

2023 SOLAR, ONSHORE WIND, & STORAGE RFP WEBINAR



Webinar Date: 5/4/2023

For further inquiry on the posted Q&A, the Webinar, or the RFP, contact

DEVCleanEnergyRFP-Acquisition@dominionenergy.com

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
1	The Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) was previously listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) but is now listed as endangered. Has this change in status resulted in new requirements associated with the NLEB?	Yes. The previous 4(d) rule associated with the threatened status, which exempted many tree removal activities associated with energy development from take prohibitions, no longer applies. Take prohibitions under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act now apply in full.
2	What projects will be impacted by the NLEB Listing?	Any project that is in the range of NLEB (as indicated on the USFWS IPaC database) and that proposes removal of trees or structures.
3	What documentation should be provided with bid packages to address NLEB take prohibitions?	Projects that fall within the range of NLEB may address NLEB via one of the following options: 1. If there is a belief that no NLEB habitat exists on site, a developer may opt to conduct a habitat assessment to document the absence of suitable habitat and coordinate with USFWS for confirmation. Note that the NLEB occupies a fairly wide range of habitat types and the complete absence of habitat on large sites that will require tree clearing or structure removal is unlikely. 2. If habitat exists on site or if it is unclear whether habitat exists, developers should conduct field surveys to determine the presence or absence of NLEB at a specific project site during the May 15 – August 15 survey window. This will require coordination with USFWS on both survey protocol and results. Negative surveys remain valid of a period of 5 years.
4	A search of the USFWS database indicates that my project is within the range for the Tricolored Bat (TCB). What documentation should be provided with bid packages to address TCB?	Projects that fall within the range of TCB may address TCB via one of the following options: 1. If there is a belief that no TCB habitat exists on site, a developer may opt to conduct a habitat assessment to document the absence of suitable habitat and coordinate with USFWS for confirmation. Note that the TCB occupies a wide range of habitat types and the complete absence of habitat on large sites that will require tree clearing or structure removal is unlikely. 2. If habitat exists on site or if it is unclear whether habitat exists, developers should conduct field surveys to determine the presence or absence of TCB at a specific project site during the May 15 – August 15 survey window. This will require coordination with USFWS on both survey protocol and results. Negative surveys remain valid of a period of 5 years.
5	If a project falls within the range for NLEB and TCB, will (2) separate survey efforts and individual coordination with USFWS be required?	No. USFWS recently published updated field survey guidance that is appropriate for both NLEB and TCB so that both species can be evaluated in a single survey effort. All survey plans and reports must be coordinated with USFWS.
6	Will Dominion accept a USACE Delineation Concurrence Letter with a complete bid package in lieu of a Jurisdictional Determination (JD)?	The Company would strongly prefer to receive a JD confirming the location of regulated features on a project site. The Delineation Concurrence Letter does not provide the same level of certainty and may result in additional regulated features being identified on site during the permitting process. However, The Company is aware that the USACE Norfolk District is not currently prioritizing standalone JD requests. If your project has requested a JD from USACE, but has been informed that a JD will not be issued in time to support submittal of your bid package, a Delineation Concurrence Letter will be considered sufficient.
7	Can we have the recording of the webinar?	Yes. A recording of today's webinar will be posted on the RFP website when it is ready in the coming weeks.
8	Are out of state participants encouraged?	Yes. But please note that projects must be located in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and DER (distributed energy resources) projects must be located in Dominion Energy Virginia's service territory.
9	Can you share list of approvals / permits required for eligible solar projects	You can find a list of required permits and approvals on the solar checklist which can be located on the RFP website.
10	Can you be more specific about what would be considered a "low" DC/AC ratio for solar projects? For example, is there a cut-off ratio?	Our preference would be DC:AC ratios above 1.25; preferably 1.3
11	Can the DER resources be BTM residential assets?	No, similar to the Utility Sclae projects, the DER porojects will serve Dominion Energy Virginia customers and so must be in front of the customer meter. To be clear, we welcome proposals that are rooftop mounted or installed as carpports that meet the capacity limits.
12	We have a 12 MWac project that is located in Dominion Energy's VA footprint and has an SGIA ready to execute with Dominion, but it does not have a WMPA or PJM Queue submission. Would that project qualify for this RFP?	Without all of the data available to make an informed decision, this project appears to be compliant but will need a WMPA from PJM and will at the very least, need to be in the PJM queue before Dominion takes ownership.

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13	What stage of development a project can be to participate in this bid process	Projects must have all required permits and milestones completed that are outlined in the checklists which can be located on the RFP website. Projects that do not have all required documents may still be evaluated at Dominion's discretion, however, would be viewed less favorably than those that meet all of the requirements.
14	Can you email me the script showing entire presentation	A recording of today's webinar and the presentation slides will be posted on the RFP website when it is ready in the coming weeks.
15	What is tariff for this program to be considered	There is not a specific utility tariff or program that was approved by the SCC that governs this RFP. The RFP is governed by the VCEA, which was passed by Virginia's legislature and enacted in 2020.
16	Can we get a contact at Dominion to register ourselves as a EMS (energy management system) supplier, either directly to Dominion or thru the projects you acquire. thank you.	This seems more relevant to our Operations team - you can e-mail us this question and we can link you with the correct Dominion personnel.
17	Copy of requirements/checklist	The checklist which outlines the requirements can be found on the RFP website.
18	How much acre is required to construct 1 MWdc	We use a typical general rule of thumb of 10 acres per megawatt but there is quite a bit of variation from this general rule because of the diverse topography and environmental considerations in the Commonwealth.
19	Can a 3 MWac DER be constructed in another service territory as long as the point of interconnection is on a Dominion distribution line in Dominion's service territory, or do the panels and site all physically have to be in Dominion's service territory?	The physical panels can be located outside of our territory but, as you mention, the facility needs to be interconnected to Dominion Energy's distribution network at one of our substations.
20	For Solar + Storage, does Dominion have a preference for AC-coupled vs. DC-coupled systems?	Dominion will evaluate both AC and DC coupled systems, however all storage projects must have their own separate interconnection and the ability to grid charge.
21	Does the container density cap of 8 MWh mean two containers may be placed within 25' spacing each other not to exceed 8 MWh?	Yes. For further clarity, please reference the checklist requirements which can be located on the RFP website.
22	For storage, do you have any preference for distribution vs transmission storage size?	We do not have a preference and will evaluate projects independently based on viability.
23	What is the COD year you are looking for?	Today- this is typically driven by the PJM Interconnection timeline however, our preference is projects that can support COD of 2026-27 timeframe
24	Is the Target bifurcated on year by year basis? i.e. 500MW each year for COD etc	The company's RPS plan provides the desired annual capacity by year. However, we realize that projects that are available on a year-by-year basis may not necessarily line up with the RPS Plan. The VCEA also establishes interim targets.
25	What is the minimum overbuilt you are looking for?	Project should be able to maintain nameplate through year 5.
26	Any preference between Solar or Solar + Storage projects and an approximate purchase price for each?	We will evaluate projects based on the viability of each project and the strategic needs of the company. There are so many variables that go into project valuation, we can't offer a purchase price in this forum.
27	Please clarify sizing requirements for DG. You stated, "DG solar 3 MW or less at the same contiguous location if proposal includes a 1 MW facility." This language is confusing.	Indeed, the section of the VCEA that amends the code to create the RPS Program requirements carves out 1% to be satisfied with resources that are 1MW and smaller and places that co-location restriction. The section that sets out the zero-carbon generation petition requirement which includes the 1,100 MW for projects 3MW and smaller, that co-location restriction is not explicitly called out.

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28	What is Dominion's preferred stage of development at which it likes taking over a distributed generation project of 5 MW?	Dominion will accept 5MW proposals at the "pre-NTP" (pre notice to proceed) stage or all the way up to the MC (mechanical completion) stage.
29	Is the limit on DER solar 3 MWac or 5 MWac?	The RFP is soliciting projects in two categories, 3MW and smaller and larger than 3MW. The 3MW distinction aligns with the VCEA targets that mandate 1,100MW of the 16,100MW of zero carbon generation petitioned to the SCC be from projects that are 3MW and smaller. A 5MW proposal will be used to comply with the 15,000 MW zero carbon generation petition target of projects larger than 3MW. The Company is accepting MC proposals for projects 5MW and smaller because the VA Code does not require a CPCN from the SCC to authorize construction of those projects, effectively making for a slightly more streamlined regulatory approval process.
30	What counts as Dominion's "electric service territory"? Are electric cooperatives that Dominion provides power to in scope?	Dominion Energy Virginia has a defined territory where we are required to serve customers under the franchise agreement. Electric Co-Operatives have their own service territory.
31	If a solar project has a storage component, is it possible to bid it as both solar + storage, standalone storage, and standalone solar, such that the project may have 3 different ways to be accepted?	Yes, we can evaluate proposals of this nature. They would be appropriately scored in their respective asset class.
32	Does Dominion acquire projects BEFORE mechanical completion? Or only at MC or COD?	We acquire projects at "EPC- ready" /pre-NTP ... we run our own EPC process and we need development assets that fully inform an EPC firm, fixed-price proposal.
33	Does Dominion have a geographic preference for where energy storage systems should be located?	We will evaluate projects based on the best interest of the Virginia customer and reliability.
34	Is there a timeline to stop receiving applications for distributed solar?	The RFP is rolling and the timeline Todd described to meet regulatory filing applies.
35	Does this RFP include Dominion owned projects that are developed on Dominion owned property?	No.
36	Can we amend the submission?	If you have submitted a proposal and wish to amend the proposal, please provide a notice through the RFP email address. If a project has already been accepted for further due diligence please contact the appropriate Business Development team member.
37	I missed the start of this presentation. I apologize if this has been answered. Is there any interest in roof-top solar?	Yes, there is an interest in rooftop solar as long as it meets the minimum capacity request of 50kW.
38	Is there a deadline to submit projects or is the RFP accepting applications on a rolling basis?	We will accept proposals on a rolling basis, but please note that there are preferred dates that we will need proposals in order to meet the CE-5 regulatory filing.
39	Will Dominion have a varying AC:DC ratio for different technologies (Fixed tilt vs Single Axis trackers)?	We have an interest in both FT and SAT. DC:AC ratio is just one metric. Capacity Factor is another and reflective of energy production and project value.
40	You mentioned you usually recommend 15acres/MW for solar. Is that specific to the Virginia area? We usually have a scale of around 5-6acres/MW.	This has been our experience in VA however it is certainly site specific. Wetlands, cultural resource avoidance, topography and many other variables impact this very general calculation.
41	When you say that a DER will need a WMPA to be considered, does the WMPA need to be completed, or just applied for and issued a queue number by PJM?	Just applied for is sufficient.
42	How much involvement of the developer is allowed / preferred after acquisition until COD? After COD, can O&M be expected to remain with the developer if preferred?	Upon acquisition, Dominion will carry the project through construction and into operation. We wouldn't anticipate developer involvement beyond assisting in answering questions that may emerge through those processes.
43	Are projects sited in Energy Communities preferred?	Yes - The IRA provides benefits for projects in Energy Communities. Those financial benefits pass directly to our customers and provide additional value to our customers in ensuring we deliver clean, reliable and affordable electricity.

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44	For arriving at \$/Wdc price, how much tariff should we consider to build a financial model ?	We review project proposals on their merits associated with the development and likelihood of building a successful project. We don't require a financial model and use our own proprietary model along with the market to determine purchase price of assets.
45	Are we talking about experience in building project or operating experience	We are interested in the development of projects, and those assets, so experience in project development are critically important. For projects that are 5 MWs and less and where a proposal for a sale at mechanical completion is contemplated construction experience would be critically important as well.
46	Gary mentioned that Dominion will consider Transition Cycle #1 projects, but also that you need a firm idea of interconnection costs and COD date. Given the uncertainty introduced by the new study process, how will this impact your assessment of TC1 projects?	Projects in TC1 or TC2 will be evaluated and the cost uncertainty is certainly an added risk that impacts our overall valuation.
47	I missed what the gentleman stated, so Dominion is looking for projects being placed in service 2026-2027?	Yes. That is our preference.
48	For the EPA EJ docs & maps, is the 1-mile from the project boundary or from the POI?	Please use the project boundary.
49	Can a rough map of interconnection capacity across Virginia be provided?	For transmission connected projects, the Power Generation division of the company does not have access to that information. Developers will need to follow the PJM interconnection process to determine available capacity. For distribution-connected projects in the company's service territory, there is a hosting capacity tool available on Dominion's website that provides guidance.
50	Are solar projects in NC (PJM) eligible?	No, projects that are located in NC are not eligible to participate in this RFP. Only projects located in VA can be used to satisfy VCEA requirements.
51	Do 3MW DER projects need a WMPA to be considered for the Dominion RFP?	No, projects 5MW and larger need a WMPA. If you have a series of 3MW projects that aggregate to a much larger size then a WMPA will be helpful to allow for wholesale market participation
52	Can a map of preferred geographic areas be provided for stand-alone energy storage projects?	We are seeking projects that are far enough along in the development process that can be evaluated to be in the best interest of system customers.
53	Since the final DC rating for solar is ultimately determined by DOM design considerations, how and when is the final developer fee determined.	The dev fee is negotiated early on in the transaction with a purchase price adjustment mechanism that is applied when the project DC size is known.
54	In Plan B of the latest IRP released this week, there are no energy storage MWs called for until 2028 (90MWs are called for in 2028), how does the IRP impact your expectations for storage procurement for this RFP cycle?	This RFP allows for the acquisition of Energy Storage development. This means the 90MW assumption in the IRP could be placed in service earlier.
55	Does Dominion have future plans of developing battery storage projects on Dominion owned property?	As discussed, Dominion does consider self development of projects that can be submitted into the process for evaluation.
56	Will developers own and operate, or is Dominion looking to acquire the project?	Projects that are owned and operated by developers should be considered for the annual PPA RFP. This RFP for the sale of assets that Dominion Energy will own and operate.
57	What is the value of tariff to be considered for revenue from projects under this program	The company uses an energy forecast to determine the revenue from proposed facilities.
58	For utility scale BESS sites with physical constraints, is the 25' container separation requirement able to be waived by a certain extent? Say, down to 20'?	Dominion will not waive the 25' container spacing for physical constraints. In the case that a site has physical constraints present, firewalls could be utilized or the capacity could be reduced.
59	Are the questions and answers being asked accessible to the public	No- the platform that we are using for today's broadcast does not include a public view of incoming questions. We do plan to send out the full listing of Q&A and will post both the questions and answers on the RFP website.
60	As mentioned prior, for developers looking to own and operate their own DER solar projects, the PPA program is best. What is the PPA term length?	I'm not sure of the term lengths for all of our PPAs but I suggest you direct those questions through the PPA RFP process. DEVCleanEnergyRFP-PPA@dominionenergy.com