

New England States
Committee on Electricity

Request for Information - Questions & Answers

January 26, 2011 - Potential respondents to NESCOE's Request for Information (RFI) submitted several questions to rfi@nescoe.com about the RFI. Those questions and responses are below.

In addition, based on conversation at the January 19, 2011 Information Session about confidential information, NESCOE presents two related questions and responses in order to try to satisfy concerns about information some respondents may consider proprietary while providing NESCOE with helpful information.

NESCOE appreciates respondents interest in the RFI.

Question 1:

Recognizing that information submitted to NESCOE in response to the RFI should not include any information that a respondent deems commercially sensitive or confidential, how should a respondent who believes that the specific county and state in which a renewable energy project would be located is commercially sensitive or confidential respond? (The county and state appear to be mandatory information that must be provided as part of the *Core Information Spreadsheet*.)

Answer 1:

Respondents that believe that the specific county and state in which a renewable energy project would be located is commercially sensitive or confidential information should leave those input cells in the *Core Information Spreadsheet* blank, and submit a *Supplemental Information Form* in which the respondent provides non-confidential information on the geographic location of the project. Information about project location should be set forward in a way that is comfortable for the respondent but also seeks to provide NESCOE with useful information that can inform the RFI and help meet its objectives as explained in the RFI materials. As with other information submitted to NESCOE, respondents should not include any information on the geographic location of the project that they consider commercially sensitive or confidential.

Also, respondents may provide very limited project ownership information, if detailed and/or comprehensive ownership information would be considered commercially sensitive or confidential.

Question 2:

How should a project for which any interconnection related information (e.g., queue position, potential interconnection points, etc.) is commercially sensitive or confidential respond to the RFI?

Answer 2:

As noted in the *Guidance to Respondents* memorandum, respondents are encouraged, but not required, to provide interconnection-related information that is not commercially sensitive or confidential. If, for a particular project, a respondent believes that certain interconnection-related information would be commercially sensitive or confidential, then the *Core Information Spreadsheet* (and, if applicable, the *Supplement Information Form*) submitted for that project should not include that interconnection-related information.

The *Supplemental Information Form* is a vehicle by which to submit non-confidential information that respondents believe would be helpful to NESCOE in furtherance of the RFI objectives. Respondents are encouraged to provide interconnection-related information that is not proprietary and that would assist NESCOE's evaluation in the *Supplemental Information Form*.

Question 3.

According to your document "NESCOE Request for Information – Guidance to respondents", NESCOE is soliciting information solely about new energy generation projects using biomass, landfill gas, small-scale hydro, solar and wind.

Can I therefore respectfully ask you to confirm this RFI does not cover Quebec's new large-scale hydro projects that will be coming in line by 2016?

Answer 3.

The focus of this RFI effort is on new renewable energy projects whose output would qualify as Renewable Portfolio Standard-eligible in *all* five New England states (CT, MA, ME, NH and RI) *and* for Vermont's renewable energy goals, and that could be placed into commercial operation by the end of 2016.

Question 4.

"Tidal Energy" is not listed as a "Technology Type" on the Core Information Spreadsheet. Is tidal energy considered "Small Hydro"?

Answer 4.

The focus of this RFI effort is on new renewable energy projects whose output would qualify as Renewable Portfolio Standard-eligible in *all* five New England states (CT, MA, ME, NH and RI) *and* for Vermont's renewable energy goals, and that could be placed into commercial operation by the end of 2016. NESCOE refers respondents to state statutes, regulations, regulatory orders and/or letter rulings from each of the six states to determine such eligibility under various state

laws. If any respondent believes it qualifies as Renewable Portfolio Standard-eligible in *all* New England states (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI) *and* for Vermont's renewable energy goals, but does not fit within a technology category on the Core Information Spreadsheet, technology eligibility information may be included on the *Supplemental Information Forms*.

Question 5.

Is NESCOE interested in receiving responses to the RFI from facilities that are currently operating but whose output qualifies for the Renewable Portfolio Standards? If so, what should be entered in the Core Information Spreadsheet as the "Date of initial commercial operation" (the drop down menu begins at 2011 so there is no appropriate selection for an existing facility).

Answer 5.

The focus of this RFI effort is on *new* renewable energy projects whose output would qualify as Renewable Portfolio Standard-eligible in five New England states (CT, MA, ME, NH and RI) and for Vermont's renewable energy goals, and that could be placed into commercial operation by the end of 2016. RFI Cover letter. (Emphasis added.) Therefore, the *Core Information Spreadsheet* is designed so that "[r]espondents should select, from the drop down menus, the quarter and calendar year by which the project is anticipated to achieve the nameplate capacity previously indicated." (Guidance to Respondents, page 7.)

Question 6.

Should the Core Info spreadsheet due on Feb. 4 be submitted by a transmission provider?

Answer 6.

Generally, renewable projects should provide information on the *Core Information Spreadsheet* and transmission providers should provide information pursuant to the *Supplemental Information Form*.

Transmission owners and/or developers who intend to submit *Supplemental Information Forms* describing transmission projects that would be associated with specific renewable generation projects should select Option A on the *Supplemental Information Form*, and in that form, identify the specific renewable generation projects that would be associated with the transmission project.

A transmission owner or developer submitting a *Supplemental Information Form* for a transmission project can also indicate *generic* renewable generation resources whose output would be more readily deliverable. (See, *Guidance to Respondents* at page 8: "For *Supplemental Information Forms* submitted by a transmission owner or developer regarding potential transmission projects:

- If applicable, an indication of renewable generation projects whose energy output would be more readily deliverable to New England loads;....

- Other non-confidential information that may help NESCOE evaluate the information received in the RFI.”)

For example, a transmission developer proposing a new transmission line from a region with high potential on-shore wind generation could indicate that the proposed project might “facilitate interconnection and integration of up to 300 MW of on-shore wind generation that could be developed in the following New England counties:”, with a list of counties included in the *Supplemental Information Form*.