Bid Form	
5.9 Energy Bid	Energy Bid for each 12-month period during the Agreement Term for each configuration that reflects the total energy output at the probability of exceedance at 50% (P50);	Bid Spreadsheet	
	An 8760-hour production profile for a representative year that reflects the energy	Bid Spreadsheet	

	output at the probability of exceedance at 50% (P50)		
5.10 Nameplate Capacity	Project nameplate capacity for each configuration	Bid Form	
	Project net capacity factor for each configuration	Bid Form	
5.11 Generation Equipment	Description of generation equipment	Bid Form	
	Description of major equipment	Bid Form	
5.12 Procurement & Construction	Procurement and construction plan	Bid Form	
5.13 O&M	O&M service plan	Bid Form	
5.14 VECs, Effects Management, Approvals & Permits	Complete and detailed VECs & Effects Management Table	Bid Form	
	Complete and detailed Approvals & Permits Matrix	Bid Form	
	Any and all supporting evidence	Bid Form	
5.15 Project Risk & Maturity	Must meet the 1 point requirement in the respective Scored Criteria section	N/A	

## Scored Criteria

### Project Risk:

RFP Section	Required Input	Input Location	Included?
6.1.1 Resource Assessment	Completed resource assessment for the appropriate Renewable Low-Impact Energy type	Bid Form	
6.1.2 Financing Plans	Example(s) of prior project(s) by the Proponent that achieved successful financing	Bid Form	
	Breakdown of Total Cost	Bid Form	
	Details surrounding all potential sources of funding and funding requests		
	<i>(Applicable to self-financed Projects):</i> Example(s) of prior project(s) within 48 months from the RFP Date of Issuance developed by the Proponent that were self-financed in the amount of at least 80% of the Total Cost	Bid Form	
	<i>(Applicable to self-financed Projects):</i> 2-years of audited financial statements, in conformity with GAAP	Information sharing platform folder	
6.1.3 Experience	Resumes for Key Personnel	Information sharing platform folder	
	Description of relevant experience from the Project Team	Bid Form	
6.1.4 Engagement with the General Public	Summary of stakeholders from the general public that the Proponent has engaged with	Bid Form	
	Communication log	Bid Form	
	Outline of short-term and long-term concerns and interests	Bid Form	
	Proponent's strategy to address concerns and interests of stakeholders in the short-term and long-term	Bid Form	

	(If applicable) Documentation identifying formal support from a key stakeholder	Bid Form	
6.1.5 Project Site	Map of all the land required for the Site shoring individual and labeled Property Identifier(s) (PID) numbers	Bid Form	
	Summary of all land parcels in the Site, including PID numbers, the number of hectares for each parcel and if the parcel is private land or Crown land	Bid Form	
	Summary of the status of the parcel	Bid Form	
	<i>Applicable to Private Land:</i> A Notice of Option (if applicable), Notice of Lease (if applicable), evidence of a Title Deed, and evidence of an easement	Bid Form	
	<i>Applicable to Crown Land:</i> Original Crown Land Desktop Scan, and (if applicable) an explanation of risk	Bid Form	
6.1.6 Environmental Risk	Completed Environmental Risk Questionnaire	Bid Form	
	The following maps that include the Project layout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Mature Forests or Multi-Aged/Old Forest</li> <li>ii. Roads</li> <li>iii. Pending parks and/or Protected Areas</li> <li>iv. Significant Habitat and Old Forest Policy lands</li> <li>v. Special Management Practice Zones</li> </ul>	Bid Form	
6.1.7 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	Summary of the Proponents historic and planned activities with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	Bid Form	
	(If applicable) Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol	Bid Form	

## Price

Proponents will include all details on the Price Section of the Scored Criteria, specifically the Energy Rate and any configurations, using the Bid Spreadsheet

## Social & Economic Benefits

RFP Section	Required Input	Input Location	Included?
6.3.1 Ownership	Details on Project ownership structure	Bid Form	
	(If applicable) Supporting evidence of ownership structure	Bid Form	
6.3.2 Economic Benefit	Local economic development strategy overview	Bid Form	
	Local employment strategy overview	Bid Form	
	Local supply community strategy overview	Bid Form	
	Completed local expenditure table	Bid Spreadsheet	
6.3.3. Social Programs	Capacity Building Plan	Bid Form	
	Proof of a plan for a Benefits Agreement	Bid Form	

6.3.4 Governance	Completed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion plan OR demonstration of signature onto an ED&I public commitment	Bid Form	
------------------	--	----------	--

**Grid Benefit**

The Zone provided in 5.4 Interconnection Feasibility Study will be used to score this Section. No additional inputs are required.

## 8.6 PROPONENT RESOURCES

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

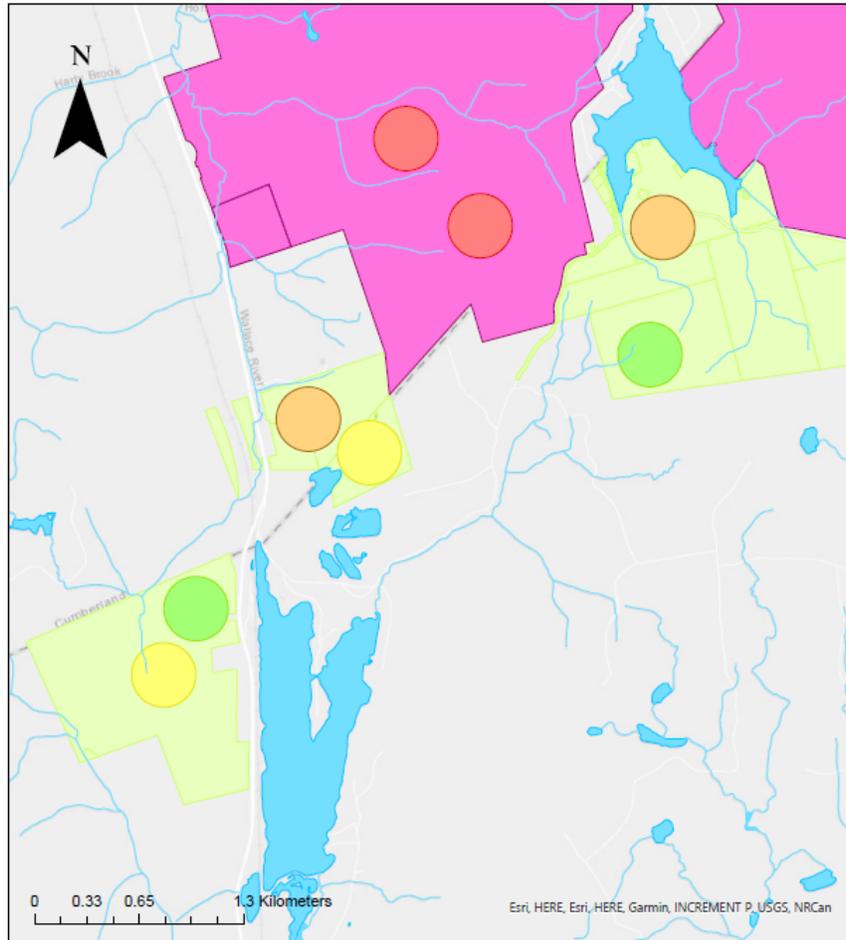
RFP Section	Resource
<b>1 Introduction</b>	
<b>1.2 The Procurement Administrator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rate Base Procurement <a href="#">Public Webinars</a></li> </ul>
<b>2 RFP Process</b>	
<b>2.2.1 Information Sharing by PA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rate Base Procurement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

6 Scored Criteria	
6.1.5 Environmental Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Provincial Landscape Viewer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Protected Areas Interactive Map</a></li> </ul>
6.1.8 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Proponents Guide: The Role of Proponents in Crown Consultation With The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study Protocol</a></li> </ul>
RFP Section	Resource
1 Introduction	
1.2 The Procurement Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rate Base Procurement Public Webinars</b></li> </ul>
2 RFP Process	
2.2.1 Information Sharing by PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rate Base Procurement <a href="#">Website</a></li> <li>• Rate Base Procurement <a href="#">Updates</a></li> <li>• Rate Base Procurement <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions</a></li> <li>• Rate Base Procurement <a href="#">RFP and Additional Documents</a></li> </ul>
2.9 Confidentiality and Privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act</a></li> </ul>
3 Interconnection & Ancillary Services	
3 Interconnection & Ancillary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">NSPI Generation Interconnection Procedures</a> (GIP)</li> </ul>
3.1.2 Compensation Framework for Curtailment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Generator Interconnection Agreement</a> (GIA)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Transmission Service Interconnection Requirements</a> (TSIR)</li> </ul>
5 Minimum Criteria	
5.4 Cyber Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Canadian Cyber Security Tool</a></li> </ul>
5.14.1 VECs & Effects Management Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Guide to Addressing Wildlife Species and Habitat in an EA Registration Document</a></li> <li>• The Wildlife Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables <a href="#">online database</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Endangered Species Act of Nova Scotia</a> — and <a href="#">regulations</a> — to identify species at risk:</li> <li>• Species at Risk <a href="#">Public Registry</a> for Species at Risk Act</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History</a> and the <a href="#">Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage</a> for information on significant habitat and species at risk</li> <li>• Significant <a href="#">habitat data</a> relative to endangered species from the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Ecological Land Classification Guide</a> for Nova Scotia</li> <li>• Information from the Canadian Wildlife Service on <a href="#">Wind Turbines and Birds: A Guidance Document for Environmental Assessment</a> as well as <a href="#">Recommended Protocols for Monitoring Impact of Wind Turbines on Birds</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A map of Important Bird Areas for Maritimes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Federal Critical Habitat Dataset</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Federal Recovery Strategies</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Provincial Recovery Plans</a></li> </ul>

6 Scored Criteria	
6.1.5 Environmental Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Provincial Landscape Viewer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Protected Areas Interactive Map</a></li> </ul>
6.1.8 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Proponents Guide: The Role of Proponents in Crown Consultation With The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia</a></li> </ul>

## 8.7 EXAMPLE: CROWN LAND DESKTOP SCAN

Example Map:



Example Table:

I_DNRID	Restriction	Rating
2	Parks and Protected Area: Wentworth Wilderness Area	4 - Restricted
3		3 - High
4		3 - High
5	Parks and Protected Area: Wentworth Wilderness Area	4 - Restricted
6		1 - Low
7		2 - Medium
8		1 - Low
9		2 - Medium

## 8.8 TEMPLATE: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK QUESTIONNAIRE

Category	Questions	Yes (0 pt)	No (1 pts)
Landscape Fragmentation	1. Does more than 30% or 200 ha of the Site overlap with Mature Forest or Multi-Aged/Old Forest on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Landscape Fragmentation	2. Does the Site have a lower density of roads than 0.6 km/km <sup>2</sup> on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Regional Ecological Connectivity	3. Is the Site located 500m from an existing or pending park or Protected Area > 500 ha on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	4. Does the Site overlap with Significant Habitat, or Old Forest Policy lands on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		
Fine-Filter Biodiversity Elements	5. Does the Site overlap with special management practice zones on the Provincial Landscape Viewer?		

## 8.9 TEMPLATE: VECS & EFFECTS MANAGEMENT TABLE

For more detailed instructions, see Section 5.14.1.

<b>Valued Environmental Components (VECs) and Effects Management Category</b>	<b>Summary of Potential Impacts</b>	<b>Risk Assessment &amp; Mitigation</b>	<b>Anticipated Approvals or Permits</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>			
<b>Geology</b>			
<b>Surface Water</b>			
<b>Ground Water</b>			
<b>Wetlands</b>			
<b>Flora and Fauna Species and Habitat</b>			
<b>Species of Conservation Interest</b> <i>(including current and pending Species at Risk, proposed and designated critical federal habitat, and Provincial designation of core habitat)</i>			
<b>Native Vegetation/ Biodiversity</b>			
<b>Bird Migration</b>			
<b>Bats</b>			
<b>Fish and Fish Habitat</b>			
<b>Visual Impact Assessment</b> <i>(including setbacks and separation distances)</i>			
<b>Noise Levels</b>			
<b>Shadow Flicker</b>			
<b>The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia</b>			
<b>Land Use and Value</b>			
<b>Recreation and Tourism</b>			
<b>Transportation</b>			
<b>Human Health</b>			
<b>Cultural and Heritage Resources</b>			
<b>Other</b>			



## 8.11 TEMPLATE: LOCAL EXPENDITURE TABLE(S)

### Directions:

Total construction costs should include all costs to complete the Project that would allow regular operations to commence. Replacement and maintenance costs should be included under annual 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
<b>Direct wages &amp; salaries (own company)</b> <i>(Weight: 100%)</i>		
Management		
Assembly		
Installation		
FTE		
Management		
Assembly		
Installation		
<b>Debt servicing costs (Weight: 0%)</b>		
<b>Land costs (Weight: 5%)</b>		
<b>Project costs (excluding wages &amp; salaries)</b>		
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: _____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Direct purchases from manufacturers</b>		
<i>Building materials</i>		
<i>Steel/rebar</i>		

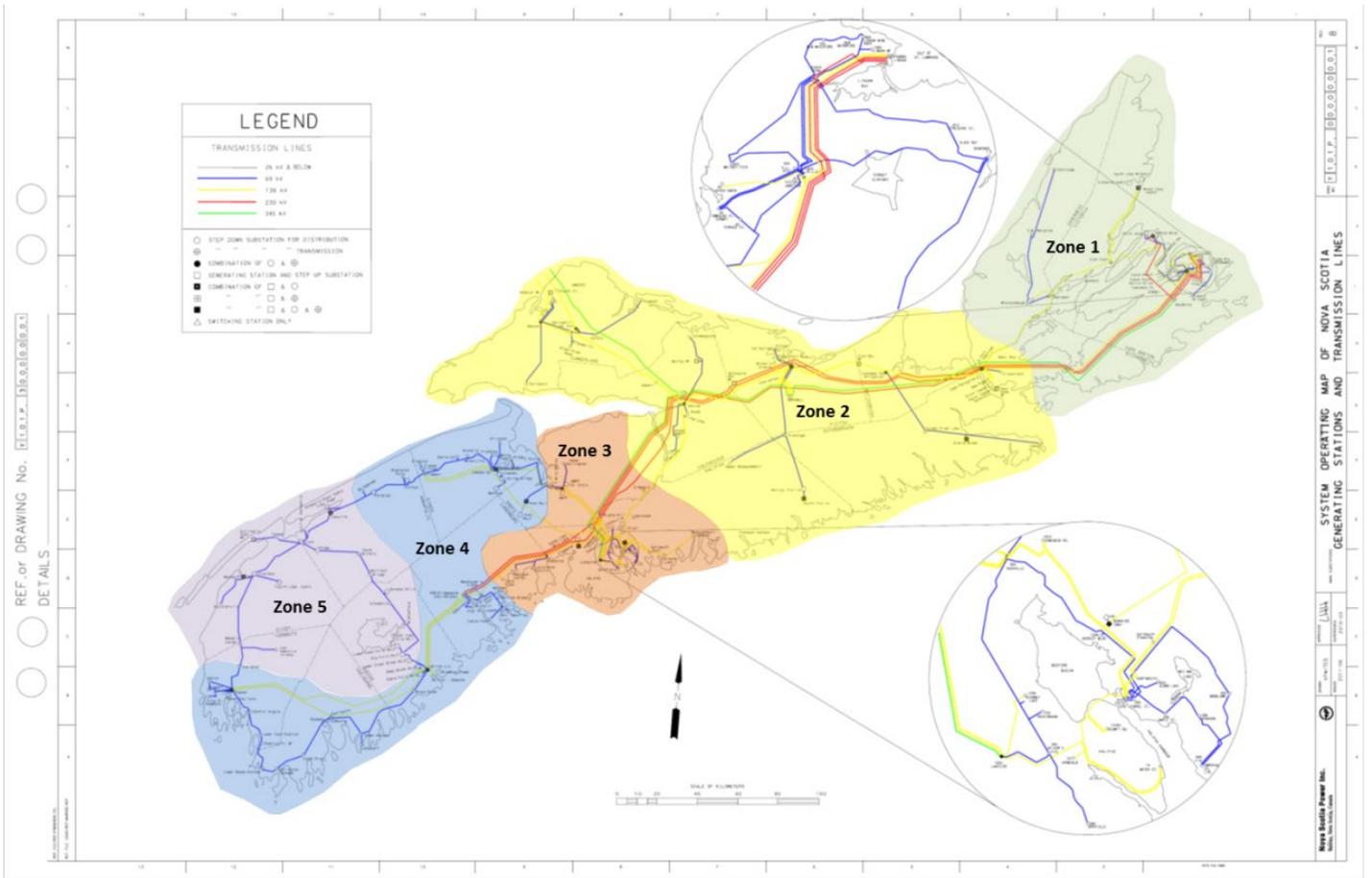
	<b>Expenditure on local goods and services</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>
<i>Wood products</i>		
<i>Concrete</i>		
<i>Building systems</i>		
<i>Other:</i>		
<i>Turbines</i>		
<i>Electronic components (including photovoltaic cells)</i>		
<i>Furnaces</i>		
<i>Chemicals</i>		
<i>Fabricated metal products (includes structural metal, boilers, and hardware)</i>		
Other manufactured goods:		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Direct purchases from wholesale and retail (Weight: 30%)</b>		
<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		
<b>Total Construction Costs</b>		

Table 2: Generation Operations

	Expenditure on local goods and services	Total expenditure
<b>Direct wages &amp; salaries (own company)</b> <i>(Weight: 100%)</i>		
Management		
Equipment operators		
Repair and maintenance		
FTE		
Management		
Equipment operators		
Repair and maintenance		
<b>Debt servicing costs (Weight: 0%)</b>		
<b>Project costs (excluding wages &amp; salaries)</b>		
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: _____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Direct purchases from manufacturers</b>		
<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:		
_____		
_____		

	<b>Expenditure on local goods and services</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Direct purchases from wholesale and retail (Weight: 30%)</b>		
<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: _____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Average Annual Generation Costs (five-year average)</b>		

# 8.12 ZONE MAP



## 8.13 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 zone will be determined by choosing the closest substation bus to the point of interconnection.
- NSPSO will provide clarification as to which Zone is applicable upon request.