

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - Bidders' Conference

| # | Question | Answer |
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| 1 | We understand that solar submissions for the All-Source RFP are often utility scale. Will PSE be interested in reviewing distributed solar projects (1-5MW) in this RFP, or shall we plan to only submit these in the Distributed RFP? | This is an all-source RFP, meaning that we will accept projects for all types of resources provided that they meet the RFP eligibility and minimum requirements, one of which is a nameplate capacity of 5 MW or greater. We recommend that smaller distributed energy resources such as distributed solar submit through one of the targeted RFPs, as those RFPs are specifically tailored to those types of resources. Please also note that PSE will evaluate proposals through either the All Source RFP or one of the targetted RFPs, but not both. |
| 2 | Is there a maximum MW per project we can bid? | There is no maximum, just a minimum of 5 MW or larger. |
| 3 | Is there a preferred solar/BESS configuration. i.e. 2:1, 1:1, certain number of hours duration? | PSE does not have a preferred configuration. Bidders may submit additional proposals if they would like to offer more than one configuration. Sizing and configuration will also depend upon factors such as transmission availability and the ability of the battery to charge from the grid. |
| 4 | Regarding PV/BESS hybrid resources, would you consider a \$/MWh power price (solar) plus a \$/kW-month toll for BESS? | Yes, PSE can accept pricing under that formulation. |
| 5 | The RFP states that bidders must have begun permitting efforts on proposed projects. Can you clarify what that entails? | The RFP minimum requirement for permitting is for bidders to provide a detailed permitting schedule that lists all required environmental and/or cultural resource studies, all discretionary and non-discretionary permits, and environmental review process (eg NEPA, SEPA). The detailed permitting schedule must present a timeline that is consistent with recent analogous review processes and that is reasonable and is consistent with and supports the proposed COD. Please see pages B-6 to B-7 in Exhibit B for the permitting minimum requirements. |
| 6 | Would PSE consider a Surety Bond as security type? | PSE strongly prefers a letter of credit (or parental guarantee from an investment-grade entity) and does not typically accept surety bonds. In certain cases, PSE may consider accepting a surety bond as part of the credit support package if it adheres to PSE's requirements. |
| 7 | How much is the bid fee? | The bid fee is \$10,000 flat, regardless of the nameplate. |
| 8 | Will Interconnection requests be started/submitted by PSE? | No. PSE expects bidders to submit the required interconnection requests to the respective transmission providers and manage the interconnection process to establish an executed LGIA. A submitted interconnection request and queue number is a minimum requirement of the RFP. |
| 9 | Will PSE be making their Colstrip transmission system transmission rights out of Montana available for projects that bid into the RFP? | PSE has not included its Colstrip transmission rights as part of Exhibit F, but will not automatically reject bids that propose to optimize PSE's transmission rights on the CTS. However, please note that given the wind projects that are under construction and contracted in Montana, we expect PSE's transmission rights on the CTS to be oversubscribed on a nameplate basis by 2030. Therefore, bids that propose wind or other resources that are complementary to existing resources would be expected to perform better in our quantitative analysis. |
| 10 | Is there any flexibility around PSE requiring an active TSR to be able to participate in the 2024 solicitation? | As a minimum requirement of the RFP, PSE requires an active TSR that has been submitted to a transmission service provider, and that the system impact study process (or equivalent) has begun. |
| 11 | Are bidders able to submit bids prior to the PSE bid due date of August 30th? Or are bidders required to submit after that date before September 16th? | Yes, bidders may submit their proposals as soon as the portal opens on August 1, prior to the due date. However, PSE will not open bids until the bidding period closes, 11:59 PM PPT on Aug. 30 for PSE self-build bids and 11:59 PM PPT on Sep. 16 for all other bids. |
| 12 | Would PSE consider BESS with ERIS rights instead of NRIS, similar to Pacificorp's plans? | For PSE on-system resources interconnecting to PSE's contiguous transmission system west of the Cascade Mountains (PSEI.SYSTEM) or in PSE's balancing authority area, NRIS interconnection is a minimum requirement. |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - Bidders' Conference

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| 13 | Will there be a specific carve-out for distributed solar projects? Between 5-10MW? | <p>This All-Source RFP does not establish targets for specific resources. Any proposal that meets the minimum requirements of the RFP is eligible to participate and will be evaluated alongside all other resources to identify the lowest reasonable cost portfolio that meets the need identified in Section 2 of the RFP.</p> <p>PSE has also issued a Targeted Distributed Solar and Storage RFP. See also PSE's response to Question #24.</p> |
| 14 | Will you accept BESS that interconnect directly to the grid without an associated generating facility or considered Hybrid be considered? | Yes. PSE will accept proposals for standalone storage systems. Please note that the interconnection studies for such resources must include study of the resource both as a generator (discharge) and as a load (charge). |
| 15 | Will PSE be granting capacity for wind resources? | <p>Yes. PSE will assign a capacity value provided that the resource meets the criteria that it is in PSE's balancing authority area at PSE's load center west of the Cascade Mountains (PSEI.SYSTEM), or meets the minimum requirement as defined in the RFP to secure long-term firm transmission to deliver to the BPAT.PSEI scheduling point or one of the other eligible points of delivery ("POD") specified in Exhibit F. ELCCs for wind resources are provided on Table 7.11 in Chapter 7 of the 2023 Electric Progress Report.</p> <p>https://www.pse.com/-/media/PDFs/IRP/2023/electric/chapters/07_EPR23_Ch7_Final.pdf?rev=e959ba073e7e48489333c1a4f844ba4d&modified=20230331182920&hash=254FD7E885BCEAE8A7E537FF2C1D5300</p> |
| 16 | Regarding bid fees, can you provide more detail about what constitutes a "proposal". If, for example, a project submits a bid for 15 and 20 year PPA options (all other details the same) would that require 10k of bid fees or 20k? | PSE will accept one offer per proposal for this RFP. In this example, a 15-year PPA and 20-year PPA are two different offers and, therefore, would require submission of two proposals, each with a bid fee of \$10,000 for a total of \$20,000. |
| 17 | Will projects that can come online earlier be considered more favorably? | While there is no "preference" for earlier projects, projects with earlier CODs generate benefits sooner and thus may model/evaluate better than other bids with later CODs, all else equal. |
| 18 | Does PSE have any preference about collocated storage sizing? 1:1 or 1:.05? | No preference. |
| 19 | PSE is requiring a description of the project components. It's not industry standard for final equipment selection to be made at this stage. Is PSE expecting final equipment selections to be made? | We acknowledge that projects in the earlier stages of development may not have all major equipment locked in. PSE would nonetheless expect bidders to have developed design, engineering and construction plans based on a set of expected project components and preferred vendors and equipment, which should be listed. You may indicate in your bid if the specific model of certain project components has not yet been finalized. |
| 20 | Is 2030 the latest COD that will be accepted? / What is the latest COD that will be considered for this RFP? | That is correct. The latest COD (or term start date) for the RFP is January 1, 2030. |
| 21 | What can PSE tell us about the self-developed projects it is submitting (e.g., asset type, capacity, quantity of projects, etc.)? | The RFP evaluation team does not have information on potential participating bids that PSE may submit other than what has been provided in the RFP materials (see Table 4 on p. 14 of the RFP document). The team evaluating RFP proposals is separate and walled off from the team preparing PSE participating bids. The RFP evaluation team will only see such bids when they are submitted. |
| 22 | Would PSE consider projects with firm transmission to PAC's system that require a wheel to Mid-C? | The RFP requires that any off-PSE system project secure long-term firm transmission and deliver to either PSE's balancing authority area at the BPAT.PSEI scheduling point, or to any of the eligible points of delivery specified in Exhibit F. If the intention is to deliver to Mid-C, we expect the bidder to secure a wheel of transmission that allows for firm delivery of the resource to a Mid-C scheduling point per Exhibit F. Please note that PSE's preference is that bidders deliver to BPA's NorthWest Market Hub (NWH) scheduling point. However, PSE will accept delivery to MIDCREMOTE as an alternate. |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - Bidders' Conference

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| 23 | When conducting the ESS location study are System Adjustments, including load shedding, allowed between N-1 and N-2 events in order to preserve system stability? | While the NERC TPL standard does allow for system adjustments for P6 (N-1-1) contingencies, including load shedding and interruption of firm transmission service, it is PSE's practice not to shed load or redispatch generation for NERC credible contingencies. We hold generator interconnections to the same standard. |
| 24 | Is your RFP in May for Solar and BESS linked together or separate projects? | The 2024 Distributed Solar and Storage RFP is for 30 MW of solar and 29 MW of storage, whether standalone or as hybrid systems. Please also note that the DSS RFP is only for projects interconnected to PSE's distribution system up to 4.99 MW, and the 2024 All-Source RFP is for qualified Bidders proposing projects of 5 MW or larger. More information on the DSS RFP can be found on PSE RFP website: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Distributed-Solar-and-Storage-RFP |
| 25 | Does PSE plan to provide scope of work documents for ownership offers or should bidders bid projects to their own scope? | PSE does not currently have scope of work documents available to share publicly. For projects proposing ownership that advance to Phase 2 and are prioritized for contracting, PSE will review the engineering, procurement and design specifications, and discuss with the bidders any project elements that might need to be modified to conform to PSE's standards during the negotiation process. Please note that as a minimum requirement, projects must use Tier-1 suppliers; and design, materials and workmanship must meet utility industry best practices, IEEE, ASME, ASCE, ASTM codes and standards, and NERC/WECC guidelines. |
| 26 | Does the ESS location study update (Exhibit H) indicate which are the limiting elements in the system to come up with the p1-p7 limits? | The study does not indicate the most limiting element that establishes the available hosting capacity. There may be multiple limitations that would need to be addressed in order to accommodate interconnection and those are best identified during the interconnection process. |
| 27 | Footnote 12 of page 10 indicates that PSE will not ascribe capacity value to projects interconnecting in PSEI's BAA east of the Cascades. Why would that be the case if the project has secured NRIS interconnection service from PSE? | Resources interconnecting on PSE's system east of the Cascades, including existing resources with ERIS interconnection, will not be able to secure NRIS interconnection due to cross-Cascades transmission constraints. Resources that obtain ERIS interconnection through PSE Transmission on PSE's transmission system east of the Cascades will need long-term, firm point-to-point transmission from their project to PSE's load center delivering to PSEI.SYSTEM, Mid-C, or another eligible POD listed in Exhibit F of the RFP materials, and will be assigned a capacity value. |
| 28 | Does PSE have plans for an all-source RFP after this one concludes? | PSE has not yet made definitive plans for our next RFP, as we are currently focused on this RFP. PSE does have sizable resource needs so ongoing resource solicitations are likely; however, the timing of subsequent RFPs will depend upon the outcome and resources that will be secured through this RFP. |
| 29 | Is PSE able to accept power to the node "PSEI_STHCNTGS" from BPA's grid? | Yes. PSE can accept power delivered to the PSEI_STHCNTGS point of delivery. |
| 30 | Why does PSE need resources connected to its own grid to have NRIS rights? | NRIS interconnection is required for on-system resources to ensure they are fully deliverable during peak system hours and it also allows PSE merchant to designate those resources as a designated network resource (DNR). |
| 31 | Do we have to provide cost estimates for substation upgrades or point of interconnection costs | Yes. PSE asks bidders to provide any associated interconnection and network upgrade costs established through the interconnection studies as part of their submission. |
| 32 | Is there a preference for build transfer vs PPA? Is there a volume of each type of transaction they expect? | The RFP does not have a pre-determined target for Build-Transfer vs PPAs. Bids will be evaluated based on the methodology described in the RFP materials (See Exhibits A and C). PSE will prioritize contracting with resource proposals that present the lowest reasonable cost and greatest benefit to PSE's customers in terms of their price competitiveness and overall risk profile. |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - Bidders' Conference

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| 33 | Is there somewhere we can see a table of the specific carve-outs (wind, BESS, distributed solar, utility solar, etc.) that PSE is hoping to fill with this All-Source RFP? | PSE does not have preset carve-outs by technology type for this RFP. In Phase 1, PSE will compare and rank proposals within their respective resource groups and advance to Phase 2 a selection from each group based on their combined quantitative and qualitative score. The portfolio optimization modelling and due diligence in Phase 2 will drive the determination of the best combination of resources to meet the need at the lowest reasonable cost and the proposals that PSE will prioritize for contracting. To get a flavor of a sample combination, the 2023 Electric Progress Report presents an indicative preferred portfolio on Table 1.1. |
| 34 | One of the projects listed as a "participating resource" being self-bid by PSE is a wind farm in Montana. Is the plan of delivery for that project for PSE to utilize its existing CTS rights? Will third-party Montana projects be evaluated equivalently as it relates to availability of CTS transmission to that participating resource proposal? | Yes, those resources will be evaluated on an equivalent basis. Please also see responses to #9 and #21 regarding the CTS transmission and PSE participating bids. |
| 35 | For hybrid resources: is the bid fee based on nameplate capacity or transmission injection capacity? For example, 200 MW solar with 200 MW BESS, but only 200 MW of delivery rights? | Bid fee is flat, \$10,000 per proposal. |
| 36 | Minimum bid requirements include "providing a parental guarantee from an investment grade entity or a letter of credit." Is this with regard to the security related to an offtake contract? Please clarify when the PCG or LoC is being required and in what amount. | PSE requires a parental guarantee or a letter of credit for both offtake agreements and ownership transactions as security for the counterparty's performance and other contractual obligations. Please refer to the prototype term sheets and full form contracts in Exhibit K and L, respectively, in the RFP document for details. |
| 37 | Can you confirm if your energy demand is 2.3M MWh in 2030, that's 263 MW? | To clarify, the 2.3 million MWh clean energy need in the RFP is the additional clean energy needed to meet 2030 targets, not the overall energy demand. Section 2 of the RFP document describes the resource need, which is summarized in Table 1. How much energy a particular resource contributes will mainly depend upon its capacity factor as well as other constraints, such as transmission. For example, a 263 megawatt project with a net capacity factor of 30% would generate around 690,000 megawatt hours. |
| 38 | Is the success fee based on nameplate or deliverable capacity? | The success fee is based on nameplate |
| 39 | Is there any other collateral requirements outside of the bid fee and successful bid fee? | If the question is asking about collateral requirements in order to submit a bid to the RFP, then no. Collateral requirements in the context of contracting is a different matter; please refer to the Prototype Terms Sheet and full form contracts included with the RFP materials to see PSE's requirements. |
| 40 | What about different CODs? | <p>This question appears to be related to #16: Would offers with different CODs be considered different proposals? The answer is yes; bidders may submit only one offer per proposal and must submit a separate proposal and separate bid fees for different CODs.</p> <p>Note that the RFP asks bidders to propose a COD that they are prepared to contractually commit to and that is no later than January 1, 2030.</p> |
| 41 | Will the Bidders' Conference presentation be made available after the official meeting today? | Yes, the presentation, conference recording and Q&A will all be posted together after the conference in the 2024 RFP Bidders' Conference section of PSE's 2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP web page: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP . |
| 42 | To clarify: would 2 different CODs (for example, a 6/1/2027 or 12/31/2027) require two different bid fees? | Please see the response to #40. |
| 43 | For BTAs, does PSE prefer a milestone payment schedule or lump sum payment schedule? | PSE's preferred BTA payment structure is shown in the prototype BTA term sheet in Exhibit J of the RFP document. PSE can consider other payment structures; however, please note the response to question #45 on the timing of transfer of ownership at mechanical completion in order to preserve eligibility for the Investment Tax Credit (ITC). |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - Bidders' Conference

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| 44 | In terms of meeting PSE's capacity needs, what ELCC or capacity factor is PSE attributing to BESS projects? | <p>The ELCC value assigned to a BESS will depend on the location, the storage duration, and the total amount of storage capacity in the PSE portfolio. PSE's current assumptions are taken from the 2023 Electric Progress Report: please refer to Table L.11, page L.29, of Appendix L of the 2023 Electric Progress Report (https://www.pse.com/-/media/PDFs/IRP/2023/electric/appendix/21_EPR23_AppL_Final.pdf?rev=67675930019d4832923506d1924177de&modified=20230331195807&hash=0E92EEC9FA40F61DCEED5AE0604E879D).</p> <p>For example, the winter ELCC for a 4-hour Li-ion Battery, tranche 1 (first 250 MW) will be 96%. Tranche 2 (next incremental 250 MW) will also receive a 96% winter ELCC. Tranche 3 (next incremental 250 MW) will receive a 76% winter ELCC.</p> <p>Please note that ongoing work related to the 2025 IRP process may cause these assumptions to change during the course of the 2024 RFP. For the latest information shared on this topic, see also the presentation deck posted to PSE's IRP web site from the RPAG meeting on March 12, 2024, slides 23-26. https://www.pse.com/en/IRP/Get-involved.</p> |
| 45a | Is the Seller responsible for payment of any charges for transmission or wheeling services, ancillary services, control area services, congestion charges, location marginal pricing differentials, transaction charges and line losses ("Transmission Charges") up to and at the Delivery Point. | <p>Bidders are responsible for making all arrangements to secure long-term, firm transmission to an eligible point of delivery specified in Exhibit F of the RFP materials. The cost of transmission service and other related charges will be included in the quantitative analysis. Under an offtake agreement such as a PPA, the Seller is responsible for making all transmission and related payments to deliver to the POD, or it may assign those transmission rights to PSE.</p> <p>Note that on Tab 2b of the Exhibit B-1 bid form, PSE asks Bidders proposing PPAs to provide pricing at busbar, and to separately provide wheeling, balancing, scheduling and other transmission-related costs to deliver to the POD on a firm, hourly basis.</p> |
| 45b | For build transfer submissions, would Puget Sound Energy absorb the tax credits or plan to monetize? Would PSE prefer to use a partner to monetize these tax credits? | PSE may do either: use the tax credits itself or sell them. PSE is not currently seeking a partnership or a "tax equity" arrangement. |
| 46 | Are different configurations of MWs considered a different proposal? i.e. 100 MW solar+100 MW BESS vs 120 MW solar + 80 MW BESS | Yes. See responses to questions #16, #40, and #42. |
| 47 | Does the "energy delivery cost" that is included with the proposal need to be expressed on a fixed \$/MWh basis or can proposals be structured to just pass through BPA's applicable costs for long-term firm point-to-point transmission? | <p>Units for energy delivery costs should be expressed on a \$/kw-year basis, as shown on the bid form in the corresponding sections. Using any other units such as \$/MWh or \$/Mo will result in a misrepresentation of pricing.</p> <p>Bidders can propose busbar pricing such that costs to deliver on a firm hourly basis to an Eligible POD would be passed through at the applicable transmission rates. PSE will include all of these costs in its quantitative analysis.</p> |
| 48 | Does PSE have a preferred PPA term length for this RFP? Additionally, does PSE have a preference for PPA vs. utility ownership proposals for this RFP? | <p>In this RFP PSE does not have a specific term length preference for PPAs; however, term lengths should be consistent with the expected useful life of the project. Note that as a minimum requirement the term length must be greater than four years.</p> <p>The RFP does not set any targets for one form of transaction vs another, so there is no preference in that respect. PSE will evaluate and prioritize contracting for PPA and/or utility ownership proposals that present the lowest reasonable cost and that are in the best interests of PSE's customers.</p> |
| 49 | The RFP says projects that would have been eliminated based solely on their Phase 1 quantitative + qualitative scores may advance, if they have strong equity scores. Is the reverse true as well? | No. The intent is to ensure that projects that may offer meaningful contributions to equity and customer benefits are not left behind in Phase 1. The Phase 1 screening and Phase 2 due diligence will identify any fatal flaws or material risks that might cause a proposal to be eliminated or de-prioritized. |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - Bidders' Conference

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| 50 | For the LCOE calculation, are the discount rates used to calculate the NPV of payments and the NPV of generation the same? | Yes, they are the same. PSE uses its most recent Authorized Rate of Return. |
| 51 | Can you elaborate on the price ranking example in Bidders' Conference slide 29? If I read it correctly, wind farms #1 and #3 offered the same PPA price, but #1 was assigned a price rank of 1, while project #3 was assigned price rank of 2? | If projects have the same levelized price, their quantitative scores will be tied. |
| 52 | Will PSE release any detail/weighting on the scoring of non-price metrics of the ranks for a better idea on what the bids should focus on? | Please refer to Exhibit A of the RFP materials, "Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubrics". Note that the rubric scoring is based on responses to yes/no questions, so bidders are able to see how they would score before submitting a bid. |
| 53 | Do PSE Resource Offers extend beyond the Lower Snake River Wind project? | Please see the response to question #21 above. |
| 54 | How does site location effect the qualitative scoring of Energy Justice? | The recognition section of the equity rubric asks for information on location, which emphasize any priority communities that would be affected. This reflects recognition justice under the energy justice scoring, where we recognize that there may be priority populations that the project would impact. |
| 55 | Where do we contact presenters email etc.? | Bidders should use the All-Source RFP mailbox (AllSourceRFPMailbox@pse.com). The Resource Acquisition team will channel questions/topics to relevant subject matter experts internally as needed, and revert to bidders through the All Source RFP Mailbox. Please note that PSE will post certain Q&As in anonymized form (to protect confidentiality and any commercially sensitive information) on the RFP web page to give all bidders visibility on topics of common interest. |
| 56 | Who comprises the "PSE Participating Bid" Team? | PSE has identified a group of employees who are working on self-build proposals. This group is separate from the RFP evaluation team that will evaluate the All-Source RFP bids. See also #57 below regarding how/where to send proposal information and questions to ensure that confidential and commercially sensitive information is protected. |
| 57 | The names of the PSE Participating Bid team should be shared so that bidders know who they should and should not provide information to. Many people in this industry have long lasting relationships. If someone was previously on the RFP team and is now on the Participating Bid team that would be good to know so that bidders can determine if they should continue to share information in the same way they may have done historically. | To ensure that confidential and commercially sensitive information is protected, Bidders should only provide RFP bid submission information to the All-Source RFP Team through the RFP submission portal, or ask questions through the All-Source RFP Mailbox (AllSourceRFPMailbox@pse.com). |
| 58 | Please include questions answered in chat in the summary as well. | All questions received during the 2024 RFP Bidders' Conference have been included in the Q&A. |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - RFP Mailbox

| # | Question | Answer |
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| 1 | Can you elaborate on how PSE or the IE will utilize the CapEx / OpEx estimates that are provided in the Bid Form for MIPA / Build Transfer bids? | For an ownership bid such as Build Transfer, PSE will use CapEx/OpEx inputs from bidders to develop pro forma analysis of the project. This will be used to assess the project. PSE may assess the reasonableness of bidder-provided inputs and make adjustments as appropriate in the selection process. |
| 2 | If a Bidder already has a current NDA with PSE, should they also execute the NDA provided along with the RFP materials, or will the previously executed NDA suffice? | All Bidders should execute the Mutual Confidentiality Agreement (Exhibit D) included in the 2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP. This agreement includes terms specific to the RFP procurement process and subsequent rate recovery process. A signed copy of the agreement is one of the minimum requirements for this RFP. It should be noted that the web portal will not accept a proposal that does not include Exhibit D. |
| 3 | Is PSE interested in procuring unbundled RECs through the All Source RFP released this month? Or only bundled products? | This procurement process seeks CETA-eligible energy and capacity resources to meet the need identified in Section 2 of the All-Source RFP. PSE is not seeking unbundled RECs with this All-Source RFP. |
| 4 | Does PSE have preferred points of delivery within PSE’s BAA – For example, Covington vs. PSE contiguous, central, or south? | PSE does not have a preferred sink point associated with the BPAT.PSEI point of delivery with PSE as the connecting system. Sink points can be found on BPA’s Transmission Availability webpage under the Contract Points List: https://www.bpa.gov/energy-and-services/transmission/transmission-availability . |
| 5 | In exhibit B, it is required that the Bidder’s project team have developed and completed at least 3 projects of similar size and technology to the proposed project. Would a team that meets this requirement by the combined experience and tack record of team members gained at prior companies be considered to meet this requirement? | Yes, combined experience and track record would contribute to satisfying this requirement. |
| 6 | At what point in the RFP process does a Bidder need to demonstrate its ability to provide a parent guarantee or a letter of credit? | The ability to provide a parental guarantee from an investment-grade entity or a letter of credit is a minimum requirement of the RFP as security against a successful bidder's obligations in any potential contract. Item #30 on Tab 1 of the Exhibit B-1 bid form asks bidders to acknowledge responsibility for meeting contractual milestones and that PSE will require either a parental guarantee or letter of credit (or equivalent); bidders must respond "yes" in order to satisfy minimum requirements. PSE will also assess bidders’ markups to the Prototype Term Sheets, which include credit support requirements, on a pass/fail basis. If selected for contracting in Phase 2, successful bidders will need to indicate which form of security they intend to use (either parental guarantee or letter of credit) and provide evidence of their ability to provide it at that time. |
| 7 | Exhibit B, Page B-11, appears to request detailed design requirements such as fire suppression equipment, equipment manufacturers, and warranties. Often projects in the early stage will not have such information available. Will having only a 5% or 10% design completed disqualify a BESS project? | Bidders should provide as much detail as possible to reduce uncertainties in PSE's evaluative process. If equipment manufacturers and model numbers are not yet known, Bidders may provide a list of manufacturers that are being considered, details on likely equipment, and a general statement about probable warranty periods. For balance of plant equipment such as fire suppression systems, the conceptual design and general type of planned equipment should be discussed. |
| 8 | What types of charging service, PTP, or NITS, are preferred for a standalone energy storage project bidding into the RFP process? | For an on-system standalone energy storage project interconnecting to PSE’s system west of the Cascades (PSEI.SYSTEM) with NRIS, PSE prefers NITS for charging. However, PSE will also consider interruptible network load service or PTP service depending on the project and viability of such services. For such projects, PSE Merchant will secure appropriate NITS, interruptible network load service, or PTP service to charge the resource following contract execution. For standalone energy storage projects interconnecting to PSE’s transmission system east of the Cascades with ERIS, PSE prefers interruptible load service or PTP service depending on the project and viability of such services. For standalone energy storage projects that are connecting off-PSE’s system, PSE prefers a PTP service depending on the source of the associated charging energy or market. |
| 9 | Can clarification be provided around what study is needed regarding the ability to charge a standalone energy storage project interconnecting to the PSE transmission system west of the cascades? And at what point is the study required in the process? For reference, the project would propose to enter into an Energy Storage System Tolling Agreement which explicitly states that Puget Sound would be responsible for all charging energy necessary to charge the project. | For an on-system standalone energy storage project requesting NRIS and interconnecting to the PSE transmission system west of the Cascades, PSE Transmission will perform a study for NITS charging or interruptible network load service following a request from PSE Merchant. There is not a static timeframe in which the study is required as part of the process. Please note that for such projects, PSE Merchant will secure appropriate NITS, interruptible network load service or PTP service to charge the resource following contract execution. |
| 10 | Does PSE have a list of Tier 1 suppliers for associated equipment (transformers, inverters, controllers, etc.) and battery suppliers and integrators? | No. Bidders should propose suppliers and integrators they believe will best suit project needs. PSE may provide input into specific suppliers later in the evaluative or contractual processes. |
| 11 | How will accounts work if different members of a team are working on the same proposal? Will there be some kind of proposal ID generated that will allow us to go in to a specific proposal that’s been uploaded? | A proposal needs to be tied to one single login account, which is tied to a single individual. |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - RFP Mailbox

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| 12 | Can I arrange a time to meet with the PSE RFP evaluation team to discuss my project? | Bidders should provide all required and relevant information on their proposals and projects on the Exhibit B Bid Forms and in any supplemental materials, and submit these through the RFP submission portal. Communications with the RFP evaluation team should go through the All Source RFP Mailbox (AllSourceRFPMailbox@pse.com). If needed, the RFP evaluation team will reach out to bidders to arrange meetings to clarify any aspects of their proposal as part of the due diligence process. |
| 13 | Do I need to submit a signed confidentiality agreement before I submit my bid? | No. A signed copy of the confidentiality agreement is due with your bid submittal by the bid due date specified in Section 6 of the All-Source RFP. Complete bids, including the confidentiality agreement, should be submitted through the RFP submission portal. PSE will countersign the agreement and send a fully executed copy back to the bidder. |
| 14 | Will PSE accept proposals for any storage duration? Does PSE have a preferred storage duration? | The RFP does not have a minimum requirement for storage duration. Please refer to Figure 3.6 and 3.8 in Chapter 3 of PSE's 2023 IRP Electric Progress Report for indicative capacity additions in the IRP preferred portfolio. |
| 15 | Will a line load study suffice for the requirement listed in Exhibit B. Proposal Requirements and Proposal Forms: "PSE requires batteries to be studied as a resource and as a load..." | <p>PSE does not require line and load studies for a standalone energy storage system interconnecting to PSE's transmission system. For an on-system standalone energy storage project requesting NRIS and interconnecting to the PSE transmission system west of the Cascades, PSE Transmission will perform a study for NITS charging or interruptible network load service following a request from PSE Merchant. There is not a static timeframe in which the study is required as part of the process. Please note that for such projects, PSE Merchant will secure appropriate NITS, interruptible network load service or PTP service to charge the resource following contract execution. For standalone energy storage system interconnecting outside of PSE's system, PSE requests load studies as required by the associated Transmission Provider per their tariff requirements.</p> <p>For off-system batteries, they will need to follow the processes for the transmission provider for interconnection as a load. The developer will also need to demonstrate that they have obtained firm transmission service from the transmission provider to charge the device.</p> |
| 16 | Please confirm a TSR is not required to bid projects interconnecting to PSE's system. | For an on-system project interconnecting to PSE's contiguous transmission system west of the Cascades (PSEI.SYSTEM) and requesting NRIS, a TSR is not required. However, resources that contemplate ERIIS through PSE Transmission on PSE's transmission system east of the Cascades will need long-term firm PTP transmission from their project to PSE's load center delivering to PSEI.SYSTEM, Mid-C, or another eligible POD listed in Exhibit F of the RFP. |
| 17 | Is there a hosting capacity map available for projects at the utility scale level (>100MW) along with the Interconnection process and costs ? | PSE is working on the development of a transmission level hosting capacity map to comply with FERC Order 2023; however, this map is not yet available. Please refer to the Energy Storage System Locational Study posted on PSE's OASIS (https://www.oasis.oati.com/woa/docs/PSEI/PSEIdocs/6_17_24__Energy_Storage_Location_Report.pdf) for hosting capacity information for various PSE substations. PSE's interconnection process, including the costs associated with interconnection studies can be found on PSE's OASIS (http://www.oatioasis.com/psei/) in the 'Generator Interconnection' > 'Large Generation Documents' folder. |
| 18 | The bidder conference recording link is not working, please let us know when a live link is available to be viewed. | The link to the 2024 RFP Bidders' Conference recording has been updated and can now be viewed. |
| 19 | If we have a partnership or a toll with PSE would the deadline to participate August 30th or Sept 16th? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If PSE is participating in the preparation and submission of a bid in partnership with the bidder, then that would be considered a PSE participating bid and should be submitted by the August 30 deadline. 2. If the bidder is preparing a bid for a resource in which PSE currently holds a partnership stake or has a toll/offtake agreement, but PSE is not involved in any way in the preparation or submission of the RFP bid, then that would not be considered a PSE participating resource and should be submitted by the September 16th deadline. Please note that on Tab 2a of the Exhibit B-1 Bid Form, bidders are required to disclose whether they are a subsidiary or affiliate of PSE. |
| 20 | What bid variations would result in separate \$10k bid fees? For instance, would alternative PPA terms, project tax credit qualifications, or project sizes result in multiple \$10k bid fees? | Alternative PPA terms and project sizes would result in separate \$10k bid fees. To the extent that alternative project tax credit qualifications result in alternative pricing, PPA terms, CODs, or other key commercial terms, then separate proposals would need to be submitted. |
| 21 | Is there an approved vendor list? Is there a preferred vendor list? | Bidders should propose suppliers and integrators they believe will best suit project needs. PSE may provide input into specific suppliers later in the evaluative or contractual processes. |
| 22 | Does PSE have a preference for projects with Domestic Content eligible components? | In the context of the RFP evaluation criteria, PSE does not have an explicit preference for domestic content. PSE expects pricing for all offtake agreements to be fixed and not contingent on whether or not the bidder ultimately secures the domestic content bonus. PSE will follow a structured evaluation process designed to screen and rank individual proposals based on an assessment of costs, risks and benefits. PSE will evaluate each proposal according to the criteria described in Exhibits A and B of the RFP document, which can be found here: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - RFP Mailbox

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| 23 | Can PSE further clarify the Bidder’s responsibility as it pertains to PSE’s definition of “begun permitting efforts before responding to this 2024 All-Source RFP”? | PSE requires bidders to provide a detailed permitting schedule that lists all required environmental and/or cultural resource studies, all discretionary and non-discretionary permits, and environmental review process (eg NEPA, SEPA), including the status of each, which must show that the bidder has begun the permitting process in at least one area (such as habitat studies). The detailed permitting schedule must present a timeline that is consistent with recent analogous review processes and that is reasonable and is consistent with and supports the proposed COD. Please see pages B-6 to B-7 in Exhibit B for the permitting minimum requirements. |
| 24 | Are ALL projects that participate in this RFP, regardless of their location, required to have a TSR in progress or complete? | <p>For an on-system project interconnecting to PSE's contiguous transmission system west of the Cascades (PSEI.SYSTEM) and requesting NRIS, a TSR is not required. Please note that NRIS interconnection is a minimum requirement for any project interconnecting on PSE’s contiguous transmission system west of the Cascades.</p> <p>All other projects, including those with ERIIS interconnection through PSE Transmission on PSE's transmission system east of the Cascades, will need to have an active TSR in progress that supports long-term firm PTP transmission by January 1, 2030 from the project to PSE’s load center delivering to PSEI.SYSTEM, Mid-C, or another eligible POD listed in Exhibit F of the RFP. (Please also see response to #27 of the Bidders' Conference Q&A).</p> |
| 25 | <p>In the 2021 All Source RFP, PSE specifically allowed for ERIIS resources within the PSE BAA (contiguous transmission system) if they also requested long-term firm, point-to-point transmission service through a TSR.</p> <p>Bidders' Conference Q&A #12 indicates that NRIS is interconnection status is required for projects interconnecting directly to PSE's system west of the Cascades and Q&A #10 indicates that "As a minimum requirement of the RFP, PSE requires an active TSR that has been submitted to a transmission service provider, and that the system impact study process (or equivalent) has begun."</p> <p>Can PSE please confirm that consistent with the 2021 All Source RFP, a project that has ERIIS status within the PSE BAA west of the Cascades will be compliant if it has submitted a TSR to PSE?</p> | PSE will not consider a proposal to have met the minimum requirements of this RFP if the project only has ERIIS interconnection status within the PSE BAA west of the Cascades, regardless of whether it has submitted a TSR to PSE. The minimum requirement is as described in Bidder’s Conference Q&A #12. |
| 26 | PSE's minimum requirements include that projects under development must have obtained 50% site control. How exactly will PSE evaluate the percentage site control for a given project? Does PSE have a general acres/MW metric for solar/wind/BESS technologies that it will use? Does PSE's requirement pertain simply to the project footprint or to the gen-tie as well? | The RFP minimum requirement of at least 50% site control refers to the percentage of the total project site footprint, including any land required for a generation tie-line, for which the bidder has executed binding agreements (such as deeds, leases, easements, options, etc.) |
| 27 | Can you guide us to where the Q&A for the 2024 Puget Sound All Source RFP is posted? | From the RFP web site (www.pse.com/rfp), select the 2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Web page. Click on Updates and Notifications to download a copy of the Current Q&A Log. |
| 28 | We have a team of about six members who are all working on the same proposal. If one of us uploads the proposal to the portal, does this setup mean that only the individual who uploaded the proposal will be able to edit it? Can other members of the team have access to the proposal to edit it, include attachments, etc.? | <p>That is correct. The proposal is tied to one single login, which is tied to a single individual. The portal is mainly there to attach all your documents, submit and obtain a proposal ID. The system will also do some preliminary requirement checks as well as some malware scans. Perhaps your team can work offline to gather all the documents needed before submitting.</p> |
| 29 | Do we need to come up with a transmission plan to get the energy to a delivery point, or can we submit a nonconforming bid to deliver into another system. Will Puget Sound accept any nonconforming bids at all, to other delivery points that PSE may be able to utilize in the future? | Bid submissions to the RFP must conform to the RFP requirements, including necessary transmission arrangements to eligible points of delivery detailed in Exhibit F. Non-conforming proposals may be considered separately if they present unique and/or time sensitive opportunities for PSE’s customers. |
| 30 | Regarding Question # 29's response above, should I take “non-conforming proposals may be considered separately” to mean that I should present pricing to our commercial counterparties outside of the RFP process? | You may send an email to the All Source RFP Mailbox summarizing the non-conforming project and how it presents a unique and/or time sensitive opportunity that otherwise meets PSE’s stated needs. Please note that PSE is focused on and prioritizing the RFP and proposals that conform to the RFP requirements, and may not respond until after the RFP is complete. |
| 31 | <p>This question pertains to the performance security requirement that is outlined in Section 5, Appendix B, and spreadsheet Exhibit B-1.</p> <p>I have read Q&A questions 6 and 36 and I’ve reviewed the Renewable Energy PPA Term Sheet. It is still not clear to me if the performance security requirement is imposed at the time of proposal submission (9/16/24). Please clarify this.</p> | A successful bidder will be required to post credit support in the form of either a parental guarantee from an investment-grade entity or a letter of credit within 5 business days of the effective date of any executed contract. Failure to do so would be an event of default, subject to the termination rights of the non-defaulting party and right to collect termination payment from the defaulting party. Please refer to the full form contracts provided in Exhibit K of the RFP materials for further details, which include the Form of Seller’s Guaranty and Form of Letter of Credit that PSE will accept. Note that PSE will assess any proposed edits to the term sheets and form agreements on a pass/fail basis for any unacceptable terms or conditions (p. C-3 of the RFP document). |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - RFP Mailbox

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| 32 | <p>This question pertains to the requirement that Bidders demonstrate proof of active TSR when delivering to an approved BPAT.PSEI POD as outlined in Exhibit F Table 1.</p> <p>We are close to the point where we can submit our TSR to initiate studies. If Bidders will soon be able to show proof of TSR, but do not yet have one in motion at the time of proposal submittal, will this be treated as a disqualification in your evaluation process?</p> | <p>Yes. For resources not interconnecting to the PSE BAA west of the Cascade Mountains, bidders must have submitted one or more transmission service requests for delivery to the PSE BAA or PODs identified in Exhibit F, Table 1 and provide the TSR #s (Exhibit B-1, Tab 5). The TSR(s) must support long-term firm service (which may include bridge conditional firm service) by January 1, 2030.</p> |
| 33 | <p>Will edits to the NDA be accepted?</p> | <p>Due to regulatory constraints and concerns about fairness, PSE is generally unable to consider changes to the Mutual Confidentiality Agreement (MCA). PSE is not inclined to make exceptions because the MCA is a standard agreement used for all respondents, which was filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in docket number UE-240532.</p> |
| 34 | <p>For MIPA bid projects that are connecting to a transmission system that is owned by someone other than PSE and that require upgrades to the POI substation, does PSE have a preference on whether the interconnection agreement puts the procurement, design, and construction responsibility on the transmission owner or selects “Build Option”, which would put the EPC responsibilities on PSE if they acquire the project?</p> | <p>PSE prefers that the Standard Option is selected in the interconnection agreement to place the responsibility on the transmission owner.</p> |
| 35 | <p>If bidding a hybrid resource (solar + battery storage), is only a PPA term sheet markup required? The RFP document references only a PPA contract for a hybrid resource. Can you confirm?</p> | <p>For a hybrid resource proposal that has both an energy component (\$/MWh) and a capacity component with PSE having dispatch control over the associated storage (\$/kw-yr), then the bidder should review both the PPA and Capacity Tolling term sheets. If the bidder is proposing an energy-only offer (\$/MWh) where it retains control over the storage resource, then review of the PPA term sheet would be sufficient.</p> |
| 36 | <p>After reading through the documents, I noticed that PSE is accepting deliverability to its system in general. However, there are only 4 points of deliverability listed in Exhibit F.</p> <p>Are there other Nodes that PSE will accept BPA TSRs for? I am particularly interested in the following POD - PSEI_STHCNTGS</p> <p>Page 11 says: "Bidders may deliver to the PSE BAA west of the Cascade Mountains (PSEI.SYSTEM) or BPAT.PSEI."</p> <p>So, I believe that this allows for delivery to the PSE Systems. Please disregard my message unless you see something wrong with this.</p> | <p>PSE will accept delivery to any relevant Sink points associated with the BPAT.PSEI Point of Delivery (POD) where PSE is the Connecting System on BPA's Contract Point List. PSEI_STHCNTGS is a valid Sink point associated with the BPAT.PSEI POD. BPA's Contract Point List can be found on the BPA Transmission Availability webpage (https://www.bpa.gov/-/media/Aep/transmission/transmission-availability/contract-points-list.xlsx).</p> |
| 37 | <p>Can you please clarify the request in tab 2a. Commercial Details, Legal and Financial where it is requesting that we submit a deal diagram attachment with all contractual parties? Are the contractual parties you are referring to vendors, contractors, and lenders or just commercial counterparties to/for PSE?</p> | <p>PSE is looking for a diagram that includes two core components: (1) the various key parties involved and (2) an overview of all elements of the transaction being proposed.</p> <p>(1) The key parties would clearly show the roles and relationship among the various key parties involved in the Respondent's project.</p> <p>(2) The transaction component could include arrows that show all exchanges of cash flows and energy between the entities defined in (1) above.</p> <p>The information a bidder provides in this diagram will vary depending upon the nature of the project being proposed (stage of development, PPA vs ownership, etc.), and PSE invites bidders to provide PSE with as complete a picture as possible to help the evaluation team understand the parties involved in the project and their relation to each other. If all the parties aren't known at this time, placeholders are acceptable.</p> |
| 38 | <p>Our accounting team will need to add PSE as a payable entity in our system. As part of our internal process, a member of our accounting team will need to reach out to a member of the PSE team to verbally confirm the account and routing number. Is there contact information you can provide for this (name and phone number)?</p> <p>It also looks like we will need a Proposal Number for ACH payment, which we receive once we submit our proposal. Is it possible for us to receive this number ahead of time so we can provide it to our accounting team as they prepare the bid fee?</p> | <p>Bid fee instructions and account number information are available in the Documents and Submission section of the RFP webpage: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP.</p> <p>If a callback is needed, please reach out directly to AllSourceRFPmailbox@pse.com and additional assistance will be provided.</p> <p>Proposal ID numbers are automatically generated by the system upon successful submission. It is not possible to receive a proposal ID number ahead of time.</p> |
| 39 | <p>Could you please clarify how we can go about submitting redlines to the Mutual Confidentiality Agreement?</p> | <p>Please see response to Question #33.</p> |
| 40 | <p>Would you consider batteries a form of variable energy storage when completing Exhibit B-1?</p> <p>Which of Sections 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d and 4 would we need to complete for these projects?</p> | <p>No. Batteries are an energy storage resource. We would expect completion of tab 3c. In tab 4, please include the project capacity. If the proposal anticipates that PSE would manage the dispatch of the storage resource, no data should be entered in the 8760 profile. If the proposal anticipates that the developer would manage the dispatch of the storage resource, please complete the anticipated 8760 profile.</p> |
| 41 | <p>In the Proposal Content Checklist tab of the Exhibit B-1 (Proposal Form), it references an “Exhibit B (Word document)”. Can you confirm that this is the Exhibit B. Proposal Requirements and Proposal Forms section of the All-Source RFP pdf?</p> | <p>Yes, that is correct. The Exhibit B (Word document) refers to the "Exhibit B. Proposal Requirements and Proposal Forms" section of the All-Source RFP pdf.</p> |

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| 42 | <p>In the Qualitative Rubric (Exhibit A-1), it appears that the “Yes/No” selections we make do not affect the points, totals or any other fields. Is this by design?</p> | <p>The Exhibit A-1 qualitative rubric that was posted with the RFP materials indeed does not perform the calculations of point totals, although bidders are able to see what they would score by doing the summations themselves. PSE will update Exhibit A-1 so that the point total fields are automatically calculated and repost it to the website for bidders to use by [SPM (PST) 8/21/2024]. If you have already completed the current Exhibit A-1 qualitative rubric, you may still submit that form and it will not affect the intake or scoring.</p> |
| 43 | <p>How does PSE analyze a guaranteed degrading BESS capacity?</p> <p>For a 25-year useful life BESS with an annual degrading battery – would PSE contract with a BESS with a guaranteed annual capacity that degrades annually or does PSE need the guaranteed capacity to be the same over the lifetime of the contract?</p> <p>The degrading guaranteed capacity allows PSE to hedge with future BESS procurement in a declining BESS capex scenario.</p> <p>The degrading battery will result in a lower BESS tolling agreement price vs overbuilding the project that will allow for 25 years of fixed guaranteed capacity.</p> | <p>PSE will consider both guaranteed fixed BESS capacity tolling agreement proposals (which may entail initial overbuild or battery augmentation by the developer) and guaranteed degrading BESS capacity tolling agreement proposals. If presenting both scenarios, these would need to be submitted as separate bids. PSE notes that degrading capacity projects must be cost competitive with fixed capacity projects, including accounting for any inefficiencies that may arise over time from degrading profiles (e.g., transmission).</p> |
| 44 | <p>Will PSE allow for conditional firm transmission service?</p> | <p>Yes, PSE will accept Bridge conditional firm service with either Number of Hours or System Conditions identified. PSE will not accept Reassessment conditional firm service.</p> |
| 45 | <p>Will Puget consider a BESS project that can only meet the following operating characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 65 cycles per year, max 2 per day, partial cycles allowed• 100 – 100% SOC, 30-70% Annual Average SOC | <p>PSE will not reject proposals that indicate changes to these terms in the prototype term sheet. All changes, whether they offer more or less commercial benefit to PSE, will be considered as part of the overall assessment of the bid.</p> |
| 46 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a grid charging capability required/desired for all BESS projects?• What are the priority use cases for batteries proposed to be co-located with PSE renewable generation facilities? | <p>Grid charging capability is preferred for all BESS projects and required for standalone BESS. Any standalone storage resources will need to demonstrate the ability to both charge and discharge, including establishing both a generation interconnection and a means to charge the load either through retail load service or firm transmission service. PSE will consider renewable project proposals with co-located BESS that are not grid connected; however, those with grid-charging capability are expected to perform better in the evaluation process (all else equal). Grid charging provides PSE and PSE's customers maximum flexibility to charge and discharge a BESS project consistent with our demand profile.</p> |
| 47 | <p>Is it acceptable to submit a proposal for a resource that would utilize excess PSE interconnection capacity?</p> | <p>While PSE can accept and will not automatically reject bids that propose to utilize excess or surplus interconnection capacity, the decision to advance such bids to Phase 2 and pursue contracting (if the bid otherwise qualifies) will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please note that bidders should clearly indicate whether the pricing assumes that curtailments due to interconnection limitations will be borne by the bidders or PSE, and the bid proposal will be modelled accordingly. Any successful proposal that will require new surplus interconnection service will be managed on a case-by-case basis with direct involvement from PSE.</p> |
| 48 | <p>Tab 4 (Energy Output 8760) of Exhibit B-1 requires the proponent to include an 8760 Variable Energy Profile for Intermittent Resources.</p> <p>1. Is the information in Tab 4 also required for Energy Storage Resources?</p> <p>2. If so, do you expect the proposed 8760 energy output in Tab 4 to meet the requirements of seasonal demands, heavy load periods, and super peak hours, while also managing load surpluses or charging during off-peak hours?</p> | <p><u>Tab 4 Energy Output 8760s is intended for intermittent generation resources such as wind and solar.</u></p> <p>Please also see the response to Question 40.</p> <p>Consistent with that response, the 8760 profile should be completed for energy storage resources only if the developer expects to manage the dispatch of energy. The developer may consider any factors, including those mentioned, in their proposed 8760 profile. PSE recommends to include any considered factors, limitations, or possible optimizations of the profile in your written proposal.</p> |
| 49 | <p>If a project is ERIS, would PSE consider an offer from within their Balancing Authority Area or is NRIS an absolute requirement (as indicated in RFP from my understanding)?</p> | <p>Please see the response to Question 25.</p> <p>PSE will consider an offer requesting ERIS within the PSE BAA east of the Cascades only if there is an associated TSR submitted for transmission to an eligible point of delivery. PSE will not consider an offer requesting ERIS within the PSE BAA west of the Cascades.</p> |
| 50 | <p>How would we offer some assets into the RFP as a BTA – PPA/Tolling agreement combination?</p> <p>For example, if we are building a 400 MW asset, we may offer PSE a 200 MW BTA tranche combined with a 200 MW PPA/Tolling Agreement. This is a package deal as pricing will be premised upon a 400 MW build.</p> | <p>For an offtake/ownership combination of the same resource, the bidder will need to submit separate proposals for each transaction type, and pay the bid fee for each. An offtake/ownership bid increases the amount of evaluation modelling and due diligence <u>to consider advancing</u> the bid to Phase 2. The bidder should clearly indicate that the proposal is linked to or contingent upon another proposal on Row 94 of Tab 2b “Offer Details” of the Exhibit B-1 Bid Form (“Additional offer and pricing details”).</p> |

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| 51 | <p>Our project property is shown to be located in a “High Impact Community” land per PSE’s Named Communities map tool. PSE defines “Highly Impacted Communities” as communities that have at least one of the following criteria:</p> <p>a)The census tract is covered or partially covered by “Indian Country” as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151; or</p> <p>b)The census tract ranks a 9 or 10 on the Environmental health Disparities Map, as designed by the Washington State Department of Health.</p> <p>Based on the Disparities Map, our applicable census tract ranks 4 in Environmental Health. So, that rules out (b) above. This leaves us with “Indian Country” as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151. Can PSE clarify which component of the definition of “Indian Country” as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151 our property triggers?</p> | <p>PSE is not in a position to comment on the criteria based on the Code of Laws 18 U.S.C. 1151, which is defined “as is” and included in the attachment. Developers will need to attest as to whether their project area is covered or partially covered based on these provisions, and PSE expects the developer to take responsibility for ascertaining project location, its relation to this code and meeting code compliance. Washington State Department of Ecology Geospatial Open Data Portal provides further details on Tribal Lands.</p> <p>Link to Code 18 U.S.C 1151: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2023-title18/pdf/USCODE-2023-title18-partI-chap53-sec1151.pdf</p> <p>Link to Washington State Department of Ecology Geospatial Open Data Portal: https://geo.wa.gov/datasets/fb1e72ec1d9146e09b56baf2ca686d15/explore</p> |
| 52 | <p>When submitting supporting documents for the RFP, where should engineering drawings and manufacturer data sheets reside?</p> <p>Should these be included in Section 6. Development Details of Exhibit B-1. Proposal Form?</p> | <p>These documents should be submitted through the RFP intake portal by selecting "Other Documents". Manufacturer data sheets submitted can be listed on Tab 6 Development Details (cell A26) and engineering drawing also on Tab 6 (cell A21) of the Exhibit B-1 Proposal Form.</p> |
| 53 | <p>Regarding Appendix A (Technical Specifications and Scope of Work) to Exhibit K-4. Form Build Transfer Agreement. We were curious where to find this appendix or if it could be shared as we didn’t see it in the RFP or the provided documents?</p> | <p>Appendix A has not been provided with the form Build Transfer Agreement and RFP materials, as it will be specific to the particular project. This appendix and other attachments will be drafted and finalized during the course contract negotiations, should a proposal advance to that stage.</p> |
| 54 | <p>When submitting items via the portal, is the expectation for the Exhibits only to be submitted for the specific document type? So, for the Exhibit B supporting documentation e.g. “Project Map” (in Tab 3. Facility/Real estate) should these be submitted via the intake portal under “Other Documents”, or should they be linked to Exhibit B?</p> | <p>Yes, supporting documentation should be submitted via the intake portal under "Other Documents." Supporting documentation should <u>not</u> be linked to Exhibit B. Exhibit B should <u>not</u> be changed, otherwise you may encounter issues when trying to submit your proposal.</p> |
| 55 | <p>It appears that busbar pricing information (energy and capacity pricing, including escalation factors) is required to be input on tab 2b of the proposal input for asset purchase offers. Can PSE confirm that this information is required and, if so, what financing and other assumptions bidders should use for calculating the energy/capacity pricing? It seems that energy/capacity pricing would be calculated by PSE and not applicable to asset purchase offers.</p> | <p>For an asset purchase offer, bidders have the option to leave the Busbar Pricing (delivery at POI) section on Tab 2b blank. Instead, they can enter applicable pricing information in Tabs 7 and 8, providing as much detail as possible.</p> |
| 56 | <p>Could your team provide more specific information on what the fencing requirement is below for Solar projects? It can help our team with project design.</p> <p>- "Security fencing with vehicle gates meeting PSE and state wildlife guidelines will be required around solar array areas."</p> | <p>For all PSE-owned or operated projects, PSE has specific standards related to fencing around substations (detailed standard available upon request). For planning purposes, assume a hot-dip galvanized A36 steel chain-link fence using 9-gage wire and heavy-duty hardware. Fence height should comply with National Electric Code (NEC) Article 110.31, which deals with enclosures for electrical installations: "A fence shall not be less than 7 feet in height or a combination of 6 feet or more of fence fabric and 1 foot of extension utilizing three or more strands of barbed wire or equivalent." An entry gate with electronic badge access will also be required.</p> <p>For all projects, PSE-owned or operated O&M buildings/facilities should also be fenced per the above substation fencing standard, with two entry/exit gates and electronic badge access.</p> <p>For PSE-owned or operated BESS projects, the above substation fencing standard applies for the entire perimeter of the project, with two entry/exit gates and electronic badge access.</p> <p>For PSE-owned or operated solar projects, perimeter fencing around the entirety of the array areas will be required. For Washington projects, assume galvanized steel chain-link fencing 6 feet high and with a one-foot space at the bottom to allow small wildlife to pass through. Barbed wire should not be utilized. For projects outside Washington, different state wildlife agency standards may apply to all fencing.</p> <p>For wind projects, no perimeter fencing is required.</p> |

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| 57 | Regarding the bid tab 3b fuel section, the units for hourly fuel and daily fuel requirements state lbs of fuel per mmbtu of fuel. Is this correct or are you looking for expected lb/hr or mmbtu/hr or lb/day or mmbtu/day as the requested units? | <p>All fields in bid tab 3b are to be completed on an "As Applicable" basis as noted in the file. Depending on the fuel type, it is expected that some fields will be left blank. If the units in any field are not applicable to your proposal, please use the text field in that form to describe your fuel input requirements and applicable units (for example, provide fuel requirements in lbs/hr, gallons/MWh or other specific format as needed).</p>  |
| 58 | In the RFP package for the PSE self-build projects, do we need to submit any Prototype Term Sheets? We think these should be N/A, but this is not an option in the dropdown (in Tab 1. Proposal Content Checklist of Exhibit B-1). | <p>The Exhibit B-1 bid form will not pass validation when submitting through the RFP intake portal if this box is not checked as "yes". Therefore, please select "yes" and submit a prototype term sheet; you can then indicate on the term sheet itself as a mark-up that you believe the term sheet is not applicable.</p> |
| 59 | <p>1. We would like to seek further clarification on the type of ownership structures PSE would be willing to accept in this All-Source solicitation. We are an upstream development company that sells projects before the start of construction (Pre-NTP). We intend to submit a proposal for a development asset sale of a Pre-NTP asset where we would complete specified development activities and PSE would control any remaining development, including construction, to commercial operations. Please confirm if this ownership offer structure of the asset would be eligible in this RFP as we are looking to ensure that PSE would be willing to accept ownership of a Pre-NTP asset.</p> <p>2. If bidding in an Ownership proposal, would respondents still be required to complete Exhibit B-1's "Ownership - Capital Costs" (Tab 7.) and "Ownership - Operating Costs" (Tab 8) to be considered in this solicitation? If we didn't provide inputs to these two sections would our bid still be eligible for advancing to the shortlisting phase?</p> <p>3. We are currently working to bid a hybrid Solar + BESS project. If we wanted to provide multiple sizing iterations of the BESS component of the project, would that require additional bid fees of \$10,000? For example, if we wanted to bid a project with 100 MW PV + 100 MW BESS, and then offer another iteration of the same project, but for 100 MW PV + 50 MW BESS, would this require submitting two bid fees that total \$20,000?</p> | <p>1. Yes, PSE will consider ownership proposals that contemplate PSE purchase of development rights pre NTP.</p> <p>2. All ownership proposals are required to fill in Tab 7 and Tab 8 in order to pass validation and meet minimum requirements.</p> <p>3. Yes, you will need to submit separate proposals and pay the bid fee for each if submitting different sizing iterations of the same resource. Please clearly indicate if a proposal is mutually exclusive with another proposal you are submitting (i.e. both for the same resource) on Row 94 of Tab 2b "Offer Details" of the Exhibit B-1 Bid Form ("Additional offer and pricing details").</p> |
| 60 | Is it possible for your team to assign us with a Proposal Number prior to September 16th? The main reason why is that our Accounts Payable team can then verify necessary information for the bid fees and work to deliver them on time during submittal. Our team wants to ensure that these are delivered to your team when needed. | <p>Proposal ID numbers are automatically generated by the system upon successful submission. It is not possible to receive a proposal ID number ahead of time.</p> |
| 61 | According to the Tolling Agreement form, Credit Support is calculated with up to 180 days of delay LDs. Can you confirm that seller must post security to include the maximum delay LDs on top of the \$100,000/MW? | <p>PSE seeks credit support to substantially cover PSE's credit risk in all phases of the project. The term sheet does seek credit support for both the 180 days of delay LDs and the \$100,000/MW pre-COD termination payment to cover PSE's credit risk in the event of a Service Provider default for failure to achieve COD within 180 days of GCOD.</p> |
| 62 | When submitting a proposal in this RFP process, it looks like the maximum no. of "Other Documents" that can be submitted is ten (10), what can we do if we have more than files for submittal? | <p>The maximum number of "Other Documents" that can be submitted has been increased to 50 files.</p> |
| 63 | Can a resource be made available to ensure we get proposals submitted properly? | <p>If support is needed, you can submit questions to the RFP mailbox. We will monitor the box more frequently as we get closer to the due date. On the bid due date, we will monitor the RFP inbox throughout the day and will follow up in a timely manner.</p> |
| 64 | Will PSE accept redline changes to the Exhibit D. Mutual Confidentiality Agreement form ? | <p>Please see response to Question #33</p> |
| 65 | <p>Will you please direct us to the large load tariff for batteries and the calculation of the aux load retail rate to operate a battery in Puget Sound service territory?</p> <p>Is station power netted in the discharge of the BESS and the aux load separately metered?</p> | <p>Currently applicable tariffs are available via OASIS (https://www.oasis.oati.com/psei/). Generally PSE anticipates that project developers will have a retail connection for station service and auxillary loads or provide an onsite metering solution that enables netting of the station service and auxillary loads.</p> |

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| 66 | <p>In regard to questions 15 & 17 of the Equity Evaluation Rubric (Exhibit A-2), could you please clarify the pollutant emissions calculation for a BESS facility?</p> <p>- Is there a specific calculator or methodology PSE uses to estimate greenhouse gasses generated by a generator or can Accelergen’s own internal methodology be used for this calculation?</p> <p>- PSE’s pollutant emissions are only reported through 2022, confirming that the 2022 values are what should be used to determine a percentage reduction of pollutant emissions.</p> | <p>Bidders have the liberty to perform their own pollutant emission calculations as long as the methodology is explained and demonstrated appropriately. The 2022 PSE emission report should be used as the pollutant emission determination.</p> |
| 67 | <p>Under the Legal and Financial section of the Commercial Details Tab in Exhibit B1, bidders are asked to provide the "deal diagram that shows all contractual parties, listed by their legal names, and their relationship with the project." Can you please clarify if what is being requested is an organizational chart showing the ownership structure of the Project Co LLC that will be the Seller to PSE</p> | <p>Please see the response to #37. PSE is looking for a diagram that includes two core components: (1) the various key parties involved and (2) an overview of all elements of the transaction being proposed.</p> <p>(1) The key parties would clearly show the roles and relationship among the various key parties involved in the Respondent's project.</p> <p>(2) The transaction component could include arrows that show all exchanges of cash flows and energy between the entities defined in (1) above.</p> <p>The information a bidder provides in this diagram will vary depending upon the nature of the project being proposed (stage of development, PPA vs ownership, etc.). PSE invites bidders to provide PSE with as complete a picture as possible to help the evaluation team understand the parties involved in the project and their relation to each other. If all parties aren't known at this time, placeholders are acceptable.</p> |
| 68 | <p>Our legal team has reviewed the mutual confidentiality agreement and has a few redlines (attached here). Can you please advise if these are acceptable or if there’s another avenue I should pursue to work through these edits</p> | <p>Please see the response to #34. Due to regulatory constraints and concerns about fairness, PSE is generally unable to consider changes to the Mutual Confidentiality Agreement (MCA). PSE is not inclined to make exceptions because the MCA is a standard agreement used for all respondents, which was filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in docket number UE-240532.</p> |
| 69 | <p>We are planning on submitting many of the same company-related files across all of our bids. Additionally for assets with multiple bid iterations there will also be asset-specific files that we will submit for each of the iterations. Is it possible for us to just submit these files once for the company and for each asset, or should we re-submit for all of our proposals? Additionally would PSE prefer us to consolidate some information into a larger project narrative PDF that we submit once or is the preference to breakout all files as specified in Exhibit A and B?</p> | <p>Each proposal must stand on its own; therefore, we ask that you submit with each proposal all relevant associated files, even though there may be repetition across proposals. PSE will only evaluate one bid per proposal and a separate bid fee is required for each proposal to meet the minimum requirements of the RFP. Each proposal submission to the portal will receive a unique Proposal ID for tracking purposes.</p> |
| 70 | <p>Regarding question 10 in the Exhibit A2, the RFP states the "percentage of contract value subcontracted to small business and minority, women and vertan owned business enterprises (SWMBE)." What is the "contract value" that we are being asked to quantify the percentage against?</p> | <p>Question 10 in Exhibit B-2 (Equity Form) asks bidders to provide a description of their prior and/or on-going commitment to contracting with small businesses and minority, women and veteran owned business enterprises (SMWBE). In Exhibit A-2 (Equity Rubric), bidders are asked to provide a numeric percentage to show how much of the project contract value will be specifically dedicated to contracting with SMWBEs. PSE refers to "Contract value" as the total amount of money that is agreed upon in a contract agreement. Bidders have the discretion to determine the denominator of the SMWBE percentage because the percent allotment may vary depending on proposed project scope and special details. The bidder may use the Exhibit B-2 (Equity Form) or other documents, to expand on the details and explanation of this calculation.</p> |
| 71 | <p>On the Bid Certification Form (Exhibit B-1, Tab 9), is a wet signature required on the scanned form or would an electronic signature be acceptable</p> | <p>An electronic signature would be acceptable.</p> |
| 73 | <p>Can PSE confirm that bidders simply need to upload the required forms through the account the bidder creates with a personal corporate email, rather than a larger corporate account?</p> | <p>Yes, that is correct. You can register and create an account using your personal corporate email to submit a proposal through the RFP submission portal. Please see the RFP submission portal instructions located on the 2024 Voluntary All Source RFP website located at: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP</p> |

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| 74 | <p>When attempting to upload the draft B-1 document, an error message appears. And nothing happens when selecting the 'downloading the errors' list. How can we move the documents through the process so that we can collect proposal IDs? Can PSE extend the bid fee timeline or assigning each payment to a proposal ID after the fact?</p> | <p>Our IT team is working to fix the error. In the meantime, if you are still experiencing the issue of not getting an error file, please delete the Exhibit B-1 file and re-upload the file. That should force a new error file to be generated for you to download. Please let us know if you continue to experience the issue or use the Contact Us link in the footer of the portal to send an email to the admin team. Please also see the section on Minimum Qualifying Criteria in Exhibit B. Proposal Requirements and Proposal Forms of the 2024 All-Source RFP PDF located on the 2024 Voluntary All Source RFP website at: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP Minimum requirements may also be another reason you are getting errors when submitting. Bid fees are due no later than three business days after the due date of September 16, 2024 for All bids that are not PSE or its affiliates. Bid fees are not subject to the three-day cure period described in Exhibit C (Evaluation Process). Please see Section 6. Proposal Submission in the 2024 All-Source RFP PDF for more information regarding Bid Fees.</p> |
| 76 | <p>Are the percentages in questions 15 and 17 of Exhibit A-2 Equity Rubric, total or per MWh?</p> | <p>For both Q15 and Q17, we are seeking the total GHG emission. Bidders can use the 2022 GHG inventory posted publicly on our PSE Sustainability webpage. https://www.pse.com/en/about-us/Sustainability</p> |
| 77 | <p>Attached is our signed Exhibit D Confidentiality Agreement. Would Puget Sound be able to countersign for execution prior to submission?</p> | <p>Please submit your signed Confidentiality Agreement with your proposal. PSE will countersign and send it back after submission. You will need to submit the signed document with your bid or the portal will reject your submittal. The NDA is a minimum requirement and the portal will screen for that during intake.</p> |
| 78 | <p>In the qualitative score card (Exhibit A-1), it appears that Bridge Conditional Firm Service would receive a higher score than a project with a TSA awarded, but no associated Bridge Conditional Firm Service. Is this accurate?</p> | <p>Under the Transmission Service section of the Exhibit A-1 qualitative scoring rubric, bidders are awarded one point for “Transmission Service Agreement(s) awarded” and one point for “Awarded bridge conditional firm service”. This has the unintended effect of awarding an extra point to a project with a Transmission Service Agreement and bridge conditional firm service awarded, compared to a project with a Transmission Service Agreement awarded but no associated bridge conditional firm service. In fact, the intent of the rubric is to treat the two as equivalent; therefore, bidders should note that PSE will normalize the rubric scoring for any projects to which this situation may apply.</p> |
| 79 | <p>In attempting to upload the form B-1 for one of our submissions, the upload portal provided the following error message:</p> <p><i>Error processing request. Please re-submit the Exhibit B file later. If issue persists, please use Contact Us link in footer to send an email to the admin team. Please include the Proposal Name, File Name, and a brief description of the issue that you are experiencing.</i></p> <p>We have resubmitted the form several times, each resulting in the same error message. No other troubleshooting feedback was provided to cure this error. Is there another alternative action you recommend, we will be happy to try that as well.</p> | <p>Please limit your responses in Form B-1 to under 1900 characters while our IT team works to increase the character count.</p> <p>For instructions on how to upload the B-1 form, please refer to page 13 of the AllSource RFP Automation Users Guide.pdf located at: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energysupply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP</p> <p>Minimum requirements are described in Exhibit B. Proposal Requirements and Proposal Forms of the 2024 All-Source RFP PDF located on the 2024 Voluntary All Source RFP website (location same as above). If proposal requirements are not met, errors will occur, a red down error will appear on the far right column, and after clicking on it, you will be able to see which fields in B-1 have errors and what the error is.</p> |
| 80 | <p>In exhibit B-1, tab 3C Energy Storage in the control and operations section, can you please be more specific on what you mean by mean time to repair whole site?</p> | <p>This is an operational metric and would apply only if the site is already in operation. It generally is the average time to make repairs site-wide given a failure that impacted site operation, or the estimated total time spent on repairs during the facility's lifetime divided by the estimated number of repairs.</p> |
| 81 | <p>We are prepared to send our bid fee but according to the RFP instructions we need a Proposal ID. Is there any way to get those IDs earlier to insure we have time in our purchase request process to get our bid fee to PSE in a timely manner?</p> | <p>Proposal ID numbers are automatically generated by the system upon successful submission. It is not possible to receive a proposal ID number ahead of time.</p> <p>Please note that bid fees are due no later than three business days after the due date of September 16, 2024 for all bids that are not PSE or its affiliates. Bid fees are not subject to the three-day cure period described in Exhibit C (Evaluation Process).</p> <p>If it helps, wire payments can also be made to the same account provided (ending in xxxx614) in Section 6. Proposal Submission in the 2024 All-Source RFP PDF.</p> <p>https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP</p> |

2024 Voluntary All-Source RFP Q2024 Q&A - RFP Mailbox

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| 82 | <p>Exhibit B of the RFP document states that “Projects shall be designed to a minimum facility design life of 30 years.” Current lithium-ion battery technologies have a typical lifespan of thousands of cycles and 20+ years and will experience degradation of capacity and efficiency over that time.</p> <p>Please clarify whether or not PSE intended for battery energy storage facilities to be designed to a minimum facility design life of 30 years, or if a 20-year life is acceptable for battery energy storage facilities submitted into the RFP.</p> | <p>A 20-year life is acceptable for battery energy storage facilities. Most importantly the design life should support the proposed deal term. Please note that PSE will evaluate proposals shorter than the design life.</p> |
| 83 | <p>Is there an executed LGIA requirement associated with any closings with PSE. We are currently planning to submit proposals under the ownership structure utilizing the MIPA term sheet but wanted to double-check whether an executed LGIA was a firm requirement for closing any MIPA structure with PSE.</p> | <p>As a general matter, PSE would expect that executed (or execution-ready) Interconnection Agreement in a form and substance satisfactory to PSE as one of the conditions to closing; however, this may depend on the nature of the particular proposal, and therefore considered on case-by-case basis.</p> |
| 84 | <p>1. Is there an overall checklist of required documents or evidence that are needed for submission?</p> <p>2. Do we need to submit redlines/edits to the PPA Term sheet or agreement form that we submit vs the one that is provided.</p> <p>3. Are there any required credit support documents for a unit contingent PPA?</p> | <p>1. Please refer to Tab 1. Proposal Content Checklist of Exhibit B-1, as well as the list of downloadable exhibits in the Documents and Submission section of the 2024 All-Source RFP website located at: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP</p> <p>Exhibit B. Proposal Requirements and Proposal Forms of the All-Source RFP PDF (same location as above) also has information regarding proposal requirements.</p> <p>2. The Term sheet (Exhibit J) is a requirement. The bidder will get an error if Exhibit J is not included at submission. Term sheets include provisions that PSE generally expects in a contractual arrangement; PSE invites Bidders to propose term sheet edits with their bid submissions, including proposed language particular to each project proposal.</p> <p>3. PSE will require credit support based on the bidder’s credit rating. PSE will require either a parental guarantee, if the counterparty meets investment-grade credit rating, or the posting of security in the form of a letter of credit or equivalent bank guarantee. Please also see response to Question #6.</p> |
| 85 | <p>We currently have a toll with PSE and it will be commencing Oct 2025 and go until Sep 30, 2030. I am looking through the documents for submission and I am coming to a conclusion that submission to provide power after Jan 1, 2030 is not allowed or considered for this RFP.</p> <p>Looking through the Q&A it looks like PSE might have another RFP after assessing the submissions and the long term outlook.</p> <p>Can you please advise if it is too early to submit for any dates after Jan 1, 2030.</p> | <p>That is correct. The latest COD (or term start date) for the RFP is January 1, 2030.</p> |
| 86 | <p>Will company financials be included as apart of FOIA? If so, is there another means of sharing these to exclude them from FOIA?</p> | <p>PSE is a privately held company and not subject to the disclosure requirements of FOIA.</p> |
| 87 | <p>We are unable to include a memo in our ACH payments and wanted to ask if we could submit our bid fee payments via wire transfer.</p> | <p>Yes, wire payments are accepted. Please use the same account number that was provided for ACH payments xxxx614. Please see Section 6. Proposal Submission in the 2024 All-Source RFP PDF for more information regarding Bid Fees.</p> <p>https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2024-Voluntary-All-Source-RFP</p> |