

2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP Q+A - Bidders' Conference

#	Question	Answer
1	Will this slide deck be available to share to participants?	Yes, it will be posted on PSE's RFP webpage at: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2026-Voluntary-Utility-Scale-RFP
2	Can you please clarify valid interconnection request? Does the project just need to have a queue number to qualify? How far along in the interconnection process does the project have to be?	Bidders need to have a valid interconnection request submitted to the transmission service provider for the project. If the submission has been made but a queue number has not been assigned, please select "Pending" as a response to the queue number and provide the number when received from the transmission service provider.
3	Which discretionary permits are required if any at time of submittal?	There is no minimum RFP requirement that any discretionary permits be obtained prior to submittal. Progress in obtaining discretionary permits and acquisition of those permits, however, qualifies an applicant for the award of additional points.
4	Can you please repeat or clarify the requirement around NRIS for deliverability east of PSE's system?	The minimum requirement for projects interconnecting to the PSE System, west of the Cascades, is that the project needs to have Network Integration Transmission Service ("NRIS") associated with its interconnection request. This does not apply to other off-system interconnection requests including projects interconnecting east of PSE's system.
5	How is the levelized cost for hybrid (PVS) bids calculated?	In Phase 1, resources with similar technology are grouped together and ranked and selected within their own group. PSE will use a blended levelized cost of energy ("LCOE") approach where the battery costs (tolling or ownership) will be added to the total project cost (contract or ownership) and converted to a total blended LCOE. In Phase 2, they will be modeled as two linked resources, and the corresponding cost component of each will be accounted for and assigned to each of the projects.
6	What is the quantitative escalator value attributed to energy justice relative to total / overall scoring?	In Phase 1, the overall scores, including both the quantitative and qualitative evaluations, are considered independently from the energy equity scores. These scoring components are not linked and do not influence each other for any adjustments. However, if a proposal demonstrates a strong energy equity score and presents no fatal flaws, PSE may advance it to Phase 2 based on the strength of its equity considerations.
7	It seems like promoting an Energy Justice high scoring project is subjective and not guaranteed to elevate a project. Is this correct?	The evaluation of the energy equity section in Phase 1 uses a structured, scored rubric designed to provide clear expectations and consistent standards across all proposals. The questions within this section are grounded in the four energy justice tenets defined by the Cascade Order (WUTC v. Cascade Nat. Gas at UG-210755 - Final Order 09 - Cascade Natural Gas (6).pdf (para.56)) and other CETA equity requirements. This approach ensures that the scoring is guided by defined criteria rather than subjective interpretation. If a proposal will not advance on the basis of its overall score, yet exhibits a strong energy equity score and presents no fatal flaws, PSE may advance the proposal to Phase 2 on the merits of its equity considerations.
8	Is there a cap to the percentage of PSE participating resources that can be awarded in the final shortlist? For example, can PSE participating resources win more than 25% of final shortlist projects? More than 50% of final shortlist projects?	There is no predetermined limit on the percentage of resources on the shortlist that are PSE participating resources.
9	Will this recording be sent out via email after? Thank you!	The recording will be posted on PSE's RFP webpage at: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2026-Voluntary-Utility-Scale-RFP
10	Will PPA and BTA iterations for the same site trigger additional bid fees?	If bidders would like to submit different offer options (e.g., Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") vs Build Transfer Agreement ("BTA")), they will need to submit a separate proposal for each offer type. This would require a bid fee for each proposal. Hybrid proposals with combination offer types (e.g., a solar PPA + storage tolling agreement) can be submitted as a single proposal.
11	How many MW of renewable energy and storage capacity do your energy and capacity needs approximately amount to?	There is not a predetermined MW need by technology type. Resources' capacity factors, effective load carrying capabilities ("ELCCs"), and other attributes will influence the selection of resources in the portfolio optimization.
12	Are there preferences given for projects with spinning / inertial mass generation vs DC to inverter type resources?	PSE does not explicitly apply any preference based on whether a project uses spinning or inertial mass generation versus DC to inverter based resources. Any benefits associated with these characteristics may be reflected indirectly in other evaluation categories, such as reliability, operational flexibility, or deliverability, to the extent those attributes improve performance under criteria already defined in the RFP.
13	Will projects using PSE's Idaho/Nevada transmission need to secure their own transmission rights from AVA.BPAT to PSE? Will these projects need a valid TX service request (from AVA.BPAT to PSE) submitted to enter this RFP?	The bidder would be expected to provide their own transmission / transmission plan to take delivery from the AVA.BPAT point to either another acceptable POD in Attachment F or back to PSE's system.

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14	Is there a preference for any specific time scale of offer? 1 year, 5 year, 10 year 15, or 20 year PPAs?	PSE will consider varying lengths of contracts exceeding four years and up to the asset's useful life. Longer term agreements above 20 years may be considered if the bidder can demonstrate a corresponding useful asset life.
15	Can you talk a bit about how PSE submitted resources are negotiated compared to market bid resources? Are both held to the same standard for acceptable terms, etc.?	PSE submitted resources are held to the same standards as all other resources throughout the RFP evaluation and negotiation processes. PSE applies the same evaluation criteria and analytical rigor to evaluate self-build bids as it does for all other bids. The term sheets and prototype agreements shared with bidders in the 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP reflect the same standards and requirements expected of the PSE self-build team and its engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC"), major equipment, and other project development partners. Additionally, the Independent Evaluator is engaged throughout the design, evaluation, and negotiation periods of the RFP, has access to evaluation materials and results, and is engaged throughout the negotiation of contract terms, to ensure that the RFP is conducted fairly, transparently, and properly.
16	Does Bates White or PSE lead negotiations of final contracts?	PSE's commercial origination team leads all contract negotiations for selected proposals. Bates White serves as the Independent Evaluator for the RFP and is responsible for monitoring the process to ensure that PSE conducts the RFP process and evaluations in a fair, transparent, and compliant manner.
17	Can you talk a bit more about any type of benchmark bid structure or other negotiation controls separating the bid submission team from bid evaluation?	PSE maintains strict separation between the PSE self-build team and the RFP evaluation team. These controls include, but are not limited to, working in different physical locations, not disclosing any information between the two teams on third-party related bids or information, and the PSE self-build team not having access data, information, or drives related to any bids.
18	How many MW are too much for PSE? Are the MW listed MWa or MW-AC-peak nameplate? Please discuss the volume needs relative to 1556 MW WINTER vs. 59 MW SUMMER needs, relative to most clean as-gen generators delivering year round.	The peak capacity deficits are expressed as MW contributions to peak capacity (effective load carrying capability) rather than nameplate. PSE must receive determinations from the WUTC that resource decisions are prudent, so PSE is guided by the metrics developed in its resource planning process and presented in the 2026 RFP. The RFP is intended to identify a portfolio of resources that best meets PSE's energy and capacity requirements at the lowest reasonable cost and risk. This could include individual resources that provide primarily capacity or energy or both.
19	Is there a preference for base load vs. intermittent resources?	<p>PSE needs both reliable capacity and CETA-compliant energy. The 2026 RFP is intended to identify a portfolio of resources that best meets PSE's energy and capacity requirements at the lowest reasonable cost and risk. PSE does not have a stated preference between baseload and intermittent resources.</p> <p>Resources will be evaluated based on their contributions to system needs, including energy requirements, capacity value, flexibility, deliverability, and overall portfolio fit, rather than whether they are classified as baseload or intermittent. Both intermittent and non intermittent resources may be competitive depending on their proposed characteristics, performance attributes, and pricing.</p> <p>Bidders are encouraged to clearly describe how their resource supports PSE's system and portfolio needs as outlined in the RFP. Bidders can use the Additional File Submission option in the webform to submit information not specifically requested.</p>
20	How many MWs of standalone BESS does PSE expect to procure in this RFP?	PSE does not have technology-specific targets, including standalone BESS.
21	Are there any materials defining Hot, Warm, and Cold Start times for Thermal based resources?	<p>PSE's 2023 Electric Progress Report relied upon the report Generic Resource Costs for Integrated Resource Planning: https://www.pse.com/-/media/PDFs/IRP/2022/03222022/2019_HDR_GenericResourceAssumptionsReport_rev4.pdf?rev=365f8377fd964feaa9f93132cd6f8a24&modified=20220506194408&hash=7FE3FF48AE88C727B5AB2F410848713F</p> <p>Thermal operational considerations can be found under section 3.3.</p>
22	Since the capacity resource is not a generator, do you still need firm transmission for the capacity resource. For instance, a 100mw 4-hour duration battery at Broadview in Montana	Firm transmission is an RFP minimum requirement for delivery of an off-system resource to PSE's system or other acceptable point of delivery ("POD").

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23	As relates ELCC and capacity contribution being ascribed to projects: Will you be looking at proposals' unique provided generation profile projection / forecast / 8760 — or just the values in the table you provide (by tech type and geography). Related, is there a "Heat Map" available (like past RFPs) for when energy / capacity is most valuable, re: TODs, etc.?	PSE intends to evaluate resources based on the peak contribution numbers published in the RFP, but if a bid includes additional details that would support a higher contribution to capacity, PSE may consider that in its evaluation. The firm capacity contribution is one component among many that are considered when evaluating resources. The model will take into account the energy forecast for resources (8760). The model also includes price signals that reflect system peaks and indicate when energy might be more valuable. PSE does not have a current load heat map for this RFP.
24	The GIS link that is meant to show the Named Communities does not seem to show any zones. Can you provide a pdf that shows the latest regions of Named Communities. The GIS link in question is here: https://pugetsoundenergy.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html	Please use the following link to access the Named Communities map: https://esri.pse.com/portal/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=da2b79bdd39847b4949683b10c7e2d81 If you continue to experience issues viewing the GIS layers, please let us know.
25	How much detail is needed for the CV? Name? Position? Tenure? Email address? office phone number? Anything else?	The CVs should include comprehensive details about the individual's past professional and educational qualifications, sizes of projects they have been involved in, technology types, and details about their specific roles. The CVs should also include details about the organization and structure, and role within the company.
26	How important are capex breakouts for BOT bids?	For any ownership proposals, capital cost (capex) breakouts are important for evaluation, particularly to support PSE's ownership based financial modeling and comparability across bids. Capex breakouts help PSE understand cost drivers, assess reasonableness, and evaluate risk allocation associated with the construction period and transfer terms. While PSE does not prescribe a single required level of granularity beyond what is requested in the RFP templates, bidders are encouraged to provide sufficient detail to clearly support the proposed build-operate-transfer ("BOT") price and transfer structure. More detailed capex transparency may reduce the need for follow up data requests during evaluation. Capex information will be used in combination with other commercial and non price factors, and no single input will be evaluated in isolation.
27	Is it worth flagging geographical proximity of a project to a viable transmission point even if it interconnects elsewhere, i.e., proximity to the LOLO substation?	We will consider all relevant information provided. Bidders are expected to demonstrate that their project has an achievable plan to secure firm transmission to the specified POD in Attachment F.
28	Will a Project be considered in the 2026 RFP if the Project has not currently requested interconnection / transmission service, but intends to join the upcoming cluster study once it opens?	An active interconnection & transmission service request is required at the time of bid submission to meet RFP minimum requirements. For a bid including a repower, modification, or surplus interconnection request, ownership of the relevant large generator interconnection agreement ("LGIA") and the right to pursue the interconnection arrangement under the Transmission Service Provider's tariff is sufficient to meet the interconnection minimum requirements.
29	Where in the RFP portal will the recording and presentation be? Sorry to make you repeat.	The recording and slides will be posted on PSE's RFP webpage in the Bidders' Conference section of the page: https://www.pse.com/en/pages/energy-supply/acquiring-energy/2026-Voluntary-Utility-Scale-RFP
30	Will new thermal resources be considered in this RFP?	Yes, thermal resources will be considered.
31	The solar 8760s look like they request energy forecasts based on typical meteorological year, should these scenarios be run based on actual TMYs from NSRDB instead of our standard solar satellite + met-station adjusted data averaged over 28 years?	No, 8760 energy forecasts do not need to be based on typical meteorological years ("TMYs") from the National Solar Radiation Database ("NSRDB"). PSE will have an external expert review the energy estimates.
32	West of the cascades, where can we find information on interconnection? We are interconnected to BPA, but I am unable to figure out which selection I need to choose. Attachment F lacks detail.	The "west of the Cascades" reference is specifically related to interconnections on PSE system. If you are interconnected to BPA, then the "west of the Cascades" qualifier can be ignored since it is not meant to apply to BPA-interconnected projects.
33	Will a project be considered in the 2026 RFP if the project doesn't have land control but has an IA?	To be eligible for consideration in the 2026 RFP, a project must meet all minimum requirements outlined in the RFP. This includes demonstrating at least 50% site control for the project and any associated infrastructure. Having an Interconnection Agreement ("IA") alone does not satisfy this requirement.
34	For projects that include wind, solar, and storage together, energy generation forecast data before clipping would mean that the solar and wind generation would not interfere with each other, so it would be the unconstrained generation from each of the independent generators. Just to confirm, is this what is being requested?	Yes. The unconstrained generation from each renewable generator should be provided.
35	Can you provide more detail about your tax and trade structuring requirements?	Please refer to the Term Sheets included within the RFP web portal with respect to any change in law or tax-related requirements.

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36	In past RFPs, PSE had published a set of substations with interconnection capacity and desirable characteristics for storage. Has that study been updated?	PSE is not intending to update the Energy Storage Locational Study. PSE Transmission is in the process of implementing FERC Order 2023 which requires PSE to publicly post a heatmap that identifies hosting capacity on the transmission system. The heatmap is currently planned to be posted on or about May 21, 2026. Moving forward, this will be the source of information on available interconnection capacity.
37	Can PSE clarify the specific process and expected timelines for securing the required firm transmission for grid-charging standalone BESS, and if this is a requirement for on-system standalone BESS as well?	For standalone energy storage projects, the bidder must demonstrate that the interconnection will allow for the project to charge from the grid and discharge to the grid as needed. For on-system (at PSEI.SYSTEM, west of Cascades) standalone BESS with NRIS, it is PSE Merchant's responsibility to procure firm transmission for both discharging and charging. For off-system standalone BESS, it is the bidder's responsibility to procure firm transmission for discharging to an acceptable POD, and PSE strongly prefers that bids include a plan for transmission to the project for charging, including potential sources of charging energy and the means of delivery. The bidder should clearly indicate whether charging costs are included in bid pricing.
38	In terms of PSE evaluating that "projects have achievable plans to secure long-term firm transmission" to eligible PODs, how will PSE be evaluating this? For example, if projects have BPA transmission TSRs outstanding, already studies, but pending BPA builds for their "plan of service," which might have a range of types of projects. Some BPA projects (like Raver-Paul) may have BPA plans showing [2027-29] ISD, others that are close to cutoff (2031). Will you be using BPA estimated project dates?	The project must be deliverable with long-term firm or bridge conditional firm transmission (excluding reassessment conditional firm) by COD. PSE will be using all provided materials during evaluations, ideally including information obtained directly from the TSP, to determine if this is likely to be the outcome.
39	What is PSE assuming about timing of fixes to PSASI and NOEL relative to evaluating feasible transmission plan?	Please email AllSourceRFPmailbox@pse.com to clarify which specific PSASI and NOEL "fixes" are being referenced, explain how this relates to evaluating a feasible transmission plan, and further expand or explain what the PSASI acronym represents (or if PSANI was meant instead).
40	Is PSE evaluating whether the network upgrade costs assigned to certain transition cluster projects may be overstated due to conservative study assumptions (e.g., N-1-1 modeling or added contingencies), and if so, how will that reassessment occur?	PSE is continuing to evaluate feedback received on our interconnection study assumptions and what, if any, action we will take to address that feedback. There are currently no plans to complete a reassessment of prior study work.
41	For the development experience question, if the team has lots of development experience for a given technology, however those projects are not operational, can we note the projects the team has worked on that are under construction as well as projects of a different generation type of a similar scale?	As noted in the RFP requirements, PSE seeks bidders with experience including at least three projects of similar size and technology type in operation today. The qualifications and prior experience of any bidders will be evaluated further during due diligence. Bidders may reference development experience that includes projects currently under construction, as well as project of different generation types, provided the experience is relevant in scale and scope. Bidders should clearly distinguish between projects that are operational, under construction, completed but not operational, or in earlier stages of development.

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#	Question	Answer
1	A few of the documents are failing to download (Ownership Budget Form, MIPA Term Sheet/Agreement, BTA Term Sheet/Agreement). Is this because of where we are in the proposal creation process? Is there a minimum set of details we need to provide, or a specific point we need to be at in the process, before download of these documents is enabled?	Please refresh the page and try again. There is no minimum set of details needed before download.
2	Is the minimum requirement to have 50% site control for the project site and 50% site control for the gen-tie line, or is the minimum requirement to have 50% site control for the combined acreage of the project site + the gen-tie line?	To meet the minimum requirement, the bidder must have 50% site control for the combined acreage of the project site + gen-tie line.
3	Is it possible to duplicate proposals? Can we export proposals to Excel, make updates in Excel, and then import the updated Excel file back into the form?	No, proposals cannot be duplicated. Proposals can be downloaded to an Excel or PDF format using the export button on the proposal tile; however, proposals cannot be reuploaded from an Excel file. Questions must be answered directly in the web form.
4	Our contract team noted that we have an existing NDA with PSE. We would be bidding into the RFP under the same business entity; would this NDA satisfy the NDA requirements of the RFP or are we required to sign the NDA from the RFP documents?	All Bidders must execute the Mutual Confidentiality Agreement (Exhibit D) included in the 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP. This agreement includes terms specific to the RFP procurement process and subsequent rate recovery process. A signed copy of the agreement is required to submit a proposal through the RFP proposal submission portal.
5	Regarding peaking capacity (ELCC), will a PSE-owned wind repowering project be classified as a new resource and therefore assigned a very low ELCC as per the 2026 Voluntary RFP Document (Attachment A, Table 3)? Or will it retain the ELCC of the existing project, which will be retired once the new repowered project is operational? Assuming repowered project will have same nameplate capacity as existing one.	PSE intends to evaluate RFP resources based on the ELCC numbers published in the RFP; however, if a bid includes project details that would support a higher contribution to capacity, PSE may consider that in its evaluation.
6	We had some questions regarding your available transmission capacity: 1. Would any project located within (or within reach of) NV Energy's Northern System be able to utilize PSE transmission, regardless of substation? 2. Would any project that can tap into the California Oregon Intertie be able to utilize PSE transmission, regardless of substation? 3. Regarding the transmission paths that end at AVA.BPAT (see the footnotes above), is the developer expected to take care of delivery from AVA.BPAT to PSE territory?	1. If a project intends to utilize PSE's NV transmission, the Point of Interconnection (POI) substation must have a corresponding scheduling point of NORTHSYS; and the bidder must confirm with NV Energy that once interconnected at the substation, the project is eligible to schedule through the NORTHSYS scheduling point. 2. Only project substations associated with COB/MALIN scheduling point would be eligible to utilize PSE transmission. 3. Yes, delivery from AVA.BPAT to PSE territory shall be the responsibility of the bidder.
7	I have a question regarding user access to the RFP portal. Our team collaborates with various third parties to develop bids for this RFP. Is it possible to give different third parties distinct access rights to different bids with users having read only or editor access?	Our RFP portal currently operates with organization-level access permissions, meaning all users within an organization can view and access all of that organization's active proposals. We are not able to set different permission levels or restrict access to specific bids on a user-by-user basis. For third-party collaborators who should not have visibility into all your organization's proposals, we suggest they work outside the portal system. You can share the RFP documentation with these external partners for their input and collaboration, then have an authorized member of your organization enter the consolidated responses through the portal. This approach ensures compliance with access requirements while still allowing you to leverage external expertise in developing your proposals.
8	I renamed the Project on the bid form but the old name is still showing on the "Your Proposals" page.	The proposal name is distinct from the Project/Facility name on the Proposal Registration page. Changes to the Project/Facility name will not automatically update your proposal name. To edit the proposal name, open up the proposal and click the pencil icon next to the proposal name at the top of the page.
9	When I try to download the 8760 form I get an error message, "failed to download file".	Please refresh the page and try again.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you mean by ownership start date? • What do you mean by ownership price? • Should the ownership price include taxes, contingency and overhead? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For projects that anticipate investment tax credits (ITCs), the ownership start date will be mechanical completion. For projects that anticipate production tax credits (PTCs), the ownership start date will be substantial completion of the facility. For projects that don't anticipate ITCs or PTCs, the ownership start date may align with either substantial completion or COD. • The ownership price would be the total CAPEX. • The ownership price should be an all-in cash price for the project. This should include taxes, contingency, overhead, and any other costs paid out of pocket. <p>Unless otherwise specified, please provide all required details using the Ownership Budget forms available for download from the proposal web form.</p>

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#	Question	Answer
11	Does PSEM have to submit the Mutual Confidentiality Agreement for self development projects?	A signed 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP Mutual Confidentiality Agreement (Attachment D) is a requirement for all proposals. All Bidders must upload a signed Mutual Confidentiality Agreement to submit a proposal through the RFP proposal submission portal.
12	When is the bidders' conference? Will the conference be in person or online?	The Bidders' Conference will be held online on March 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. A registration link can be found on PSE's 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP web page in the Bidders' Conference section.
13	I see a "PSE participating resources offer" and an "All other offers" in the online submission portal, what is the difference?	"PSE participating resources offers" are offers submitted by PSE's development team. "All other offers" refers to offers submitted by external parties. The RFP proposal submission portal separates the two because PSE participating offers are due on March 18, 2026, a little more than three weeks prior to all other offers, which are due on April 10.
14	Can PSE confirm that a proposed transmission plan satisfies the Energy Delivery/Proposal requirements outlined in Attachment B-2, Section 1.3.3 of the RFP before a proposal is submitted?	To ensure a fair and consistent process for all bidders, PSE is unable to pre-evaluate or provide direct guidance on proposals or elements of proposals during the bidding period.
15	For projects connected to BPA's system, can PSE provide guidance on which PODs to deliver to?	PSE's RFP evaluation team is unable to provide specific guidance on delivery point selection. BPAT.PSEI serves as a transmission scheduling point that encompasses 24 distinct interconnections between balancing authority areas of PSEI and BPAT. Please refer to Section 4 of the RFP document for the OASIS link, which may provide more information on transmission providers.
16	1. In the Site Control & Real Estate section: Could you clarify what specific elements are encompassed within the "key project components" referenced in questions #3 and #4? 2. In the Site Control & Real Estate section: How do the requirements differ between question #7 ("Submit supporting documentation for land area controlled relative to project facility, if available") and question #11 ("Submit all site control agreements in your possession and any supporting documentation")?	1. Key project components include the legal documentation required for project development, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeds, leases, easements, and other site control agreements • Rights-of-way for generation tie-lines • Access agreements • Title reports and title insurance • All other legal instruments necessary for construction and long-term operation 2. As long as all required site control documentation is submitted, it is not critical which specific question number the attachments are associated with. However, here's the distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question #7 asks for supporting documentation specifically related to the land area you currently control relative to your project facilities. This focuses on demonstrating your existing site control position. • Question #11 serves as a comprehensive catch-all question, asking for all site control agreements in your possession plus any additional supporting documentation, which may also include additional materials such as letters of intent, option agreements, or documentation related to properties you're still working to secure control of, consistent with the requirement in section 2.3.1 (RFP document) for summaries of property owner contacts and negotiation status for properties not yet under control.
17	We are repeatedly getting a "Failed to upload file" error when attempting to upload documents to the portal.	Please refresh the page and try again.
18	If a bidder is to select the bid option "Other or Combination: Ownership Offer," is a term sheet required? If so, what term sheet type should be selected (MIPA_TERM_SHEET.DOCX vs BTA_TERM_SHEET.DOCX)?	Yes, a term sheet is required. Please use the BTA term sheet and complete all applicable sections.
19	We are considering to bid into the RFP with a project interconnecting at the Colstrip 500kV substation. I did not see available transmission available from this location. Can you please confirm?	That is correct, we can confirm that there is not available transmission listed from Colstrip 500 kV. All transmission made available for the delivery of bidder proposals will be found in Attachment F of the RFP document. Any other propositions can be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
20	Can the RFP team provide a link to the Design Guidelines for PSE's BESS Projects?	BESS Design Guidelines can be downloaded from the Proposal Registration section once your proposal is created.
21	Phase 1 screening relies on Levelized Cost of Capacity based on nameplate capacity. Since long-duration storage provides significant reliability value relative to its nameplate rating – as evidenced by the ELCC values – will PSE consider applying the Levelized Cost of Peak Capacity metric during Phase 1 to ensure these resources are not prematurely screened out?	We plan to use LCOC for ranking in Phase 1, but resources will be organized into evaluation groups, and some resources from each evaluation group will advance to Phase 2. We plan to group long-duration storage (100 hours) separate from short- and mid-duration storage for Phase 1 evaluation and ranking. LCOPC will be used to compare resources in Phase 2.

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22	Where can bidders find information about PSE transmission available for use in their RFP proposals?	PSE has provided a current list of PSE transmission resources available for use in 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP bids in an Updated Attachment F file dated March 4, 2026, which can be found on PSE's RFP web site in the Documents and Submission section.
23	Would PSE accept a full busbar offer, where PSE pays for all energy as produced at the busbar, and then Seller transmits all power it can (up to 120 MW at any given time) to NWH? Or is this RFP only open to paying as delivered at Northwest Hub?	Yes, PSE will consider a full busbar offer. If the busbar is elected as the Delivery Point, the applicable transmission from the busbar to any of the specified Points of Delivery (outlined in attachment F of the RFP) must be secured by the bidder and assigned to PSE. Please include any necessary details on the proposal in the term sheet. Note that any alternative transmission proposals (e.g. selecting NWH as the Delivery Point, rather than busbar) would need to be submitted as a separate bid.
24	We're hoping you could help clarify the RFP requirements for generator interconnection submissions regarding repower and modification bids. Is ownership of the relevant LGIA and the right to pursue the interconnection arrangement sufficient? Few Transmission Providers do not have a separately defined repower process and instead rely on the LGIA Article 5.19 (Modification) to receive a repower request. It is our understanding there is no associated queue # via that process. We would expect to select the Not Applicable option within the proposal web form question asking if the bidder has submitted a valid Interconnection Service Request that supports the COD. We would also expect to respond that the project has a pending queue number to the question asking for the number. How will repower or modification bids with "Not Applicable" and "Pending" responses to these questions be evaluated?	<p>Yes, ownership of the relevant LGIA and the right to pursue the interconnection arrangement under the Transmission Service Provider's tariff is sufficient to meet the interconnection minimum requirements for a bid including a repower, modification, or surplus interconnection service. If the repower, modification, or surplus interconnection service does not have an associated interconnection queue #, please select these options in the RFP Web Form:</p> <p>Q: "(Min Req.) Has the bidder submitted a valid Interconnection Service Request that supports the COD? If yes, provide interconnection queue number on the 'Interconnection and Transmission' page." A: "Not Applicable"</p> <p>Q: "What is the queue #?" A: "Pending"</p> <p>A bid of this type with these responses will be sufficient for meeting these specific minimum interconnection service requirements. The bid will be evaluated per the standard RFP evaluation process thereafter. A description of the process, cost, timeline, and relevant tariff sections from the associated Transmission Service Provider would be helpful for evaluation. Please submit all relevant documentation and correspondence with the Transmission Service Provider regarding the associated repower, modification, or surplus interconnection service request.</p>
25	We have a few questions surrounding the 8760 request in the RFP: 1. The solar 8760s look like they request energy forecasts based on typical meteorological year, should these scenarios be run based on actual TMYs from NSRDB instead of our standard solar satellite + met-station adjusted data averaged over 28 years? 2. For projects that include wind, solar, and storage together, energy generation forecast data before clipping would mean that the solar and wind generation would not interfere with each other, so it would be the unconstrained generation from each of the independent generators. Just to confirm, is this what is being requested?	<p>1. No, 8760 energy forecasts do not need to be based on TMYs from NSRDB. PSE will have an external expert review the energy estimates.</p> <p>2. Yes. The unconstrained generation from each renewable generator should be provided.</p>
26	1. Can PSE clarify the specific process and expected timelines for securing the required firm transmission for grid-charging standalone BESS, and if this is a requirement for on-system standalone BESS as well? 2. Will bidders have access to preliminary versions the transmission hosting capacity map prior to the bid deadline?	<p>1. For standalone energy storage projects, the Bidder must demonstrate that the interconnection will allow for the project to charge from the grid and discharge to the grid as needed. For on-system (at PSE.SYSTEM, west of Cascades) standalone BESS with NRIS, it is PSE Merchant's responsibility to procure firm transmission for both discharging and charging. For off-system standalone BESS, it is the bidder's responsibility to procure firm transmission for discharging to an acceptable POD, and PSE strongly prefers that bids include a plan for transmission to the project for charging, including potential sources of charging energy and the means of delivery. The Bidder should clearly indicate whether charging costs are included in bid pricing.</p> <p>2. PSE's Transmission function is in the process of implementing FERC Order 2023 which requires PSE to publicly post a heatmap that identifies hosting capacity on the transmission system. The heatmap is currently planned to be posted on or around May 21st, 2026. Moving forward, this will be the source of information on available interconnection capacity.</p>

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#	Question	Answer
	<p>3. Current ELCC values for 4-hr storage differ for summer (39%) vs. winter (16%). Does PSE anticipate these values being updated during the 2027 IRP process, and how would these types of changes affect projects already in the Phase 2 optimization phase?</p> <p>4. How does PSE anticipate conducting price evaluation between bids that involve charging costs in their offered price vs. others that leave them to be calculated internally by PSE?</p> <p>6. For the Ownership Budget Template, how should bidders best represent the long-term O&M costs associated with battery augmentation to ensure fair comparison across bids?</p>	<p>3. The ELCC ranges presented in the RFP are from the 2027 ISP resource adequacy analysis. PSE does not expect to update the ELCC values prior to filing the 2027 ISP.</p> <p>4. Charging costs required to support normal BESS operations, such as maintaining minimum state of charge, station service, and other baseline operational requirements, should be treated as standard operating costs and included in each bidder's capacity price (i.e., fixed O&M).</p> <p>Charging costs associated with dispatch and market participation will not be evaluated as part of the fixed price comparison. These variable costs will be modeled by PSE using its Aurora production cost modeling framework to ensure consistent evaluation across all bids.</p> <p>PSE's modeling will account for the round trip efficiency of storage resources, as efficiency affects charging energy requirements and associated costs. In addition, if a BESS incurs fixed operational costs that are incurred only when the BESS is charging or discharging but are not directly related to the volume being charged or discharged, PSE may include those costs in its modeling to accurately reflect resource economics.</p> <p>6. Bidders may represent battery augmentation costs using one of the following approaches:</p> <p>Option 1: Include the augmentation portion of the Long Term Service Agreement (LTSA) in Row 7 of the O&M tab of the Ownership Budget Template.</p> <p>Option 2: Include the full LTSA amount (inclusive of battery augmentation costs) in Row 5, and clearly indicate in the bid form that augmentation costs are included in the LTSA.</p> <p>To ensure a fair and consistent comparison across proposals, PSE will review each bidder's battery augmentation plan and associated costs as part of the evaluation process.</p>
	<p>5. Are there specific deviations from the Design Guidelines for PSE's BESS Projects that are common deal-breakers, or is there a formal process for requesting exemptions during the Phase I screening?</p>	<p>5. PSE does not allow deviations from the Design Guidelines for PSE's BESS Projects and does not allow exemptions during the evaluation process.</p>
	<p>7. How will the Independent Evaluator specifically verify that the PSE self-build team does not gain an advantage regarding the transmission hosting capacity or updated load forecasts that are released during the bidding window?</p>	<p>The Independent Evaluator ("IE") will be able to verify that the self-build bids will be submitted and locked in before any forecasts are released. Self-build bids are due March 18th, and third-party bids are due in April. Historically, load forecasts come in each year during the summer. This timing ensures that the PSE self-build team does not have any advantage regarding the information later released.</p> <p>PSE's Transmission function is in the process of implementing FERC Order 2023 which requires PSE to publicly post a heatmap that identifies hosting capacity on the transmission system. The heatmap is currently planned to be posted on or around May 21st, 2026. Moving forward, this will be the source of information on available interconnection capacity.</p>
	<p>8. Can PSE provide more detail on exactly what the incremental costs the success fee (\$1k/MW) covers, and if it is refundable if a project fails to reach COD due to transmission upgrades beyond the Bidder's control?</p>	<p>8. The success fee covers external legal and consulting costs incurred by PSE during the negotiation process. The success fee is non-refundable.</p>
	<p>9. For storage projects providing resiliency benefits, what specific documentation does PSE value most when demonstrating how a project will "strengthen the energy security and resiliency" of a community?</p>	<p>9. To better understand the metrics and expectations related to energy security and resiliency, bidders are encouraged to review PSE's 2023 CEIP Biennial Update, Chapter 6 – Customer Benefit Indicators (CBIs) and Appendix H - Customer Benefit Indicator Metrics. This chapter outlines the specific indicators and measurement approaches that PSE prioritizes for advancing energy justice, including how energy security and resiliency outcomes are quantified. These CBIs can help bidders align their proposals with the utility's current focus areas and demonstrate how their project supports measurable equity-related benefits.</p> <p>Link: https://www.pse.com/-/media/PDFs/CEIP/2023/08_BU23_Ch6_Final.pdf</p> <p>Link: https://www.pse.com/-/media/PDFs/CEIP/2023/18_BU23_H_Final.pdf</p>
27	<p>1. MND - What is the date of the Agreement that should be outlined at the top of page 1 and within the last sentence, "IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of _____." ?</p>	<p>1. Please include the date that the bid is submitted.</p>

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#	Question	Answer
	<p>2. Energy Delivery - Will a Project be considered in the 2026 RFP if the Project has not currently requested interconnection/transmission service, but intends to join the upcoming cluster study once it opens?</p>	<p>2. The minimum requirements call for active requests (e.g. GI queue #, TSR AREF #) or established rights (e.g. LGIA, TSA) to be included in the project bid. A bid deficient with these items will not meet the minimum requirements. For a bid proposing a repower, modification, or surplus interconnection request, ownership of the relevant LGIA and the right to pursue the interconnection arrangement under the Transmission Service Provider's tariff is sufficient to meet the interconnection minimum requirements.</p>
28	<p>Where can bidders find PSE banking information and a W-9 when needed to submit a bid fee?</p>	<p>Information regarding bid fee submission is detailed in section 8.3 of the 2026 Utility-Scale RFP document. This PDF can be accessed on the 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale RFP website under the RFP Document Submission section. Bidders may request W-9 forms and bank callback verification information as needed.</p>
29	<p>What is the difference between the submittal that is required for question 11 in the Minimum Requirements section, and the submittal that is required for question 25 in the Variable Energy section?</p>	<p>Question 11 in the minimum requirements section relates to the requirements A) wind project proposals must confirm that the project has, at minimum, one year of verifiable supporting data, adjusted to account for long term wind speed trends, and B) solar project proposals must confirm that the project has at least one year of verifiable supporting irradiance data. This does not require third-party energy assessments. Variable energy question 25 requests that if an independent third-party resource assessment was performed, the bidder provide it.</p>
30	<p>Is there a meeting to walk through the RFP process. Can you inform me on when that occurs?</p>	<p>The Bidders' Conference was held on March 5, 2026. Conference materials, including the presentation and Q&A from the discussion will be posted in the Bidders' Conference section of PSE's 2026 Voluntary Utility Scale RFP website.</p>
31	<p>We're hoping your team could help fix an issue with the RFP submission portal. The "Remove section?" / 'trash can' function doesn't seem to function as expected when selecting "REMOVE". The issue seems to affect repower projects.</p> <p>We've tried removing 'Interconnection Service 2' several times from our project bid (within the Qualitative Rubric section) to no avail. The page will temporarily give the impression that the section is removed, but after saving, exiting, and returning to the bid form, the section reappears as if it were never removed.</p>	<p>A bug fix will be implemented by end of day, March 16, 2026.</p>
32	<p>We plan to submit two separate bids and pay the corresponding bid fees: BidA and BidB. For the RFP analysis, we would like to maintain the following mutual exclusivity between our options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Option: BidA - Second Option: BidA + BidB <p>Essentially, these two options should be mutually exclusive, meaning the selection of one automatically excludes the other. Additionally, the second option requires that BidB cannot be considered without BidA.</p> <p>Could you please confirm whether the bid form accommodates this structure? If so, we would appreciate instructions on how to set it up. If not, we are happy to provide a written explanation to clarify our intent.</p> <p>Thank you for your assistance.</p>	<p>In this case, BidA and BidB are not mutually exclusive and should not be linked to each other in the mutual exclusivity question on the Proposal Registration page. Please specify this type of relationship in the Additional Pricing Information section of the Offer Details page (question 20).</p> <p>Alternatively, if BidA and BidB share a location, you could bid in the second option as a single project.</p>
33	<p>We are having issues uploading documents to any question.</p> <p>Please let us know how next to proceed.</p>	<p>File names which include a normal hyphen may generate an error message when uploading to the portal. Try deleting the hyphen and instead typing a standard dash (-) in it's place, then attempting the upload again.</p> <p>If that doesn't work, try deleting all spaces from the document title and replacing them with an underscore.</p>

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#	Question	Answer
34	<p>1. Will PSE accept standalone storage bids that interconnect to off-system transmission but are wheeled (using firm transmission) to one of the scheduling points described in Att. F?</p> <p>a. Does PSE have any special charging requirements for these types of resources?</p> <p>2. The RFP mentions that PSE will be sharing a transmission hosting capacity map. Do you know when/where that map will become available? It would be helpful to have access to that before bid submissions are due!</p> <p>3. Are you able to provide a list of substations that would be considered part of the PSEI.SYSTEM scheduling point?</p> <p>a. For example, would the 115kV system on in Kitsap County be considered part of the PSEI.SYSTEM scheduling point?</p> <p>4. Will PSE consider bids by projects that haven't yet entered PSE's interconnection queue?</p> <p>a. I ask because Attachment A of the RFP notes that "any proposal that receives a score of 0 in one or more of the four rubric sections shown in Table 4" will be "deemed to have failed to meet the minimum criteria of the 2026 Voluntary Utility-Scale." If my interpretation is correct, a project that hasn't yet entered the PSE queue would receive 0 points on all fronts for the Interconnection Service section and would therefore be ineligible. Do I have that right?</p> <p>5. The RFP states that PSE will consider resources that can secure firm transmission service to PSE's balancing authority area (BAA). If a project interconnects to a Snohomish PUD-owned substation that is located within the PSE BAA, where/how would you like that power delivered to PSE's system?</p> <p>a. Would this be considered an off-system resource for transmission purposes or is NITS available?</p> <p>6. We are considering submitting a project that interconnects at Delta Junction 115kV, which is a Snohomish substation but is also connected to PSE transmission (via the Delta-Snohomish 115kV line). Would PSE be able to accept power at Delta (which I believe corresponds to the PSE.SNOH scheduling point), or would we need to secure firm transmission service with Snohomish to reach PSE elsewhere?</p>	<p>1. Yes, PSE will consider an off-system storage bid that meets the RFP minimum requirements in delivering discharging energy to an eligible POD with firm transmission. PSE strongly prefers that bids include a plan for transmission to the project for charging, including potential sources of charging energy and the means of delivery. The Bidder should clearly indicate whether charging costs are included in bid pricing.</p> <p>a. For standalone energy storage projects, the Bidder must demonstrate that the interconnection will allow for the project to charge from the grid and discharge to the grid as needed.</p> <p>2. PSE's Transmission function is in the process of implementing FERC Order 2023 which requires PSE to publicly post a heatmap that identifies hosting capacity on the transmission system. The heatmap is currently planned to be posted on or around May 21, 2026. Moving forward, this will be the source of information on available interconnection capacity.</p> <p>3./a. Please refer to the ATC Information section of the PSEI OASIS Home Page or reach out to PSE's Transmission function at transmaster@pse.com.</p> <p>4./a. The minimum requirements call for active requests (e.g. GI queue #, TSR AREF #) or established rights (e.g. LGIA, TSA) to be included in the project bid. A bid deficient with these items will not meet the minimum requirements. For a bid proposing a repower, modification, or surplus interconnection request, ownership of the relevant LGIA and the right to pursue the interconnection arrangement under the Transmission Service Provider's tariff is sufficient to meet the interconnection minimum requirements.</p> <p>5./a./6. Outside of the posted RFP materials, PSE cannot provide feedback on project-specific delivery plans at this stage.</p>
35	<p>We're hoping your team could provide guidance for dealing with character limits, particularly in the Interconnection and Transmission sections of the RFP submission portal.</p>	<p>We are exploring the possibility of expanding character limits. Until then, please upload any lengthy responses via the Additional File Submission page. Be sure to mention in the corresponding question field that additional details are provided in your file submission and specify the file name.</p>
36	<p>Should a proposal's offered price include or exclude energy delivery costs from the project's POI to POD?</p>	<p>The offered price should include energy delivery costs from the project's POI to POD.</p>