

**Request for Proposals to Study the Natural Gas Supply
for the Electric Sector**

Answers to Questions Regarding the Solicitation:

1. Will NESCOE consider alternate proposals to that requested by the RFP?

Yes. As noted in section 9 on page 6 of the solicitation, bidders are encouraged to identify information and/or analysis that would assist NESCOE to accomplish the Study objectives identified in section 4 on pages 2-3, *in addition to or in lieu of* the analysis set forth under Phases One, Two and Three, along with deliverables, time and cost estimates of providing the same. The pricing guidelines described in part 5 of section II on pages 10-11 also apply to any alternative proposals.

2. With regard to proposal submissions, are both the electronic and paper copies due October 15, 2012, or can the electronic copy be delivered on time, followed the next day with paper copies?

The electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted on Monday, October 15, 2012 via email to MickiBertrand@NESCOE.com.

The three (3) paper copies may be sent following submission of the electronic copy, provided the package is postmarked no later than Tuesday, October 16, 2012. Paper copies of the submissions should be addressed to NESCOE, 655 Longmeadow Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

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- 3. With regard to NESCOE's use of proposals and contractor work product, proposals often contain competitively sensitive information such as pricing and approach. Under what conditions will full proposals be publicly disclosed? May proposals remain confidential, unless disclosure is required?**

NESCOE has not previously posted or distributed consultant bid proposals. In addition to providing NESCOE with complete proposals, bidders who believe specific information within their proposals, such as professional staff's hourly billing rates, is competitively sensitive and proprietary may provide NESCOE with confidential copies of their bids with the specific data bidders assert to be confidential redacted. Bidders who believe specific pricing information such as hourly billing rates is confidential may also provide for NESCOE's consideration a Non-Disclosure Agreement in relation to such specific information. With any such Non-Disclosure Agreement, bidders must include a detailed explanation of the rationale as to why they assert such information to be competitively sensitive and proprietary. NESCOE cannot guarantee bidders that information they assert to be proprietary will be concealed under every potential circumstance, however. Bidders should craft proposals accordingly.

- 4. On page seven (7) of the solicitation regarding NESCOE's use of proposals and contractor work product, the request for proposals states that "Implementation plans, software programs, and other system applications developed or purchased by the consultant in connection with this engagement shall be available for use by NESCOE at no additional cost for an unlimited period after the completion of the engagement." How does this language apply to licensed products?**

NESCOE's use of proposals and contractor work product will honor licensing agreements entered into in connection with this engagement. The terms of any licensing agreement for implementation plans, software

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programs, and other system applications entered into for the purpose of developing a proposal or contractor work product in connection with this engagement will be considered in any eventual contract negotiations between a successful bidder and NESCOE.

- 5. Regarding page nine's (9) provision on conflicts, does NESCOE want information about projects for NEPOOL Participants and any regional system operator that relate to the overall objective of the RFP, or to any part of the scope?**

Yes. In order to thoroughly evaluate the potential for an actual or apparent conflict of interest, NESCOE seeks full disclosure on other engagements the bidding consultant has performed in the last three (3) years related to the subject matter of this RFP for any work performed for any NEPOOL Participant *and* any regional system operator. That a bidder may have performed work for any regional system operator or any NEPOOL Participant does not automatically indicate that NESCOE will determine a conflict or an appearance of conflict exists; the facts of such engagement, including scope and its timing, will be important considerations in such determination.

- 6. On page nine (9), the provision on conflicts states that, "Any consultant currently retained by any Transmission Owner in New England or by ISO-New England, Inc. to perform services directly related to those noted under Essential Functions, above, will likely be considered to present conflicts." Can you please clarify what section contains the "Essential Functions"?**

For guidance on the term "Essential Functions", please refer to the section entitled "Study Objectives." Any work performed in furtherance of the study objectives, which start on page two (2), constitute the subject matter of the solicitation. Services directly related to the study objectives performed for any Transmission Owner in New England or for ISO-New England, Inc. will likely be considered to present an actual or apparent conflict of interest.