nationalgrid

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 NYSERDA Retail Energy Storage incentives. Please refer to the NYSERDA 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" "<u>The customer</u> 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.

Q18: If a bidder proposes mobile energy storage where batteries are charged off-site and physically transported to a dedicated POI for event discharge, will the CESIR process allow for temporary, frequent connect/disconnect operations, or is permanent stationary interconnection required?

A18: The NY-SIR/CESIR process is designed to evaluate permanent, stationary interconnections at a defined Point of Interconnection (POI). The RFP does not

contemplate temporary or frequent connect/disconnect operations associated with mobile energy storage charged off-site. Any proposed energy storage solution must have a fixed POI and comply with standard interconnection, metering, and operational requirements as determined through the CESIR process.

Q19: If a bidder proposes "new DG paired with energy storage" where the storage is charged exclusively by an off-grid DG source and never draws utility power, does this 15:00-21:00 charging prohibition still apply?

A19: The charging restrictions referenced in the RFP apply to energy storage systems that charge from National Grid's system. For storage proposed to be charged exclusively by on-site or off-grid distributed generation and not draw utility power, the applicability of charging restrictions will be evaluated through the standard NY-SIR/CESIR interconnection review based on the final project design and controls (any exemption from grid-charging restrictions is subject to verification through the interconnection process, and applicable operating conditions will be specified as part of that review). Bidders should clearly describe how non-grid charging will be ensured in their proposals.

Q20: Appendix C states energy drawn from National Grid's system to charge a BESS is subject to retail electric delivery rates. If a solution never draws utility energy for charging (e.g., it is charged off-site or via off-grid DG), can National Grid confirm these delivery/demand charges do not need to be included in the proposal pricing?

A20: If a proposed solution does not draw energy from National Grid's system for charging (e.g., it is charged off-site or exclusively via off-grid distributed generation), retail electric delivery and demand charges associated with grid charging do not need to be included in the proposal pricing. Bidders must clearly describe and support any such charging assumptions in their proposals.

Q21: For an FTM energy storage solution that uses on-site DG exclusively for charging (drawing 0 kW from the grid) and acts strictly as an exporting facility, will the preliminary interconnection cost estimate reflect this significantly reduced grid impact compared to a traditional bi-directional BESS?

A21: Interconnection costs and requirements will be determined through the standard NY-SIR/CESIR process based on the full technical characteristics of the proposed project. While an FTM energy storage system charged exclusively by on-site or off-grid distributed generation may reduce grid impacts associated with charging load, net export from the site may still drive interconnection upgrades or costs depending on system conditions, project size, and operating profile. Proposals that are willing and able to limit export during certain seasonal or hourly constraints may reduce system impacts and would be considered beneficial; however, any such limitations must be evaluated and approved through the CESIR and reflected in the final interconnection requirements.

Q22: How will National Grid evaluate the environmental impact or assign Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) scoring to a solution that relies on alternative-fuel generators (e.g., HVO, propane) to charge energy storage assets on-site?

A22: National Grid would evaluate the environmental impacts and associated BCA treatment of any solution relying on alternative-fuel generators to charge on-site energy storage assets in accordance with the New York National Grid Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Handbook[1]. There may be incremental environmental benefits and impacts that may be assessed based on the specific characteristics of the proposed solution, including the energy source used to charge storage (like solar) and its operating profile, consistent with BCA Handbook guidance.

[1] National Grid's most recent BCA handbook, version 5.0, can be found on the NY System Data Portal under the Company Reports tab. National Grid UNY (Niagara Mohawk) – BCA Handbook.pdf

Q23: The RFP notes the need is driven by Summer Normal ratings being surpassed. Can National Grid guarantee that NWA dispatch events will be restricted exclusively to specific summer months (e.g., June through September), allowing mobile assets to be deployed elsewhere during the off-season?

A23: Yes, the NWA need for this opportunity is driven by summer loading conditions, and dispatch events are expected to occur only during the summer Delivery Season as defined in the executed Flexibility Service Form under the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement. The specific Delivery Season, Service Window, and availability requirements will be memorialized in the applicable Real-Time Service Form (Appendix C, page 51) or Scheduled Service Form (Appendix D, page 58). Assets must remain available and meet all contractual obligations for the full Delivery Season specified in the executed contract.

Q24: To facilitate a Behind-the-Meter (BTM) load curtailment or aggregation solution on feeders 24751, 24752, and 24753, can National Grid provide anonymized load profiles for the highest-capacity commercial users, or is there a utility-facilitated "opt-in" mechanism to introduce bidders to interested local commercial hosts?

A24: National Grid cannot provide anonymized load profiles for individual commercial customers and does not offer a utility-facilitated opt-in or matchmaking mechanism. Customer identification and enrollment are the responsibility of the bidder or aggregator, subject to customer consent and privacy requirements. Bidders may use publicly available feeder-level information on the National Grid New York System Data Portal to support market analysis.

Q25: The RFP outlines a 95% guaranteed performance availability requirement and references "Non Performance Liquidated Damages per event". Can National Grid provide the specific formula, fee schedule, or penalty cap used to calculate these

damages if a Scheduled Service resource cannot fully dispatch its committed MW capacity during an event?

A25: Yes, the performance methodology and associated Non-Performance Liquidated Damages (LDs) applicable to Scheduled Service resources are defined in the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement. The performance calculation framework is set forth in Appendix B – Service Terms (Article 13: Performance), which describes how Scheduled Service performance factors are calculated and adjusted (see pages 45–47). The applicable LD structure, including how under-performance is monetized and any limits or caps, is detailed in Appendix H – Non-Performance Liquidated Damages (see page 90). Bidders should refer to these sections of the Agreement for the full formula and terms governing performance and damages.