MINNESOTA POWER – DSES RFP

BIDDER QUESTIONS WE 5/5/2025

Q1: What type of reference is required in Cell B32 of the Bidder Information Sheet of Attachment E – Economic Technical Data Input Form? Would you like a written reference or a contactable reference for delivered projects? Is there a specific person, i.e., landowner or an organization that you would like the reference to be from?

A1: Our preference is for a contactable reference (phone and email) for a representative that had a key role in example projects. This could include references at the offtake organization or utility, implementation contractor, landowner, or others. Minnesota Power expects that the references are made aware that they may be contacted as part of this RFP process and expects that Respondents include some level of diversity in the type of reference they provide (i.e., don't solely provide references from landowners).

Q2: The RFP mentions "project layouts" in Section 4.6. Do bidders only need to submit site plans of the proposed projects, and no single-line diagrams?

A2: Minnesota Power does not require a single-line diagram to be submitted with a Proposal but would strongly encourage Respondents to include this information if available. Proposals that are shortlisted will be required to submit a full interconnection application and a single-line diagram will be required at that time.

Q3: Is it permissible to co-locate two <10MW-ac projects on two adjacent parcels if there are two distinct points of interconnection?

A3: Please review Section 3.3 for details on multiple proposals including reference to FERC rules for use in determining the treatment of projects as separate.

Q4: Given the RFP allows an adjustment for interconnection costs post-shortlisting, should we set interconnection costs at zero (0) for the initial RFP submittal? If not, which placeholder for interconnection should be used?

A4: Interconnection costs can be set at zero (0) for the initial RFP submittal. Shortlisted projects will be assigned accurate interconnection costs when they submit an interconnection application.

Q5: In Attachment E – Project Info Tab – Cell C39, what format/level of detail would you like for the topo map and what consideration is MP giving to the Topo map?

A5: The topographic map can be provided as a PDF format and if a site-specific topographic survey has not been completed, the data can be sourced using publicly available GIA or LiDAR data. Minnesota Power will consider the information contained on the topographic survey when analyzing the project's overall feasibility and constructability.

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We recommend the topographic survey include at a minimum 5-ft intervals with a preference for more granular intervals if available.

Q6: "Solar generation report(s)/study(s)" – Does this just mean a PVsyst report or are we also needing feasibility/system impact study?

A6: Please refer to sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 for a detailed list of the minimum level of information that should be provided with your proposal, which includes an energy production estimate report (PVsyst preferred).

Q7: "Description of the methodology employed to calculate energy losses due to array effects" – Is this simply asking for our loss percentage assumptions we put into PVsyst for solar modeling or does this want an explanation on how PVsyst utilizes said loss percentages?

A7: Please provide a description of the methodology used to determine the loss assumptions that were used as inputs into the PVsyst or similar model.

Q8: "Clear breakdown of applied energy loss factors" – Does Minnesota Power want an excel document that details all the loss assumption values we put into PVsyst?

A8: Please provide a list of key assumptions that were used as inputs into the PVsyst or similar model, providing detail regarding the selected loss values where possible.

Q9: "Project electrical collection system losses to the POI" – Is Minnesota Power looking for our assumed losses in the LV and MV collection system?

A9: Please provide your assumption for electrical losses that will be incurred by the design of the collector system.

Q10: "On-site hourly predicted energy, on-site solar irradiance data or site-specific nationally recognized external irradiance and temperature resources (solar assets), annual degradation and annual loss factors" – The annual degradation and the annual loss factors are not provided on an hourly basis. Is the intent simply looking for our loss percentage assumptions?

A10: Please provide an 8760 annual hourly generation profile of expected energy injected into the grid. Annual degradation will impact the requested P50, P75, and P90 energy production estimates for years 2-5. Please also provide or include a reference to the source used for on-site solar irradiance and temperature data.

Q11: "Annual P50, P75, and P90 energy production estimates during the first 5 years of the useful life of the project" – Does Minnesota Power want 5 different PVsyst reports showing P50, P75, and P90 for year 1 through year 5?

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A11: Please provide a single PVsyst or similar report for Year 1 showing a P50 energy production estimate. Expected annual energy generation for years 1-5 at a P50, P75, and P90 can be provided as individual values and should take into account average annual degradation.

Q12: Can the project's capacity in the bid response to the 2025 DSES RFP differ from the project's capacity with the pre-application?

A12: Yes, the project's capacity in the bid response to the 2025 DSES RFP can differ from the project capacity submitted in the Pre-Application.

Q13: "Proposed collection system routing and IC facility location" – Does Minnesota Power want DC, LV (low voltage AC) conductor routing?

A13: Please provide a site plan that includes medium voltage (MV) conductor routing between the project inverters and proposed step-up transformer; please also include proposed access road design, fencing, and facility laydown, if applicable. Please note the location of the closest distribution line or substation that will serve as a point of interconnection.