Request for Proposals
For
Battery Energy Storage Resource

issued by

Minnesota Power

30 West Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota, 55802

www.mnpower.com

Released: 11/9/2026

Complete information on this RFP can be found at:

http://mnpower.com/storagerfp

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND 3
2. SUITABLE PROJECT STRUCTURES 3
3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS 4
4. SCHEDULE 10
5. COMMUNICATION WITH MP 11
6. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION 12
7. EVALUATION PROCESS 18
8. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS 20

1. BACKGROUND

Minnesota Power (MP), a division of ALLETE, Inc., is issuing power supply Requests for Proposals (RFP) for up to 725 MW of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Resource. This request is part of MP's vision for a sustainable path to a carbon-free energy future and bold next steps in the clean energy transition that is centered on MP's commitment to the climate, affordability, reliability, and communities.

In connection with this RFP, MP has retained the services of an independent third-party evaluator to work with MP in the evaluation of all proposals. MP will make the final decision (subject to MPUC review and approval, as applicable) in MP's sole discretion.

Proposals must be received by MP by the Proposal Submission Deadline shown in Table 1. MP reserves the right in its sole discretion to modify this schedule for any reason.

MP will consider proposals which include co-located BESS as an option, however an energy storage project will be evaluated independently and must be submitted separately to MP's Energy Storage RFP. If submitting co-located proposals and detaching projects is feasible, MP has a preference for Bidders to also submit a wind only proposal.

2. SUITABLE PROJECT STRUCTURES

MP will consider build own transfer projects (BOT) in which Seller develops and constructs the project/facility and transfers the project to MP at completion. BOT projects need to comply with requirements consistent with this RFP including, but not limited to, the Term Sheet and BESS Specifications provided as part of the RFP package. MP prefers procuring a BESS project through a BOT. MP is open to consider late-stage development ("Dev Transfer") proposal as part of this RFP, but submittals must meet all BOT submission requirements.

MP will consider Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) proposals (including but not limited to full tolling agreements) and MP has a preference for the PPA to include a buyout provision after 7 years. Any proposal with a buyout provision will also need to comply with the requirements identified in this RFP including, but not limited to, the PPA and BESS Specifications.

All proposals must be fully assignable to an affiliate of MP at MP's discretion if selected.

MP anticipates and will also consider self-build proposals in the RFP.[1]

3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must meet the general minimum eligibility requirements described below. MP will screen all proposals for compliance with these requirements. Proposals that fail to meet one or more of these requirements may be disqualified from further consideration.

Installed Capacity

Proposals must offer BESS resource with a nameplate capacity of between 100MW and 200MW. MP prefers between 4 hours up to 8 hours of storage capability.

Regionally located

MP seeks cost-effective utility scale BESS resources for this RFP that are located within MISO Local Resource Zone 1 and directly interconnect to the transmission system. For clarity, acceptable BESS project locations are shown in yellow in Figure 1 below.

MP prefers a project in an energy impacted community as defined in the Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

[1] A self-build proposal is a project submitted by a project development team at MP (or a direct affiliate of MP) to construct, own, and operate a BESS facility. Any self-build proposal will be developed and submitted to the RFP by a team that is separate from the team that will evaluate bid submitted to the RFP process, as required by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

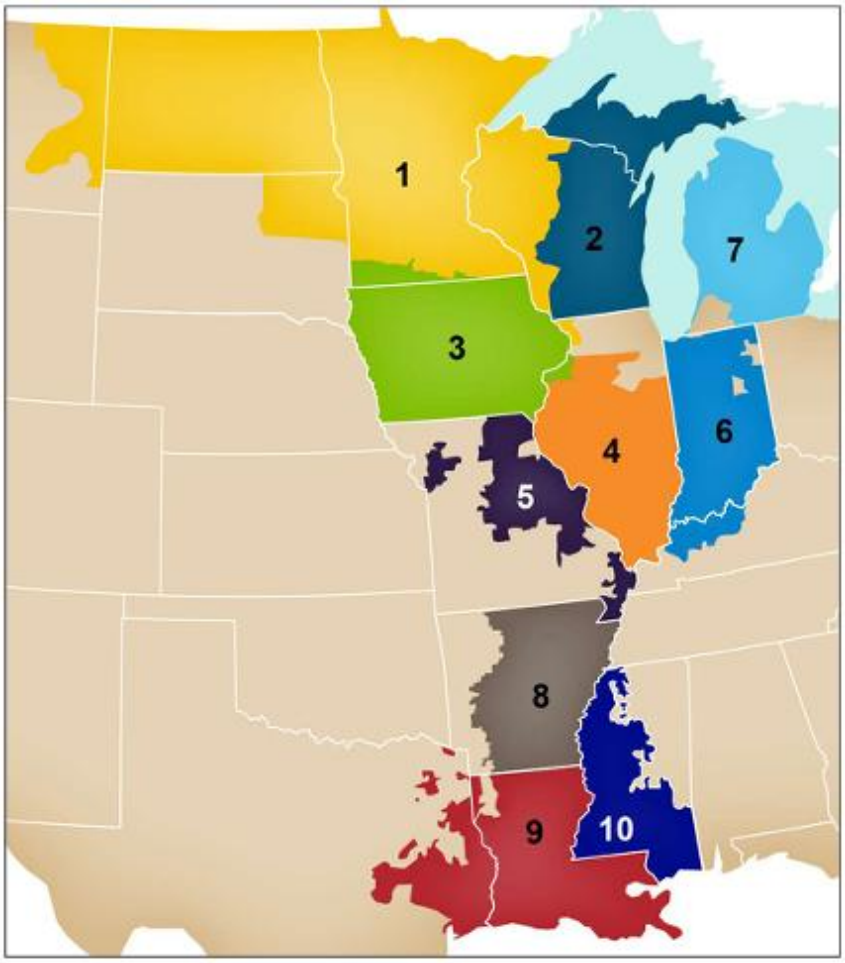


FIGURE 1

Proven and Commercially Available Technology

Proposals must offer capacity and energy that will utilize proven and commercially available BESS technology. MP prefers BESS project designs that maximize energy storage and discharge during winter months when MP's demand is highest on the system.

Bidder will need to provide specific details of manufacturer "cold weather packages" that will be installed in the BESS facility, the battery cell, control system, and invertor manufacturer/model to be used, and provide the operational history of that model globally (time in service/number of units).

Commercial Operation Date (COD)

Proposals must offer BESS supplies with commercial operation dates anytime between June 1, 2028 and December 31, 2031 as practicable and agreed upon by MP. MP has a preference to procure 125 MW by 2028 COD and up to 200 MW by 2030 COD.

Capacity Accreditation

Proposals must offer capacity that is accreditable under current MISO resource adequacy rules in MISO Local Resource Zone 1.

Interconnection Requirements

MP has a preference for projects that have at a minimum Network Resource Interconnection Service (NRIS) and have Definitive Planning Phase 2 cost estimates from MISO by Proposal Submission Deadline, a pathway for utilizing MISO ERAS process, or can qualify for a MISO surplus interconnection or generator replacement interconnection.

MP will consider proposals which include co-located wind with a new BESS or existing generator that uses a surplus or replacement interconnection. MP must be the off taker of all energy that is using a single surplus interconnection.

For this RFP, interconnection must be to a transmission facility under MISO's functional control and operated at a voltage greater than or equal to 69 kV.

Proposed network upgrade costs that are assessed to the project shall be the responsibility of the Bidder and must be clearly identified and included in the Bidder's proposed pricing. The Bidder shall identify in Attachment A RFP Bidder Forms the interconnection and network upgrade costs included in their proposed pricing and identify the point of interconnection.

The cost of obtaining NRIS, any interconnection equipment, upgrades, and studies up to the point of delivery shall be the responsibility of the Bidder and must be included in the Bidder's proposed pricing. The Bidder shall be responsible for all operational related costs, penalties, and charges assessed by MISO to the point of delivery.

Power Delivery Requirements for PPA Proposals

The congestion costs and losses up to the point of delivery shall be the responsibility of the Bidder and must be included in the Bidder's proposed pricing. The Bidder shall be responsible for all operational related costs, penalties, and charges assessed by MISO.

One of the goals of this RFP is to determine the overall cost to MP's retail customers of the selected resource(s). MP's economic evaluation of the proposal will consider the cost of interconnection and delivery of power from the proposed resource to MP's native load.

Contract Term for PPA Proposals

All Proposals must offer an initial contract term of 15 years with an option for Minnesota Power to extend the term for another five years. A proposal could include an offer for a second term not to exceed 20 years. MP prefers that proposals include an option for MP to purchase the facility after a minimum period of seven years.

Firm, Binding Prices

Proposal pricing must be firm and binding through completion of negotiation with selected Bidders as defined in Table 1. Bidders submitting PPA proposal may propose escalation rates that are fixed. All prices must be in United States dollars and not subject to currency exchange rate adjustments. The proposal must be signed by an officer of the bidding firm who is duly authorized to commit the firm to conduct the PPA or BOT proposal should MP accept the proposal. Proposals must identify material assumptions regarding tariffs, duties, trade restrictions, supply chain costs, federal tax incentives, Domestic Content qualification, Energy Community qualification, FEOC compliance, transferability, and other material federal policy considerations reflected in the proposed pricing.

Creditworthiness

A Bidder must have a credit rating for its senior unsecured debt of BBB or higher (for Standard & Poor's) or Baa2 or higher (for Moody's). If a Bidder is unrated or does not meet this minimum credit rating requirement, the Bidder may provide credit support from a corporate guarantor that meets the requirement. Alternatively, if a Bidder is unrated or does not meet the above minimum credit rating requirement and the Bidder does not provide credit support from a suitable corporate guarantor, the Bidder must certify and state in its proposal that, if selected, it will provide credit support to MP within two weeks of short list notification in the amount of $50/kW of the proposed capacity of the project. The credit support may be cash or a letter of commitment from an acceptable bank, or in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, a performance bond, cash escrow, credit support from a suitable corporate guarantor, at Seller's option, or a combination of these options as long as the total amount of security is no less than required. See Attachment A RFP Bidders Forms and Attachment B Model PPA form for more details.

For Sellers that do not meet the creditworthiness requirement, the security requested at the start of negotiations shall be available prior to starting negotiations with MP. MP is willing to provide written assurance to Bidder on treatment of the security during the negotiations. Draw mechanisms will not be enforceable until after the PPA or BOT is executed with the selected Bidder.

The security provided for the negotiations period can be transitioned to the security required at PPA, or BOT contract execution, and must be available to provide security to MP to cover damages, including but not limited to Replacement Power Costs, Liquidated Delay Damages, Actual Damages, damages for missed project milestones (refundable if the project achieves COD on schedule), liquidated damages for failure to achieve COD, and any amounts for which MP is entitled to indemnification under the PPA or BOT contract.

Legal Certifications

A Bidder must certify that:

a. there are no pending legal or civil actions that would impair the Bidder's ability to submit a bid into the RFP and to perform its obligations under the proposed PPA or BOT as applicable, the Bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other respondent to submit a false or sham proposal,
b. the Bidder has not solicited or induced any other person, firm, or corporation to refrain from submitting a proposal, and
c. the Bidder has not sought by collusion to obtain any advantage over any other respondent.

Proposal Submission Deadline

To be eligible for consideration, MP must receive a proposal as described in Section 6 by the Proposal Submission Deadline shown in Table 1. Any MP self-build resource proposals will be submitted two days prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline.

Participation Fee

Subsequent to proposal submission, the Bidder shall provide an $11,000 non-refundable bid fee within 10 business days. Wire instructions will be provided upon receipt of a proposal. For clarity, a bid fee will be required for each proposal with separate Project/Facility Name, Project Location, Generation Technology proposed, and up to 5 (five) different pricing structures and contract terms. Further, no cashier's checks will be accepted.

Include in the cover letter the participation fee you anticipate paying given the projects and pricing structures included in the bid proposal.

Affiliate of Minnesota Power Requirements

Any Bidder that is an affiliate of ALLETE, Inc. must self-identify as an affiliate and follow the requirements of the RFP to participate. If the requirements below are not met, the proposals will not be included in the RFP evaluation.

For a direct affiliate of ALLETE, the proposal must be submitted two days prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline. The direct affiliates of ALLETE are ALLETE Clean Energy, Minnesota Power, New Energy Equity, ALLETE Enterprises, Inc., BNI Energy, and Superior Water, Light & Power.

For an indirect affiliate of ALLETE, proposals must be submitted one day prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline. Indirect affiliates of ALLETE include any company with more than 5% ownership by Global Infrastructure Partners, CPP Investments, or Blackrock, as provided in affiliated interest reporting by Minnesota Power's new owners as a condition of the Commission's approval of ALLETE's recent sale.

Any Bidder whose proposal is selected must agree to Minnesota Power's Affiliated Interest Disclosure and Compliance requirements as defined below:

i. *Ownership Disclosure: Bidder shall, upon execution of an Agreement and annually thereafter, disclose in writing to Minnesota Power whether Bidder is more than five percent (5%) owned, directly or indirectly, by any of the following entities: CPP Investments, Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), or BlackRock, Inc. Bidder shall promptly notify Minnesota Power in writing of any change in ownership that would result in Bidder meeting or ceasing to meet this threshold during the term of an Agreement.*

ii. *Audit and Record Retention: Bidder acknowledges that Minnesota Power's annual affiliated interest report is subject to independent third-party audit. Bidder agrees to retain all records and documentation related to ownership disclosures and affiliated*

interest transactions for a period of not less than 6 years from the end date of an agreement, and to provide such records to Minnesota Power upon request.

iii. *Compliance with Policies: Bidder shall comply with all applicable Minnesota Power and ALLETE policies and codes of conduct related to affiliated interest transactions, as may be amended from time to time.*

iv. *Breach and Remedies: Failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall constitute a material breach of an Agreement and may result in termination of an Agreement and/or other remedies available to Minnesota Power under law or equity.*

Socioeconomic and Community Impacts Study

Proposals must include a socioeconomic impact study for the Bidder's project(s). The study shall include socioeconomic impacts within MP's service territory on local tax base, along with economic impact in host-communities where Minnesota Power has or plans to cease coal generation. This includes the communities in Minnesota of Cohasset, Hoyt Lakes, and Schroeder, along with neighboring communities and the local county.

Additional Eligibility Considerations

Proposals must include sufficient information to allow MP to evaluate an offer. Section 6 Proposal Submission includes further instructions on what must be included in a proposal. Proposals that are deficient or incomplete may be rejected by MP.

4. SCHEDULE

Table 1 represents MP's expected timeline for conducting this resource request. MP reserves the right to modify this schedule as circumstances warrant and/or as MP deems appropriate.

Table 1: Schedule/Timeline

Event	Anticipated Date
Release RFP *MP releases notifications of the RFP and provides RFP materials on RFP webpage.*	11/9/2026
Bidder Call *MP hosts a call to walk through the RFP and provide an opportunity for Bidders to ask questions.*	11/16/2026 10:00 AM CST

NDA Redline Deadline *Any redlines to the NDA must be submitted by this deadline to ensure timely execution of the NDA.*	12/7/2026
Last date for submitting questions about the RFP	12/9/2026
Proposal Submission Deadline *All proposals must be submitted by **5 p.m. CST.*** *Proposals from any indirect affiliate of ALLETE through ownership by Global Infrastructure Partners, CPP Investments, or Blackrock must be submitted one day prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline.*[2] *Any MP self-build resource or proposal from a direct affiliate of ALLETE will be submitted two days prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline.*	12/18/2026
Bidder's Fee Due *For consideration in the RFP, bid fees must be received by 5 p.m. CST.*	1/5/2027
Proposal Evaluation *MP and Independent Evaluator review proposals and ask Bidders questions regarding their proposals. Bidders will be notified if their proposal has been selected.*	4th Quarter 2026 & 1st Quarter 2027
Negotiations with Selected Bidder(s) *MP and selected Bidders will discuss the terms and conditions of the contract.*	1st Quarter 2027 & 2nd Quarter 2027
Application for Regulatory Approval *Includes preparation of the petition and filing of the petition for MPUC review.*	3rd Quarter 2027

5. COMMUNICATION WITH MP

A website (https://www.mnpower.com/storagerfp) has been created for downloading the RFP and Attachments and to provide uniform communications, including updates and other details as may be provided throughout the bidding process.

[2] A Minnesota Power indirect affiliate includes any company with more than 5% ownership by Global Infrastructure Partners, CPP Investments, or Blackrock as provided in affiliated interest reporting by Minnesota Power's new owners as a condition of the Commission's approval of ALLETE's recent sale.

All communications and questions from potential respondents regarding the RFP shall be submitted in written form and sent via email to MPstorageRFP@mnpower.com with the Independent Evaluator copied at rebecca@levelizedconsulting.com.

Phone inquiries and verbal conversations with respondents regarding this RFP are not permitted. Individual questions submitted by a respondent to MP before the submittal deadline will be answered and responses sent back via email to the respondent as soon as practical. Responses to frequently asked or universally applicable questions may be placed on the RFP Website for the benefit of all respondents, with any identifying information redacted.

6. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Independent Evaluator

All proposals submitted in response to this RFP must be received by MP and the Independent Evaluator at the email addresses below no later than the Proposal Submission Deadline shown in Table 1. MP will not evaluate proposals as part of this RFP process if submitted after this date and time. MP does not anticipate an opportunity in the schedule for respondents to refresh or update their pricing before the final selection(s) are made.

Respondents shall email an electronic copy of its proposal to MPstorageRFP@mnpower.com the Independent Evaluator copied at rebecca@levelizedconsulting.com.

Submission Format

Do not send any files in compressed formats, such as .zip.

Financial statements, annual reports, and other large documents should be referenced via a website address.

Respondents should undertake efforts to avoid excessively large emails/attachments; in any case, individual email size must be less than 25 MB. If the emailed information exceeds this limit, then respondents should break their submission into multiple emails.

Multiple proposals by the same respondent must be identified separately. Each proposal is considered separate when they include a different Project/Facility Name, Project Location, Installed Capacity in MW, and Generation Technology proposed.

Each proposal must include a cover letter and contain materials that address the requirements of the RFP including but not limited to:

Attachment A – RFP Bidders Forms.

Each Bidder will need to complete and submit with their proposal a Bidder Questionnaire, Company History Questionnaire, Project Resource Questionnaire Pricing Info, and Proposal Submission Checklist.

Attachment B – MP's Model BESS PPA.

Each Bidder must review MP's Model BESS PPA document and provide a redline to the PPA of all material exceptions to the terms and conditions that are relevant to the Bidder's proposed resource and that the Bidder wishes to take in substantiating the fundamental terms and conditions of its power supply offer.

Attachment C – Term Sheet for BOT BESS Resource.

For BOT projects, each Bidder will review and provide a redline of all exceptions to the Term Sheet.

Attachment D – BESS Technical Specification.

For PPA projects with a buyout option or BOT proposals, each Bidder will review and document and provide a redline of all material exceptions to the BESS Technical Specification.

Attachment E – Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Each bidder must provide a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement ("NDA") to be executed by the Bidder and MP. MP plans to fully execute the NDA shortly after proposals are received.

Any redlines to the NDA should be submitted to MP two weeks prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline. To ensure timely execution, we recommend limiting changes to the NDA.[3]

Additional Plans to Submit with Proposal

Project team experience. Bidders must describe the experience of the principal members of the project team, including design, siting, permitting, financing, construction of the facility, and Operations & Maintenance (O&M). Each member that will lead key aspects of the project should have experience in leading those tasks on previous projects that are like the proposed project. Proposals must include descriptions of these previous projects for each key team member and references who may be contacted by MP's evaluation team.

Project schedule and current status. For all projects, proposals must include a project schedule that shows the expected commencement, duration, and completion of all

[3] The time it will take MP to fully execute will be dependent on the extent of proposed redlines, time to review and negotiate new terms, and the volume of NDAs that have alternate terms.

significant project development tasks. If some of the tasks are already underway, the Bidder should describe the current status of those tasks. Note that specific major project milestones will be the responsibility of the Bidder and will be incorporated into the PPA or BOT Term sheet should the Bidder's proposal be selected by MP.

Project Financing. For all projects, Bidders must describe their plans for acquiring the necessary funds for developing, constructing, and operating the project, including how the Bidder intends to maximize the benefits of applicable federal tax incentives. Bidders must provide a detailed description of the proposed ITC qualification strategy, including the Beginning of Construction (BOC) methodology, BOC date, expected qualification timeline, continuity strategy, material assumptions, available supporting documentation, and identification of any material qualification risks. If the proposal assumes qualification for any Domestic Content adder, Energy Community adder, transferability benefit, or other tax credit enhancement, the Bidder shall describe the qualification strategy, major components or assumptions relied upon, and any known qualification risks. Bidders shall also identify any assumptions regarding FEOC, Material Assistance, Effective Control, Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship compliance or similar federal requirements applicable to the tax benefits reflected in the proposal and identify any tax counsel, advisor, or consultant supporting the proposed tax qualification strategy. Minnesota Power reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation, memoranda, analyses, certifications, or other information necessary to evaluate the Bidder's proposed tax credit strategy and associated assumptions. As a condition to execution of a definitive agreement, Minnesota Power may require the selected Bidder to provide one or more tax opinions, memoranda, certifications, or other third-party analyses, in form and substance reasonably acceptable to Minnesota Power, supporting the tax benefits reflected in the selected proposal.

Project Siting. For all projects, Bidders must describe the status of the site for the proposed project (i.e., whether the Bidder owns or is leasing the land, has the land under option for purchase or lease, the current zoning of the land, and any rezoning actions, if applicable). The Bidder must provide a map of the project site and surrounding territory and indicate the point of interconnection and delivery. The Bidder must identify any federal land, Bureau of Land Management land, or federal rights-of-way required for the project and describe the status of approvals required to utilize land, expected timeline, and material risks associated with obtaining such approvals. The Bidder must indicate whether there are any sensitive attributes (e.g., residential dwellings, wetlands, state/national parks or wildlife preserves, federal lands or Bureau of Land Management managed lands, airports, eagles, endangered or threatened species, cultural or archeological landmarks or burial sites) on or near the site and, if within one mile, note their proximity to the site and status of permits required to operate facility on or near these sites. The Bidder must provide proof that local

community authorities have been notified of the Bidder's intention to develop the project and indicate the degree of acceptance by the local community. The Bidder should describe any plans for community education and outreach concerning the project, including outreach to non-participating landowners and community stakeholders.

Project Permitting. Bidders should describe all local, township, city, county, state, and federal permits and approvals required for the project and describe the status of such approvals, expected timeline, and material risks associated with obtaining such approvals.

Project Design and Construction. For all projects, Bidders should provide information on the firms that will be involved with the design and construction of the facility and describe any relevant issues that may positively or negatively influence the project's design, constructability, schedule, or cost. Bidder must demonstrate access to long-lead equipment, including but not limited to battery components, transformers, collector system components, and other major electrical equipment, and shall identify expected procurement timing, supplier arrangements, manufacturing status, and any material supply chain assumptions associated with the proposal. MP prefers materials sourced domestically. Accordingly, Bidders shall provide a plan identifying the estimated value of domestically sourced steel, iron, manufactured products, and other major facility components, as well as any assumptions regarding domestic content qualification. Describe design enhancements and O&M strategy being used to maximize the round trip efficiency between storing and discharge of energy. Additionally, Bidder should describe plans for minimizing operational risks from environmental conditions of proposed site including describing how equipment selection and design addresses the project site's extreme annual mean maximum/minimum temperatures, potential for degrade to operations due to extreme temperatures, and extreme annual snow depth contributing to BESS facility access constraints. Project must comply with applicable NERC reliability standards and demonstrate their ability to maintain compliance with applicable standards throughout project development, construction, and operation. For BOT and PPA proposals that include a purchase option, Bidders shall review MP's BESS Specifications and identify any material exceptions.

Project Labor Resources. Bidder must detail how they intend to comply with applicable workforce requirements, including but not limited to federal prevailing wage and apprenticeship utilization standards attached to tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), and applicable state prevailing wage requirements that apply to large generation projects. A Bidder shall commit in writing that they will attempt to have all work done by Construction Craft Employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement with a union affiliated with

the local council of North America's Building Trades Unions ("Building Trades CBA"). If such Construction Craft Employee(s) covered by a Building Trades CBA are not available, then Bidder (or Bidder's construction contractor) shall attempt to enter into a site-specific building trades collective bargaining agreement covering that portion of the work. With respect to apprenticeship requirements, Bidder should summarize engagement with union apprenticeship and training programs that serve the project area, including programs that serve construction laborers, electricians, and operating engineers.

For projects located in Minnesota, Bidder must detail how they intend to maximize employment of, and provision of construction career opportunities for local construction workforce, defined as workers that permanently reside in the state of Minnesota and/or within 150 miles of the project site and provide estimates of local share of workforce.

Bidder must detail how they intend to maximize employment of, and provision of construction career opportunities for people of color, women and veterans on the project, including existing or proposed partnerships with labor unions, registered apprenticeship programs and/or community-based organizations to recruit, train and employ these populations on the project.

Bidder must detail how they intend to ensure that sufficient union labor or labor under a site-specific building trades collective bargaining agreement covering that portion of the work will be available to meet all project milestones and requirements, including contingency plans for potential labor shortages. Such plans should explain what level of flexibility applicable labor agreements provide to meet demand in the event of workforce shortages, and which labor organizations have been engaged in workforce planning.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. For all projects, Bidders should provide, if certified as a diverse business, a current copy of the third-party certification received from an industry recognized organization or local/state/federal government. If the Bidder is not certified as a diverse supplier which is defined as a business at least 51% owned and controlled by one of the following types of business: Minority-Owned Business, Women-Owned Business, Veteran-Owned Business, LGBT-Owned Business, Small Economically Disadvantaged Business, HUB Zone Business and Disability-Owned Enterprise, the Bidder will need to provide a subcontracting plan that breaks down the value for each subcontractor that identifies as a diverse supplier. MP has a preference to procure a project from a diverse business.

Energy Production Supply. Bidders should provide hourly availability estimates by month of charge and discharge energy (typical hours of estimates for each of 12 months). Such Bidders should also provide supporting information for seasonal round trip efficiency of

charge and discharge cycle, any limits to number of charge and discharge cycles that would limit the flexibility of operations hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annual or life of the project/PPA term (e.g., engineering modeling data and parameters, production data, expected degradation over time, description of data-gathering and data-synthesizing processes) that would allow MP to understand how the energy availability operational estimates were derived. Additional net generation and other performance information may be requested by MP from Bidders that are shortlisted. MP will rank the potential power supply portfolios by levelized total system cost and supplement each portfolio's place in the ranking with a qualitative assessment of the above risks in developing a final set of resources that will be recommended for inclusion on a short list.

O&M. Proposals should include a discussion of the Bidder's O&M and Augmentation plan and what firm(s) would provide such services. Specifically, the Augmentation plan should include the capacity at POI which should consider the additional System Losses and Auxiliary Loads after augmentation, year(s) of augmentation, AC or DC augmentation strategy if not specified, space constraints, and performance degradation over the life of the storage. MP has a requirement for local union labor for permanent staffing and development of apprenticeship programs.

For Build Own Transfer projects each Bidder must provide annual, in 2026 dollars, O&M estimates and ongoing anticipated capital improvements over the life of the asset as indicated in Attachment A_RFP Bidder Forms BOT Pricing Tab.

Scheduling and MISO Market Operations. Bidders must describe how they will provide accurate availability information to MP for scheduling the facility into MISO if the generation will be scheduled by MP. MP has a strong preference to schedule the dispatch of the BESS resource into the MISO market. Bidders must describe controls the project will use that give MISO the opportunity to automatically dispatch the BESS resource.

Proposal Limitations. Please describe in reasonable detail any existing regulatory, legal, economic, operational, or systematic conditions that might affect the respondent's ability to deliver capacity and energy as offered.

Confidentiality

Note that any portion of a Bidder's proposal that the Bidder deems to be confidential must be clearly marked. MP, its independent evaluator, and third-party technical consultant will take reasonable precautions to maintain the confidentiality of such information. However, MP is rate regulated by the MPUC; Bidders must recognize that their confidential information may have to be shared with regulatory agencies and provided in MPUC regulatory proceedings as well as

other regulatory or legal proceedings. MP will employ reasonable efforts to ensure that such confidential information is not publicly disclosed in such proceedings but can give no guarantees of such protection.

7. EVALUATION PROCESS

MP's evaluation of power supply proposals, regardless of project structure, will involve the following steps:

a. Screening for completeness and compliance with minimum eligibility requirements
b. Preliminary and detailed economic assessment
c. Non-economic/risk assessment
d. Selection of short list
e. Additional due diligence and negotiations
f. Final selection

Note: MP reserves the right to eliminate any or all proposals during any of these steps. Any proposal advancing any one or more steps does not create any entitlement or reasonable expectation that the proposal will ultimately achieve a PPA or a BOT Term Sheet. All obligations between MP and a Bidder relating to a proposal will be governed by an executed and effective PPA or a BOT Term Sheet for which all negotiated conditions precedent have been satisfied.

Screening for completeness/compliance with minimum eligibility requirements

MP's evaluation team will perform an initial screening of each proposal to ensure that the proposal is complete and complies with the RFP's minimum eligibility requirements. Proposals with substantial deficiencies will be rejected. For proposals with marginal deficiencies, MP may request that the Bidder promptly provide missing information or appropriate clarifications; failure to provide such information may result in a proposal being rejected. All proposals that are deemed to be reasonably complete and compliant will be passed to the economic and non-economic/risk assessment steps.

Preliminary and detailed economic assessment

MP may perform a preliminary economic screening analysis to identify proposals that are clearly uneconomic and thus do not warrant further detailed evaluation. If performed, such an analysis will involve the use of resource evaluation spreadsheets to review and rank the proposals based on pricing and operational information from the proposal.

The economic assessment of each proposal will be determined by considering the price under the proposed PPA or BOT term sheet, the estimated value of delivering energy to MP load from the project based on the project's energy availability profile, projected regional locational marginal prices (LMPs) at the busbar and at the point of delivery, environmental impacts (i.e. Minnesota environmental cost and carbon regulation cost used in planning and resource acquisition evaluations), cost of capital, and a quantification of the financial costs to MP of rating agencies' treatment of long-term PPA payment obligations as imputed debt. Project costs will be present-valued and/or levelized back to a base year.

One of the goals of this RFP is to determine the overall cost to MP's retail customers of the selected resource(s). MP's economic evaluation of the proposal will consider the cost of interconnection and delivery of power from the proposed resource to MP's native load.

Non-economic/risk assessment

MP's evaluation team will rank the potential power supply portfolios by levelized total system cost and supplement each portfolio's place in the ranking with a qualitative assessment of the following risks in developing a final set of resources that will be recommended for inclusion on a short list:

Bidder's project team experience and financial strength,

Feasibility of schedule and current status,

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,

Locally sourced materials,

Status of site control, zoning, and local acceptance,

Located in an energy impacted community,

Community outreach experience and plan,

Interconnection complexities,

Transmission delivery complexities,

Portfolio fit and size of resource relative to MP's overall resource need of up to 725 MW (particularly applicable to relatively new technologies and/or development teams with little experience or financial strength),

Likelihood of permitting,

Environmental impacts,

Likelihood of getting financed,

Quality of design and construction plan,

Assessment of acceptable BESS technology,

Quality of O&M plan,

Socioeconomic and local community impacts,

Ability to provide MP timely and accurate information to schedule the unit into the MISO market, and

Exceptions taken to MP's Model Wind PPA or BOT Term Sheet.

Additional due diligence

Bidders of shortlisted projects will be notified, and face-to-face meetings and/or conference calls will be held to perform additional due diligence. Such meetings or calls will provide both MP and the Bidder with an opportunity to identify and clarify any remaining uncertainties that would complicate the finalization of a PPA or the development of the BOT project.

Following this process, MP will select one or more finalist projects that, in total, are sufficient to meet MP's customer needs.

8. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

MP makes the following reservations in undertaking this power supply solicitation:

MP reserves the right to modify or withdraw this Resource Request.

MP reserves the right to reject all responses to this Resource Request.

MP's Resource Request does not equate to an offer to purchase any capacity and energy.

All proposal preparation costs must be borne by the Bidder.

Proposals will not be returned to the Bidders.

MP may accept a proposal that is not the lowest cost proposal(s).

MP may seek clarification from Bidders and may request additional information from Bidders beyond that which is specifically identified in the Resource Request.

MP reserves the right to waive Bidder noncompliance with any aspect of its Resource Request.

MP may conduct negotiations with selected Bidders and may terminate negotiations at any time.

All decisions are conditioned on the approval of MP's management and Board of Directors as well as all required regulatory and other approvals.

MP reserves the right to modify or supplement this Resource Request at any time during this process. Any such modifications or supplements shall become part of this process and shall be addressed as part of any proposal submitted.