

## Bidder Questions - 11/28/2023 Webinar

1. Will projects not connected directly to MP's transmission system be eliminated from consideration?
  - Yes – we have an order point from the IRP that the projects must be in our system/regional.
2. Since this RFP excludes distribution level projects, will there be opportunity for distribution projects for this in the future?
  - Not in this solar RFP. There is a new distributed solar energy standard in MN – this is an open docket at the MN Public Utilities Commission. How MN Power plans to meet the distributed solar energy standard is forthcoming.
3. What NTP is MP assuming for solar projects?
  - At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2024 MP would enter into negotiations and finalizing agreements for shortlisted projects that are a build own transfer or PPA. At the time agreements are finalized NTP would be outlined in agreements but is subject to Commission approval as a condition precedent.
4. Our company sells domestically sourced panels and domestic recycling of panels – therefore we anticipate partnering with a regional developer, but you mentioned self-resourced approach – is MP considering purchasing panels and security recycling directly at any level?
  - Yes, potentially in a self-build proposal.
5. Will there be a follow up NTP post Commission approval?
  - Condition precedent is typically determined in the PPA.
6. If a project is located in a county within MP's service territory but does not interconnect to the MP transmission system, would it be excluded from consideration?
  - Yes.
7. What is the statutory regulatory timeframe?
  - There is not a statutory timeframe. This is a Miscellaneous filing that takes likely 6-12 months.
8. Will the responses to questions in this webinar be shared in writing?
  - Yes, we can share these. A recording will also be available. We will be accepting questions up until Dec 20, 2023.
9. Will the PPA be approved as a fuel account adjustment?
  - Typically yes, or through the renewable resource rider.
10. What is the purpose of the \$200/kW security? For a 10-200 MW project, that is between \$2M and \$40M which is quite a lot to post before an award is given?
  - To ensure bidders follow through on execution of the project and meet performance guarantees. Provides funds if there are any issues that incur liquidated damages. Security is only required if you don't meet credit requirements outlined in the RFP.
11. Can MP provide clarity on operational related costs, penalties, and charges assessed by MISO? (See Interconnection Requirements section of RFP document).
  - Attachment X and BPM-015 cover the MISO interconnection process and mechanisms for funding required upgrades on the transmission system, in addition to the study costs to identify those upgrades. The bidder is responsible for any MISO penalties/cost pre and post COD related to any actions they take with the project or for new/existing requirements going forward (i.e. MISO requires new controls for market dispatch purposes).

12. Can MP draw on security if an award is not given? And when would that be returned to a bidder if not selected?
- If MP doesn't move forward with PPA, the security would be released.