



## Gilbert Mills Non-Wires Alternatives RFP Supplier Clarification Questions



**Q1: Is it acceptable to propose an energy storage system that is larger than the identified need (e.g., a 5 MW / 20 MWh project)? If so, would the contracted NWA capacity be capped at the required need, while the remaining capacity is available for other value streams?**

A1: Yes, it is acceptable to propose an energy storage system that is larger than the identified NWA need . Yes, the contracted NWA capacity would be capped at the required need, while the remaining capacity would be available for other value streams provided this activity does not interfere with NWA obligations and complies with the project's NY-SIR interconnection agreement. Please see the [NY Program Value Stacking Matrix](#) for more information of which National Grid programs can be participated in simultaneously.

**Q2: Although the stated need runs from 2026–2030, would National Grid consider longer contract terms if this improves cost-effectiveness?**

A2: National Grid does not foresee an NWA need beyond 2030.

**Q3: Would National Grid consider proposals from projects that will not be operational until approximately 2028, provided they can reliably meet the need for the remaining years of the NWA period and/or under a longer contract term?**

A3: Yes, National Grid is looking for either one bid or multiple projects (including aggregations of resources) to build a portfolio to fulfill the need. A single bid must fulfill a portion of the need for at least one year but may start at any year in the term.

**Q4: For an ESS solution such as a 5 MW / 20 MWh system that can dispatch below 5 MW to meet the 6-hour requirement, is this configuration acceptable?**

A4: Yes, the contracted NWA capacity would be capped at the required need (2.7 MW). The remaining capacity would be available for other value streams. Please see the [NY Program Value Stacking Matrix](#) for more information of which National Grid programs can be participated in simultaneously.

**Q5: Can bidders request operational assurance that export will be allowed during VDER ICAP and DRV windows outside of NWA dispatch events, in order to maximize Value Stack revenues and lower costs to National Grid?**

A5: As long as the contracted NWA capacity is available for the required need, any remaining capacity would be available for other value streams. As per the [NY Program Value Stacking Matrix](#), VDER and NWA is allowed to be participated in simultaneously according to each program's contract requirements.

**Q6: After the NWA contract period ends, will the project retain standard NY-SIR interconnection rights to continue operating under VDER?**

A6: Yes. After the NWA contract ends, the project will retain its NY-SIR interconnection rights as long as it continues to comply with its NY-SIR interconnection agreement. Participation in any value stream program available at that time, such as VDER or other programs, would be subject to the program rules and eligibility requirements in effect at the time of participation.

**Q7: Is National Grid aware of whether participation in this NWA program would make a project ineligible for NYSERDA Retail Energy Storage incentives due to duplicative-compensation restrictions?**

A7: A project participating in the NWA program remains eligible for NYSEERDA Retail Energy Storage incentives. Please refer to the [NYSEERDA Retail Storage Incentives](#) website for more information program requirements and availability.

**Q8: The RFP states that National Grid will provide preliminary, non-binding interconnection cost estimates. To support siting and feasibility analysis, would National Grid be willing to provide high-level, order-of-magnitude interconnection cost estimates for new 5 MW front-of-the-meter storage projects on the three target feeders?**

A8: The contracted NWA capacity and cost would be capped at the required need (2.7 MW).

**Q9: The Hosting Capacity data suggests limited export headroom at this substation. Will NWA projects be evaluated through a standard NY-SIR/CESIR process, or does participation in an NWA allow for any tailored considerations in evaluating hosting capacity, export limits, or required upgrades?**

A9: NWA participation does not alter or replace the interconnection requirements that apply to a given project. Front-of-the-meter projects or any configuration that requires an interconnection review will be evaluated under the standard NY-SIR process, including any required interconnection study (Coordinated Electric System Interconnection Review (CESIR)). Hosting-capacity constraints, export limitations, and any required system upgrades will be assessed through that standard study process based on the full characteristics of the proposed project. Participation in an NWA does not create a separate or preferential interconnection pathway, and no special hosting-capacity treatment applies.

**Q10: Does National Grid intend to provide any support to awarded NWA projects in navigating local permitting and zoning processes (e.g., coordination with**

**municipalities or state agencies), or should bidders assume all permitting and local jurisdictional issues must be handled solely by the developer?**

A10: It is the developers' roles and responsibility to acquire all needed permits and adhere to local jurisdictional requirements.

**Q11: Can residential addresses be shared with Renew Home so we can better estimate our capacities at the feeder level?**

A11: National Grid does not share data of individual customers.

**Q12: Also, can you please clarify the use of 'the Customer' in the following statement found within the Metering section on page 25" "The customer shall be responsible for all metering and communication devices and associated costs." Does this mean the homeowner is responsible for metering equipment such as an AMI meter? Or would Renew Home be the customer in this case?**

A12: For NWA projects, National Grid contracts with the developer, not the homeowner. The developer will take on any responsibility in this contract.

**Q13: What is the minimum call length?**

A13: The minimum call length or minimum run time is 2 hours.

**Q14: Could you please confirm if EV chargers are eligible to participate? I noticed that demand response aggregators are permitted, but I wanted to verify the specific asset type.**

A14: Any asset that can meet the performance and M&V requirements is eligible for this opportunity.

**Q15: Additionally, could you provide the specific zip codes that fall within the target feeder area for this opportunity?**

A15: Here are the coordinates that fall within the target feeder area for this opportunity:

-76.227896 43.209707, -76.274449 43.240578, -76.146778 43.262951, -76.137543  
43.285286, -76.138048 43.316443, -76.192175 43.355578, -76.300380 43.416926, -  
76.321501 43.404581, -76.352105 43.317057, -76.276334 43.260698, -76.271282  
43.238962

**Q16: Can residential addresses be shared with the vendor so we can better estimate our capacities at the feeder level?**

A16: National Grid does not share data of individual customers.

**Q17: We deploy permanent and re-deployable BESS systems, controls and switch gear for utility and commercial customers. We support FTM or BTM programs. For this particular RFP and substation, we do not yet have site control(s) established. In lieu of a Piclo / asset with costs proposal, confirming the best channel to share information on our approach.**

A17: Site control is not required to submit a bid for this RFP. However, bidders must provide a description of their planned approach for securing site control, including any assumptions, timelines, and the candidate locations they will use to identify and acquire a viable site. All bids must include cost information and must be submitted through the Piclo platform in order to be considered. For more information, please reach out to the National Grid NWA Team at [Non-WiresAlternativeSolutions@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Non-WiresAlternativeSolutions@nationalgrid.com).