

**Questions on PPRP RFP
May 31, 2019**

1. On p. 1, concerning minimum qualifications, bidders are required to provide a “portfolio of past work.” What is PPRP requesting? Is PPRP looking for physical copies of past work or links to a Google Drive folder (or something comparable)

RESPONSE: The portfolio may be provided electronically, via flash drive or a link to online resources.

2. Section 3.14 on p. 17 states that “additional services and resources will be provided via a Work Order process.” Who prepares the Work Order—PPRP or the contractor? If the contractor, will that be considered billable time, or will the Contractor be expected to absorb those costs?

RESPONSE: Work Orders will be prepared by PPRP. In the event that the Contractor is asked to prepare a Work Order, that time may be billed.

3. On p. 9, Section 3.5 calls for disaster recovery and data and calls for a disaster recovery site to be maintained at least 100 miles from the primary operations site. Does the use of Dropbox or Google Drive qualify?

RESPONSE: Yes

4. Section 3.5 also calls for contingency and disaster recovery plans to be tested at least twice annually. Does the use of Dropbox or Google qualify?

RESPONSE: Yes

5. Are separate proposals required for each Functional Area, or can they all be combined into one technical proposal?

RESPONSE: Separate proposals are required for each Functional Area.

6. Similarly, are separate financial proposals required for each Functional Area, or can they all be combined into one financial proposal?

RESPONSE: Separate financial proposals required for each Functional Area.

7. The Long-Term Electricity Report (LTER) was put in place via executive order by the previous governor of Maryland and is subject to cancellation at any time. Does the State definitely plan to do another LTER in 2020, or is that uncertain? What are the State’s obligation to the contractor should the LTER be cancelled?

RESPONSE: See 4.13.1: The State reserves the right to cancel this RFP, accept or reject any and all Proposals, in whole or in part, received in response to this RFP, waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities, and conduct discussions with all qualified or potentially qualified Offerors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State.

8. If we are bidding on more than one Functional Area, do we provide minimum qualifications for each Functional Area, or can we provide minimum qualifications in one section that apply to multiple Functional Areas? (See the Minimum Qualifications section p. 1 of the RFP).

RESPONSE: Minimum qualifications are required for each Functional Area.

9. HB 516 passed by this past session of the Maryland General Assembly calls for PPRP to do a study of a 100% RPS. Notwithstanding the uncertainty as to whether the Governor will sign or veto the bill, does PPRP envision doing the study under this RFP, or will it require a separate RFP? Put another way, could the 100% RPS study substitute for the LTER study if the LTER is cancelled?

RESPONSE: No. The 100% RPS study will be conducted by the FAC contractor. The LTER study will be conducted by the FAD contractor.

10. Some of our subcontractors plan to apply for MBE status in Maryland. Must their status be approved by when responses to the RFP are due on July 3rd?

RESPONSE: The vendor must be already registered and have their certification identification number prior to the proposal being submitted.

11. One of our proposed subcontractors is registered as both a MBE and a VSBE in Maryland. Can they be considered (and receive credit for) both a MBE and VSBE for the purposes of any work under this contract, or must they pick between being either a MBE or VSBE?

RESPONSE: A vendor may be considered for both MBE and VSBE certification.

12. Each of the functional areas calls for a description of staffing. Some of our staff will included in multiple functional areas. Does DNR/PPRP want us to describe the staff each time in every functional area, or can we cross-reference another section of our RFP response where staff qualifications are discussed?

RESPONSE: Separate staffing descriptions are required for each Functional Area. Staff can provide services for more than one Functional Area.

Questions on PPRP RFP RFP K00R9400197A
June 12, 2019

1. We believe we will be using a Subject Matter Expert for at least one of the functional areas. How do we account for that in the financial proposal? Do we put in a suggested hourly rate, and a suggested number of hours?

Response: Please include only the rate.

2. There's some duplication in requirements among some of the functional areas. For example, "coordinate with other PPRP contractors" and "provide economic expertise in such areas as Maryland Public Service Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Nuclear Energy Commission licensing and permitting procedures" appear in three of the functional areas. Can we address these requirements in one functional area, then cross-reference our answer in the other functional areas?

Response: No.

3. Some of proposed subcontractors qualify for MBE status, or had MBE status but it lapsed but they still qualify. They would apply (or re-apply, as the case may be) for MBE status should we get awarded a contract. Can we acknowledge these companies as MBEs in our proposal, as long as we make it clear that they will have to apply and be approved by MDOT?

Response: The vendor must be already registered and have their certification identification number prior to the proposal being submitted.

Questions on PPRP RFP K00R9400197A
June 13, 2019

1. Per section 2.1.3, "The Department intends to complete up to four (4) awards based on different Functional Areas as a result of this RFP. See RFP **Section 4.9 Award Basis** for more Contract award information." Does this mean there will be at most one award per Functional Area?

Response: Yes, there will be at most one award per Functional Area.

2. Must one bid on all 4 Functional Areas?

Response: No

3. Section 3.2 describes an end-of-contract transition. Is there a current contractor in place with similar requirements?

Response: Yes

4. How many contractors over the four FAs? Can you identify them?

Response: There will be one award for each Functional Area. The selected Contractors will be a matter of public record.

5. Will there be a single Contract Monitor or one per Area?

Response: PPRP anticipates that there will be one monitor for all four Functional Area awards.

6. What criteria will the contract monitor apply in approving timesheets (authorizing them for invoicing per 3.3.3.C), will it be based on (a) formal requirements (as per invoicing, 3.3.1), (b) consistency with contractor estimates, (c) consistency with Monitor's own judgment of requirements?

Response: The contractor will sign and submit a form with each invoice that summarizes the hours work. The contractor will keep the detailed timecards onsite and make them available if the project is audited.

7. 3.10.1 says "The Offerors are expected to provide expertise in all areas of economics as it relates to the planning, siting, licensing and operation of electric power plants and ancillary facilities including solid waste disposal sites and transmission lines within or affecting Maryland." All offerors must provide all areas of expertise, even if only offering for one Functional Area?

Response: Specific requirements are listed for each Functional Area in Appendix P.

8. Is there a budget for the entire contract or for each Functional Area?

Response: The historic overall annual budget for all four Functional Areas is approximately \$1 Million.

9. According to Attachment P, "The majority of the PPRP projects are performed by scientists and engineers retained to provide continuing consultation on matters related to power generation issues." Does the contractor have any coordination responsibilities?

Response: PPRP's contractors work interdependently on many projects. One contractor is assigned the lead for a specific project and may be asked to coordinate the work of other contractors.

10. Approximately how many projects (filings) per year are there in Functional Area A (Power Plant Planning and Licensing)?

Response: There are approximately 20 filings a year, and that may increase with the new RPS requirements.

11. What is the approximate duration of work on each filing?

Response: Typical CPCN generation projects require 6-8 months to complete.

12. What about the non-economic support requirements mentioned in Attachment P-1, e.g., "expertise on construction impacts in the offshore marine environment, including underwater noise propagation, which is required for evaluating the siting of offshore wind turbines [for offshore wind]," "identifying and synthesizing existing information on groundwater and hydrogeological resources [for solar & conventional]"?

Response: That is a RFP drafting error on the part of PPRP.

13. Attachment P says they expect 4-8 filings in Functional Area B during the duration of the contract. What is the approximate duration of work on each?

Response: Transmission projects require approximately 12 months to complete. Please note that this is only an estimate and may vary significantly.

14. Functional areas A and B are project oriented. Is Area C more of a continuous area or work?

Response: Functional Areas A and B are oriented to CPCN cases. Functional Area C is oriented to specific reports.

15. What is the boundary between Area C ("Provide economic expertise in such areas as the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Nuclear Energy Commission (NRC) licensing and permitting procedures; in other words, all capabilities that are necessary to understand and assess the impacts of diverse modes of power transmission") and areas A/B?

Response: For Functional Areas A and B, expertise is used to develop CPCN cases for the State for energy generation and transmission, respectively. Functional Area C is oriented to developing specific reports.

16. Is it necessary to list specific names in the Personnel section?

Response: No – just list position titles. Qualifications will be verified at a later stage.

17. Insurance requirements – what is the basis for these amount? It is very high and will be expensive.

Response: PPRP will issue an addendum to reset the insurance requirements.

18. In Section 3.10 experience of personnel – can I submit this for one FA and reference that section in other areas?

Response: Separate and complete proposals are required for each functional Area. **Please note that this is a correction to the answer provided at the Pre-Proposal Conference.**

19. In Section 3.14 on page 17, Work Orders – how does this work?

Response: Work orders will be issued for specific projects that are encountered in FAC.

20. Do we need to submit the RFP in person?

Response: No, but you must submit a physical copy of the proposal, not an emailed copy.

Questions on PPRP RFP K00R9400197A
June 19, 2019

1. In the RFP, up to four (4) Contracts will be awarded to provide technical assistance. Can an Offeror bid only on one of the functional areas?

Response: An Offeror may bid on any or all sections.

2. Do these functional areas have incumbent firms? Could you please provide their names?

Response: Exeter Associates currently holds the contract that encompasses all four Functional Areas.

4. Are these functional areas new projects or existing projects? Can you please provide previous studies done on each functional areas?

Response: All of the Functional Areas represent ongoing work. Specific reports required in Functional Area C may include unique reports (e.g., the Clean Energy Jobs Nuclear study) in addition to ongoing reports (e.g., Cumulative Environmental Impacts report). Examples of past reports can be found on the PPRP website (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Pages/activities.aspx>).

- Energy Storage Report (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Pages/WorkGroup.aspx>)
- Renewable Portfolio Standard – Interim Report (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Pages/RPS-WorkGroup.aspx>)
- Cumulative Environmental Impacts Report (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Documents/CEIR-Final-Report.pdf>)

5. Can a subcontractor on one functional area be a prime contractor on another functional area?

Response: Yes

6. Will one firm be awarded to the 4 contracts?

Response: See 2.1.3: The Department intends to complete up to four (4) awards based on different Functional Areas as a result of this RFP. See RFP **Section 4.9 Award Basis** for more Contract award information.

7. Can you please expand on this phrase "Multiple or alternate Proposals will not be accepted within each Functional Area."

Response: This is a competitive process. The Offeror may bid on any or all of the functional areas, but an Offeror may provide only one bid for each Functional Area.

8. Minimum Qualifications: Can individual staff's experience be substituted with firm's five experience? In another words, can staff's work experience be considered for minimum qualifications?

Response: See 1.1: Offeror Minimum Qualifications: To be considered reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, the Offeror shall have five (5) years of experience in the field of electric utilities economics and in state-level energy policy analysis, planning and implementation. To demonstrate

experience, the Offeror will provide with its RFP response a portfolio of past work and three client references (organization's name, contact name, contact's phone number).

9. Will Contractor-Supplied Hardware, Software, and Materials be reimbursed by the state?

Response: No. See 2.3.1.A: The Contractor is responsible for the acquisition and operation of all hardware, software and network support related to the services being provided, and shall keep all software current.

10. What are the names of software that have been used by the past contractors to conduct studies?

Response: PPRP does not require specific economic modeling software. To prepare the recent "Interim Report Concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard" (which can be found here: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Documents/Interim-RPS-Report.pdf>), the contractor used IMPLAN.

11. Can the state provide the list of attendees for the pre-proposal conference for networking purpose with prime contractors?

Response: Yes, this information will be posted to the PPRP website.

12. The specific requirements of the functional areas 1, 2, and 3 indicated that "Identify emerging and important economic issues related to power plant; transmission; and generation and transmission. What kind of issues that have identified in the past studies?"

Response: CPCN reviews for energy generation and transmission continue to broaden as new information becomes available. For instance,

13. Will the state facilitate subcontractors' assignments to prime contractors?

Response: No

Questions on PPRP RFP
June 20, 2019

1. On page 36 of the RFP, under “Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff,” it is stated that exactly three key personnel should be named. Why exactly three? I can see some instances where more than three are necessary, and some where less than three is sufficient. Would the State be flexible on the number of key personnel the bidder can offer?

Response: This is a standard requirement in a state RFP. Please provide **at minimum** three key personnel.

2. On page 89 of the RFP, under “General Transmission Line Technical Support,” a reference is made to a “previously developed database of issues, questions and answers that have been addressed by PPRP in licensing cases. This database facilitates (facilitates) compiling socioeconomic testimony in future cases.” Please provide more information on the database. Is it available on PPRP’s web site? Who developed it, and how up-to-date is it?

Response: PPRP is building this database with contractual support (through the Engineering contract). It is a working document for DNR’s contractors and it is not shared publicly.