

Rate Bate Procurement (RBP)

Overview of Major Changes to Final RFP

Released February 11, 2022

The PA has provided an overview highlighting material changes that have been made in the final RFP since Draft #2 was released. Kindly note that the 'RFP Section' column reflects the section headers in the final RFP. Unless the context otherwise requires, all capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the RFP.

RFP Section	Summary of Changes	Notes from the PA
2.4 Proposals	<p>Proponents are limited to three configurations that share all or part of a Site. A complete Proposal consists of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Proposal Completion Checklist; and • for each configuration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Configuration Form (including any appendices and supplementary files); and ○ A Configuration Spreadsheet. 	
2.5.1 Milestones & Timeline	<p>The PA made the following adjustments to the timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline is now 20 Business Days after the RFP Date of Issuance (originally 10 Business Days); • the Proposal Submission Deadline is now the later of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 60 Business Days after the RFP Date of Issuance (originally 45 Business Days); ○ 20 Business Days after the last Interconnection Feasibility Study included in Expression of Interest form has been completed; or ○ 20 Business Days after the Agreement has been approved by the UARB; and • the Shortlist Portfolio Notification Date is now 40 Business Days after the RFP Date of Issuance (originally 30 Business Days) 	
2.7.1 SREPs Funding	<p>Only proposed Projects that have secured a Conditional Approval from NRCAN for the SREPs prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline are eligible to include SREPs as part of the funding stack in Proponents RFP Proposal.</p>	<p>The PA released an FAQ on February 2, 2022, notifying Proponents of updates to the SREPs program and to submit an application to NRCAN by February 28, 2022 to be eligible for Conditional Approval.</p> <p>Proponents should communicate directly with NRCAN regarding the process to receive Conditional Approval prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline.</p>

2.7.2 The CIB Royalty & Contribution Agreement	The CIB Royalty and Contribution Agreement may be utilized by the Proponent and will be released as an Addendum to the RFP.	
2.8 Proposal Disclosure	The PA finalized language on disclosures including in a public release and to NSPI.	
4.2.2.2 Scored Criteria	Each configuration in a Proposal will be scored independently. Only the single highest scoring configuration is eligible to be selected for the Shortlist Portfolio.	
5.4 Cyber Security	<p>The requirements for results from the Canadian Cyber Security Tool have been adjusted, and now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • results must be from no earlier than January 1, 2020; and • if the same Proponent is submitting multiple Proposals, they may include the same results for each of its Proposals. 	
5.6 Location	<p>The requirements for Location have been adjusted, and now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a scaled Site plan map including individual and labeled Property Identifier(s) (PID) numbers, the Generation Facility, Interconnection Facilities to the Point of Interconnection, and access roads; and • An outline and buildable area maps of the Project Boundary 	
5.7 Price	The PA changed the Minimum Criteria for Energy Rate from a maximum Energy Rate of \$89/MWh to \$58/MWh.	<p>This change reflects direction from the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables to the Procurement Administrator to include a maximum Energy Rate of \$56/MWh, the 2021 Levelized Cost of Energy for wind in the 2020 Integrated Resource Plan. For more details, see the Final Instructions for the Procurement, also included with the RFP release.</p> <p>The PA applied an inflation factor to this figure to set a maximum Energy Rate of \$58/MWh as a minimum criteria in the RFP.</p> <p>On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, the PA recognizes that this change may impact the ability of solar and wind projects to compete in the RFP. To learn about future opportunities for low-impact renewable electricity development in Nova Scotia, the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables encourages Proponents to reach out to David</p>

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5.9 Energy Bid	<p>The PA specified inputs for the 8760-hour production profile: it must be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the most representative year within the last 10 years (2012-2021); or ii. a five-year average of estimated production between 2017 – 2021. <p>Proponents must also include a brief description of how the 9760-hour production profile was created, including the year(s) used.</p>	
5.14.1 VECs, Effects Management, Approvals & Permits	<p>The requirements for Section 5.14 now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sound contour map; and • if applicable, field investigations or field surveys. 	
5.15 Scored Criteria	<p>Proponents will now have to score a minimum of 1 point for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> scoring category.</p>	
6 Scored Criteria	<p>See the RFP for the full revisions to the Scored Criteria. Material changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the maximum score for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> is now 10 points (previously 5 points); • the maximum score for <i>Price</i> is now 35 points (previously 40 points); • the maximum score for <i>Zone</i> is now 4 points (previously 8 points);and • the maximum scores for the following Scored Criteria have been increased by 1 point each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Resource Assessment</i>; ○ <i>Financing Experience & Plans</i>; ○ <i>Experience</i>; and ○ <i>Environmental Risk</i>. 	<p>Changes to Engagement with the General Public reflect guidance from the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables to the Procurement Administrator. For more details, see the Final Instructions for the Procurement, also included with the RFP release.</p>
6.1 Price	<p>The requirements for <i>Price</i> have been adjusted, and now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updating the Minimum Criteria for the Energy Rate (equal to or less than \$58.00/MWh); • awarding Energy Rates that meets the Minimum Criteria in Section 5.7 with 15 points; and • awarding up to 20 additional points based on the Energy Rate relative to the Energy Rates received by the PA which meet the Minimum Criteria. 	

<p>6.2.1 Resource Assessment</p>	<p>The requirements for <i>Resource Assessment</i> have been adjusted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For wind resource assessments, changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ allowing for the use of LIDAR and SODAR, conditional to additional requirements as specified in the RFP; ○ removing the requirement for Meteorological Towers to be equal to or greater than 2/3 of the proposed hub height; ○ adding definitions for Meteorological Towers and Onsite Wind Data; and ○ clarifying how reduced quality in data can result in reduced points. • For Solar Resource Assessments, changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ removing the Onsite Solar Data requirements for the 1-3 point categories. ○ reducing the length of data record requirements; ○ clarifying how reduced quality in data can result in reduced points; and ○ Adding a definition for Onsite Solar Data 	
<p>6.2.2 Financing Experience & Plans</p>	<p>The requirements for <i>Financing Experience & Plans</i> have been adjusted, and now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents are expected to demonstrate they possess the financial capacity or support to construct and operate the Project; • Proponents must have experience financing one or more Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate capacity of at least 10 MW; • if a financing plan is assuming SREPs funding, Proponent must include documentation of Conditional Approval from NRCan; and • Expanded requirements to score additional points. 	
<p>6.2.3 Experience</p>	<p>The requirements for <i>Experience</i> have been adjusted, and now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents must have experience planning, developing, financing, constructing and operating a Renewable Low-Impact Electricity Generation Facilities with an aggregate nameplate capacity of 10MW. For construction and operations, Proponents may have indirect experience hiring and overseeing third-party providers of these functions; and • Proposals may receive up to 2 additional points for experience with Projects of a similar size and interconnecting above 69 kV. 	
<p>6.2.4 Environmental Risk</p>	<p>Proposals can score additional points for Projects that have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completed field investigations or field surveys; or • do not require to undergo an Environmental Assessment. 	

<p>6.2.5 Project Site</p>	<p>The requirements for <i>Site</i> have been adjusted, and now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adjusted definitions governing the Project siting process; and • Revised requirements for Projects sited on Crown lands. 	<p>The PA announced the process for obtaining a Preliminary Crown Land Desktop Scan on January 28, 2022. Proponents who submitted a Preliminary Crown Land Desktop Scan will receive an output from the PA in advance of the Notice of Intent to Bid Deadline.</p>
<p>6.3.1 Engagement with the General Public</p>	<p>The PA increased the maximum score for <i>Engagement with the General Public</i> to 10 points, for which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals may score up to 3 points for quality of engagement; • Proposals may score up to 3 additional points for the absence of substantial local opposition; • Proposals may score up to 2 additional points for the demonstration of examples of how the Proposal has evolved to address feedback received from the general public; and • Proposals may score up to 2 additional points for demonstrating evidence of letters of support from local governments and/or local groups (such as a community liaison committee). 	<p>These changes incorporate guidance from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, feedback from the general public and from Proponents. For more detail on guidance from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, see the Final Instructions for the Procurement, also included with the RFP release.</p>
<p>6.3.2 Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia</p>	<p>The requirements for Engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have been adjusted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of the opportunity to score an additional point for the completion of a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS); and • The addition of the opportunity to score an additional point if Proponents can demonstrate that they have implemented material feedback from the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in the Proposal. 	
<p>6.4.1 Ownership</p>	<p>Projects will no longer be eligible for points for being owned by Nova Scotia municipalities.</p>	
<p>6.5 Zone</p>	<p>The PA reduced the maximum score for Zone by 50%.</p>	
<p>8.2 Definitions</p>	<p>The PA added the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict of Interest • Onsite Solar Data • Onsite Wind Data • Preliminary Crown Land Desktop Scan • Project Boundary • Proposal Completion Checklist • Solar Meteorological Tower • Wind Meteorological Tower 	
	<p>The PA made substantive changes the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Configuration Form (originally Bid Form) • Configuration Spreadsheet (originally Bid Spreadsheet) • Expansion 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generation Facility (originally Generating Facility)• Generation Equipment• Major Equipment• Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia• New-Build	
	<p>The PA removed the following definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lowest Energy Rate• Majority Owned Municipal Project• Minority Owned Municipal Project• Municipality• Price Threshold	