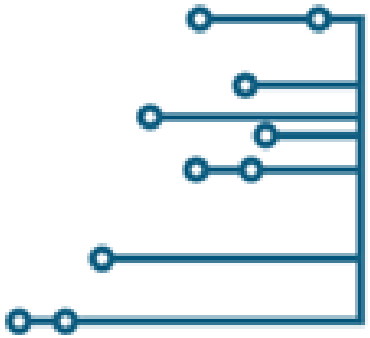
# Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission



## **Webinar for Interested Participants:**

Request for Information on State-Led Interregional Transmission Projects

August 7, 2025

Abraham Silverman * abe.silverman@jhu.edu

https://energyinstitute.jhu.edu/northeast-states-collaborative-on-interregional-transmission/

JOHNS HOPKINS
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# Agenda

1. Introduction to the Northeast States Collaborative
2. Summary of Transmission Recommendations from the Collaborative's Strategic Action Plan
3. Request for Information & Process for identifying "Candidate Projects"
4. Frequently Asked Question Process & Questions Received to Date

"The Request for Information seeks to fill a gap in today's transmission planning processes by identifying potential interregional transmission opportunities, or "Candidate Projects" that improve grid reliability, support economic growth, and reduce costs for consumers.

## States' Cover Letter to the RFI

June 23, 2025


# NE Collaborative Goals

1. Identify specific barriers to the development of interregional transmission and decide who needs to do what, when.

2. **Identify potential multi-state or interregional projects that may be suitable for study & procurement, building off existing State & DOE analyses.**

3. Coordinate on technical standards for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) offshore wind transmission equipment.

4. Establish an HVDC supply chain strategy for the United States.

# Strategic Action Plan: Overview


**PREPARED BY**

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**PREPARED FOR**

Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission

August 7, 2025

Brattle

# Strategic Action Plan: Overview

## The Action Plan is intended to advance the Collaborative's work by focusing efforts over the near-term (5 in the next year) and mid-term (3 in the next several years)

### Near-Term Action Plan

A. **Address Current Gaps in Interregional Transmission:**
   - **Candidate Project Identification (incl. RFI)**
   - **Allocation of Project Costs**

B. **Support Development of Uniform HVDC Design Standards with DOE Consortia**

C. **Assess Opportunities to Align and Optimize State Offshore Wind and Transmission Procurements**

D. **Develop Interregional Coordination Principles for Order 1920 Compliance Filings**

E. **Support Reducing Seams-Related Inefficiencies**

### Mid-Term Action Plan

A. **Explore Need for Tariff Revisions Based on Lessons Learned**

B. **Explore the Creation of a Buying Pool for Transmission Equipment**

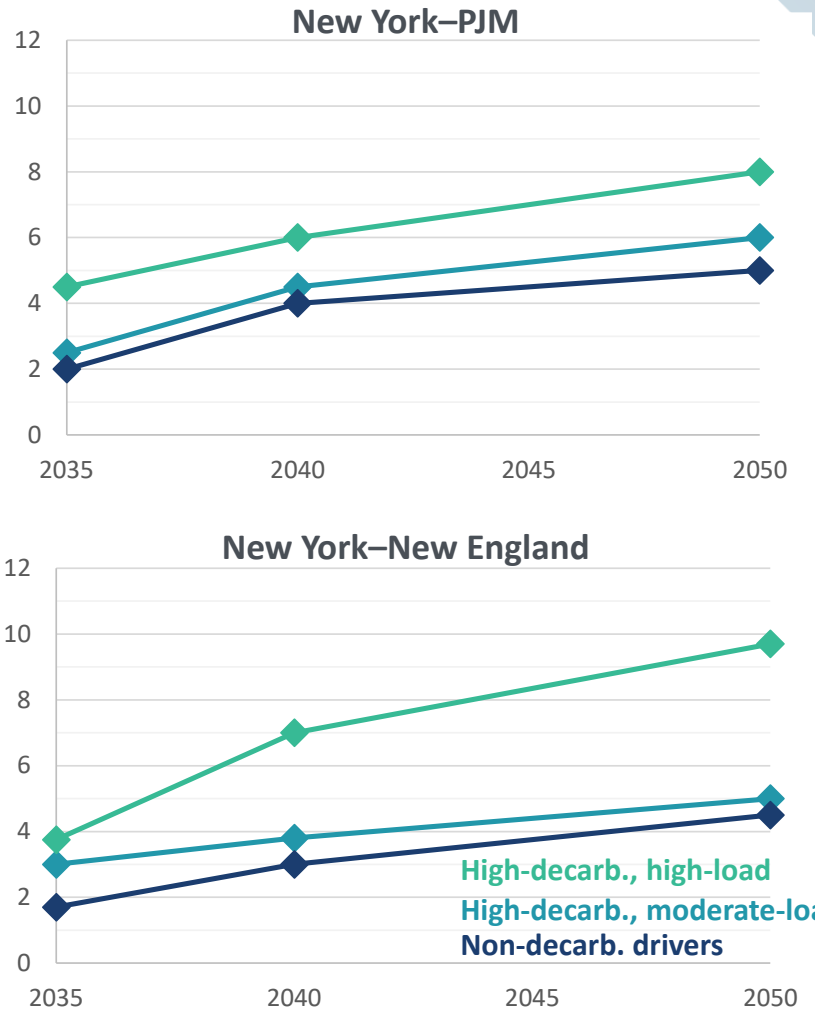
C. **Enable the Transition From Generator Export Lines to Network Transmission Facilities**

# Current Gaps in Interregional Transmission Initiatives

## Interregional transmission between NY, NE, and PJM is highly valuable in the near- and long-term, and low-regrets expansion opportunities should be pursued

- Cost-effective expansions between these regions are identified in numerous studies by DOE, NERC, national labs, MIT, states, and industry
- Based on these studies, we identify a **2035 low-regrets** need of **2 GW between NY and PJM** and **1.7 GW between New York and New England**
  - While uncertain, studies expect the magnitude of low-regrets expansions to increase, even without decarbonization drivers
- **Studies also highlighted the long-term need for expansion between the Northeast and Canada**
  - **By 2050: 10 GW between Canada and Northeast is low-regrets**
- **Realizing the value of interregional transmission identified in these studies requires overcoming key barriers,** particularly introducing intertie optimization and fully accounting for the value of existing and new interties
  - *The exact magnitude of interregional transfer capability needs remain uncertain and depends on progress on decarbonization as well as load growth*

**Estimated Range of *Low-Regrets* Transmission Expansion Needs (GW)**



# Near-Term Action Plan: A. Addressing Current Gaps

**The Action Plan sets out near-term steps necessary to identify, evaluate, select, and provide the opportunity for states to agree to share the cost of beneficial interregional transmission projects so they can be developed.**

## Interregional Candidate Project Identification

- In light of the lack of ISO-led processes for identifying beneficial interregional transmission, the Collaborative should **develop and issue a Request for Information** on project designs that could meet low-regrets needs
- Scope of the Request focused on "low-hanging fruit" opportunities to identify the most cost-effective projects with near-term benefits and feasible implementation plans, including grid enhancing technologies
  - RTOs will need to be critical technical advisors and participants in the effort, given the ultimate need to integrate any identified transmission project with the RTO/ISO regional plans, and the roles of existing transmission coordination venues

## Interregional Allocation of Project Costs

- For any interregional transmission project to be pursued, states will need to agree on a framework for identifying benefits and **sharing the resulting costs of investments**
- A successful cost allocation framework will need to be:
  - Sufficiently flexible to accommodate projects that address a variety of regional needs (e.g., reliability, economic, and policy)
  - Specific enough to be implementable by RTO/ISOs, without being overly restrictive or formulaic
- We recommend developing a strawman approach, including an invitation for comments on cost allocation structures and benefit methods, referencing existing best practices, Commission precedent, and other innovative approaches

# About the Speaker


## Joe DeLosa III

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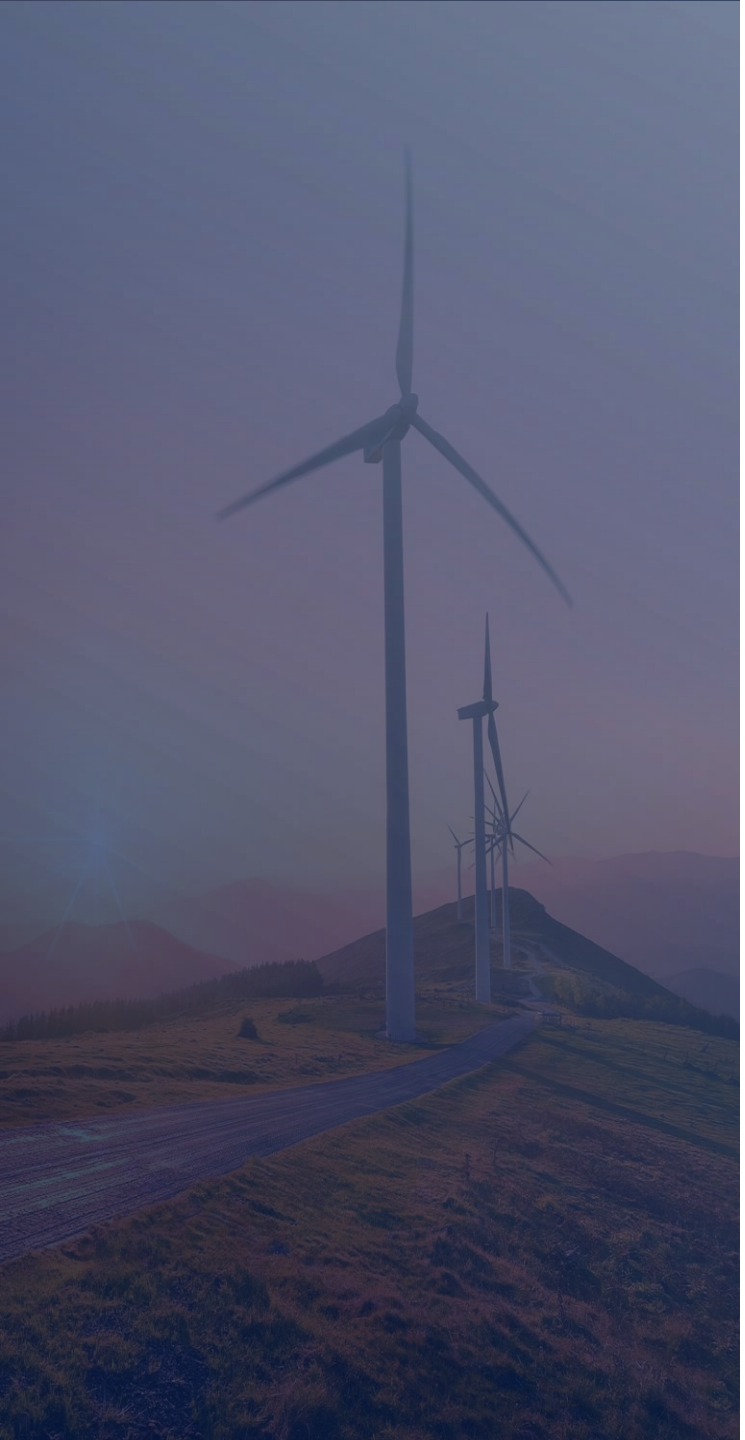
**Joe DeLosa III** is a Manager at The Brattle Group with comprehensive experience at the intersection of state clean energy policy and wholesale electricity markets. He has served as a subject matter expert for clients and senior policymakers across a wide range of power market issues, including cost-effective implementation of state clean energy policy, transmission planning, energy and reserve markets, and resource adequacy. Mr. DeLosa has offered expert guidance on major state policy initiatives, including integrating offshore wind, integrated distribution planning, transmission cost allocation, and retail rate design.

Before joining Brattle, Mr. DeLosa was the Bureau Chief of Federal & Regional Policy at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, where he managed all RTO and federal affairs for the State. In his prior role, he also oversaw regulatory affairs for the Delaware Public Service Commission. He has also advised a wide range of PJM states as a long-time member of the Organization of PJM States (OPSI) staff.



# Frequently Asked Questions Process:

1. The Collaborative will produce a “Frequently Asked Question” document that will be updated as questions come in.

2. The FAQ for Consultants interested in supporting the Collaborative can be found here and may provide relevant information to RFI Respondents as well.

## *Goal of this RFI:*

> … identifying potential interregional transmission opportunities, or "Candidate Projects," that can cost-effectively enhance grid reliability and resilience, improve market efficiency, advance achievement of state clean energy requirements and goals, and reduce costs for consumers.

- Request for Information at page 1

# Candidate Projects:

1. Candidate Projects should identify opportunities for interregional planning between at least two of the three control areas operated by the Northeastern transmission operators (PJM, NYISO or ISO-NE).

2. Candidate Projects may be proposed by any interested entities, including industry representatives, ratepayer advocates, utilities, or independent transmission developers.

3. Focus is on the 2035 timeframe, although projects sooner/later will also be considered.

4. **Update:** the Collaborative clarifies that it welcomes projects involving Canadian Provinces, so long as it enhances interregional transfer capability between two or more ISOs/RTOs.

5. **Update:** Candidate projects are not required to be physically located in states participating in the Collaborative.

# Candidate Projects (cont'd)

Because this RFI is intended to explore concepts at a high level, the States Collaborative expects that Candidate Projects will vary in project maturity, sizes, and complexity.

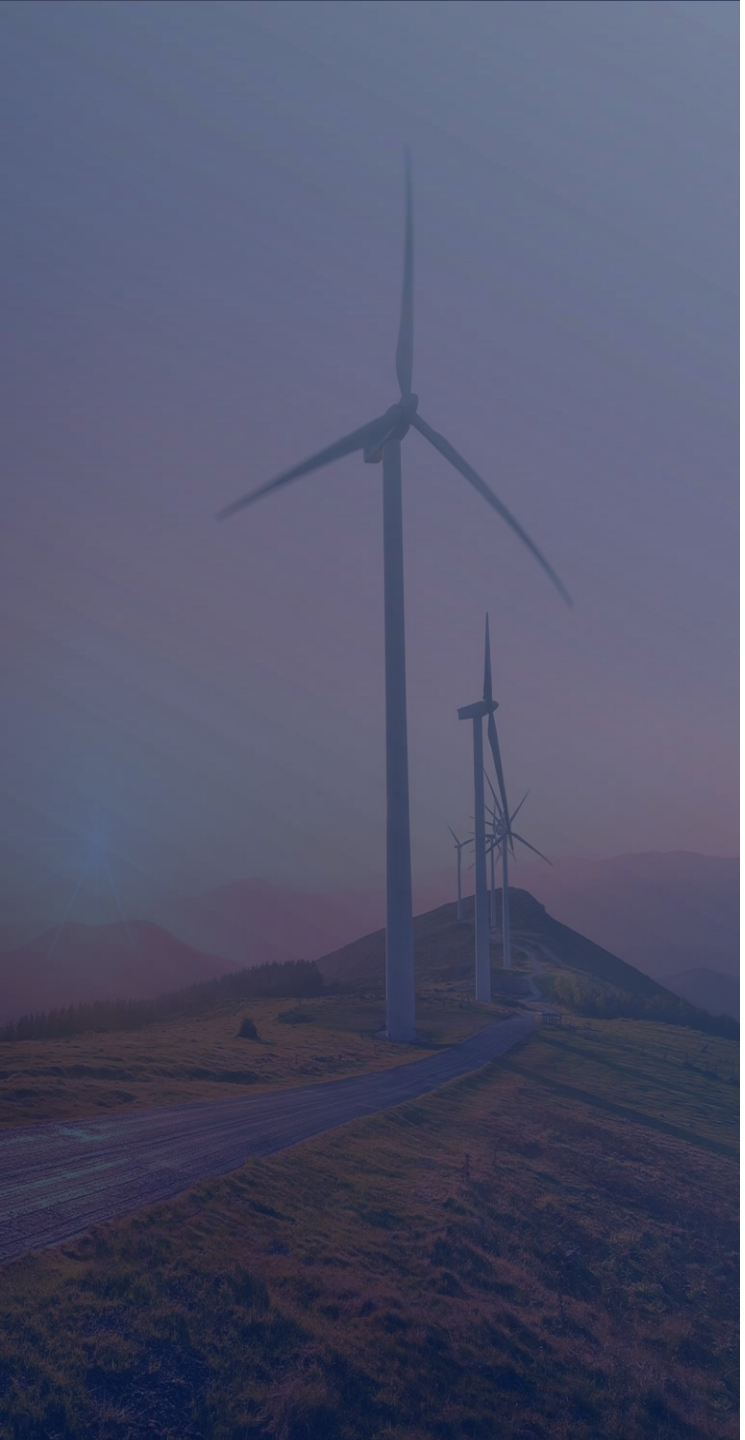
Developers should identify whether a Candidate Project is intended as an opportunistic grid enhancement (meaning that it builds off existing planned upgrades to increase benefits or serve additional needs), or as a larger-scale interregional transmission tie.

- Request for Information at page 4

Candidate projects may include:

- "Opportunistic Grid Enhancements" or
- "Larger-Scale Interregional Transmission Ties"

The Collaborative is open to a variety of project maturity, size and complexity levels



# Technical Description

1. Provide a concise description of the Candidate Project and the policy and/or technical objectives that the proposed project is intended to address.

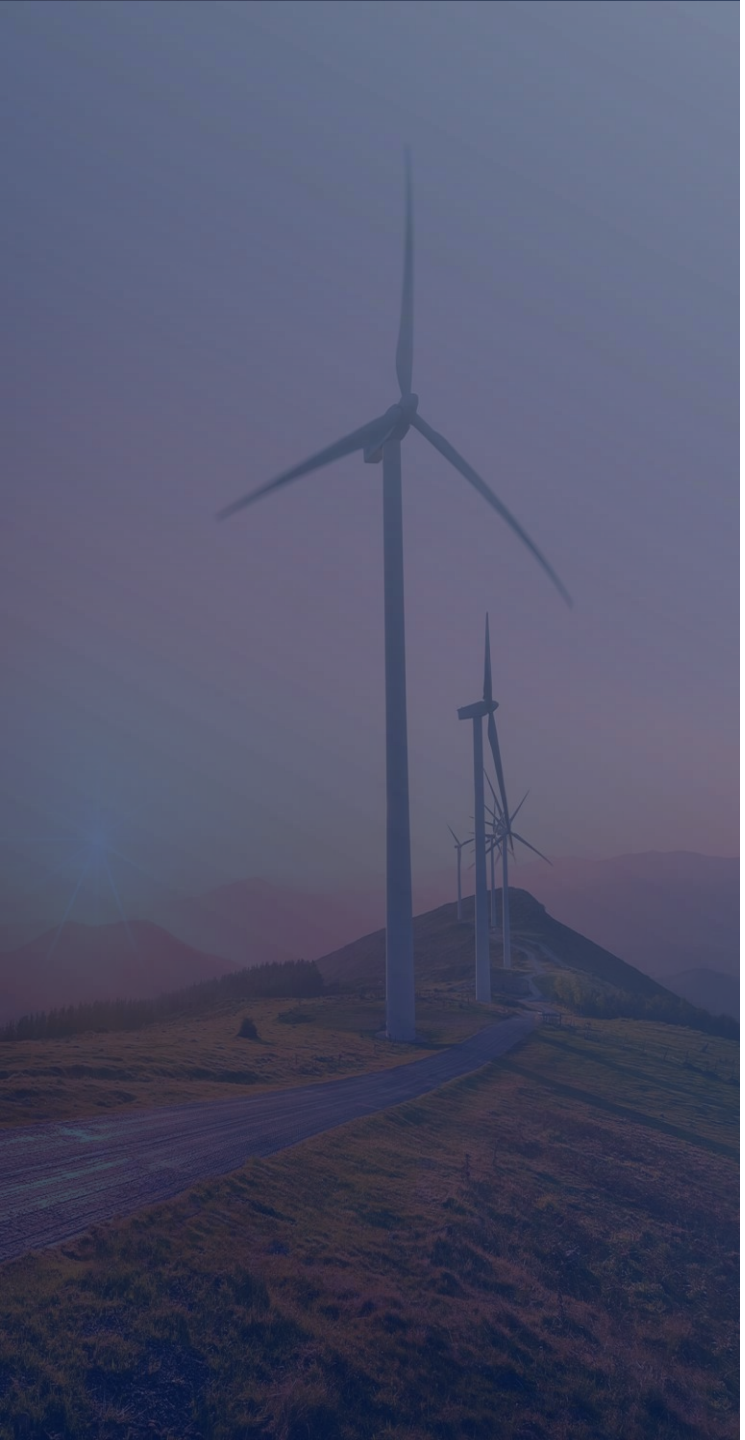
2. Describe the types of major equipment that will be used in the Candidate Project, including any new/innovative technologies.

3. Describe any reasonably foreseeable supply chain risks or challenges, including material, equipment, or labor any mitigation measures.

4. Summarize any engineering or economic studies performed to support the identified project benefits.

5. Describe any additional transmission studies that may be necessary, whether such studies are underway, and their expected completion date.

6. Describe any assistance that the respondent would need from the States Collaborative to support the design and/or the development of the Candidate Project.



# Submittal Process

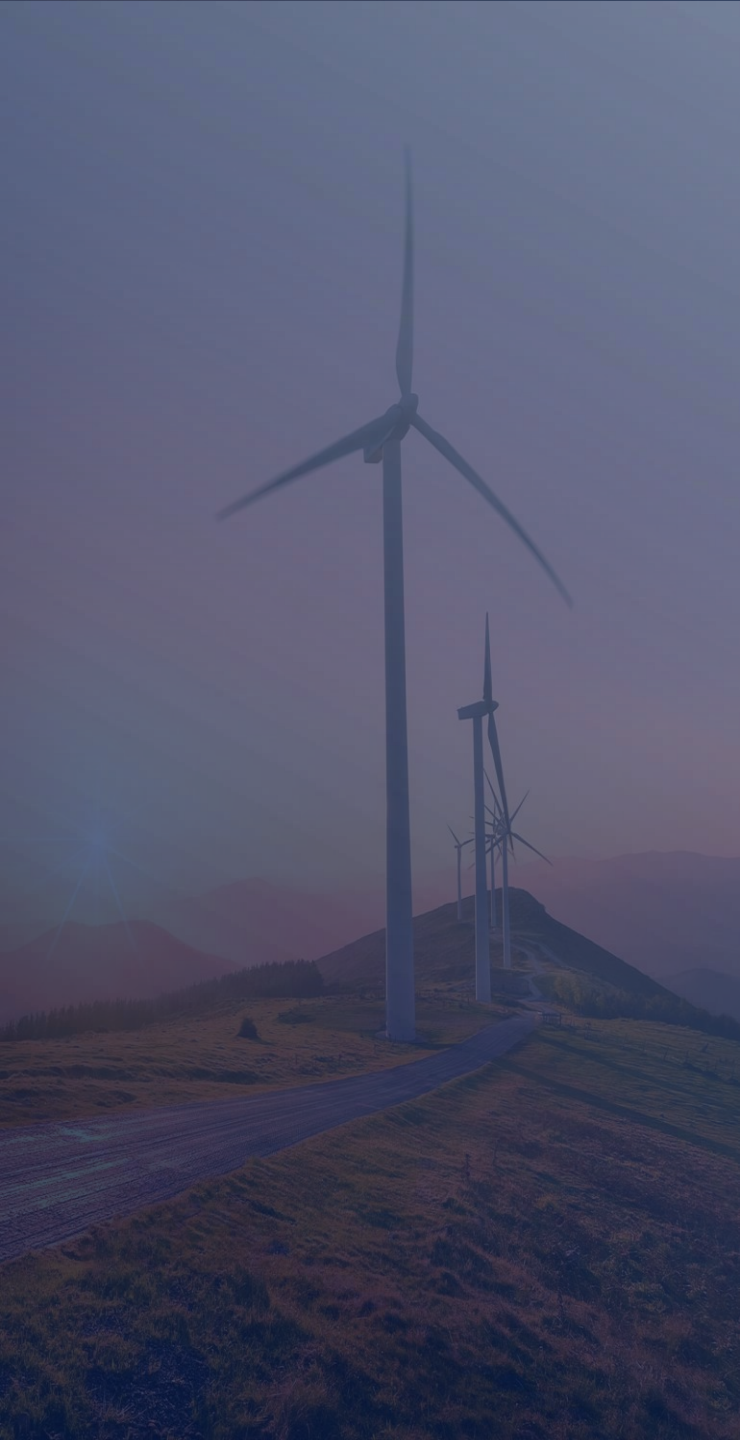
1. The States Collaborative request submission of initial Candidate Projects by October 23, 2025.

2. Initial Concept Papers should be no longer than 12 pages.

3. Initial concept papers should “clearly identify which of the States Collaborative’s core priorities are addressed by the Candidate Project, highlighting economic and operational benefits.”

4. Respondents should include up to 1 page on its experience in transmission development.

5. Respondents may be asked to submit proposals in a standard format (see FAQ for Consultant RFP).



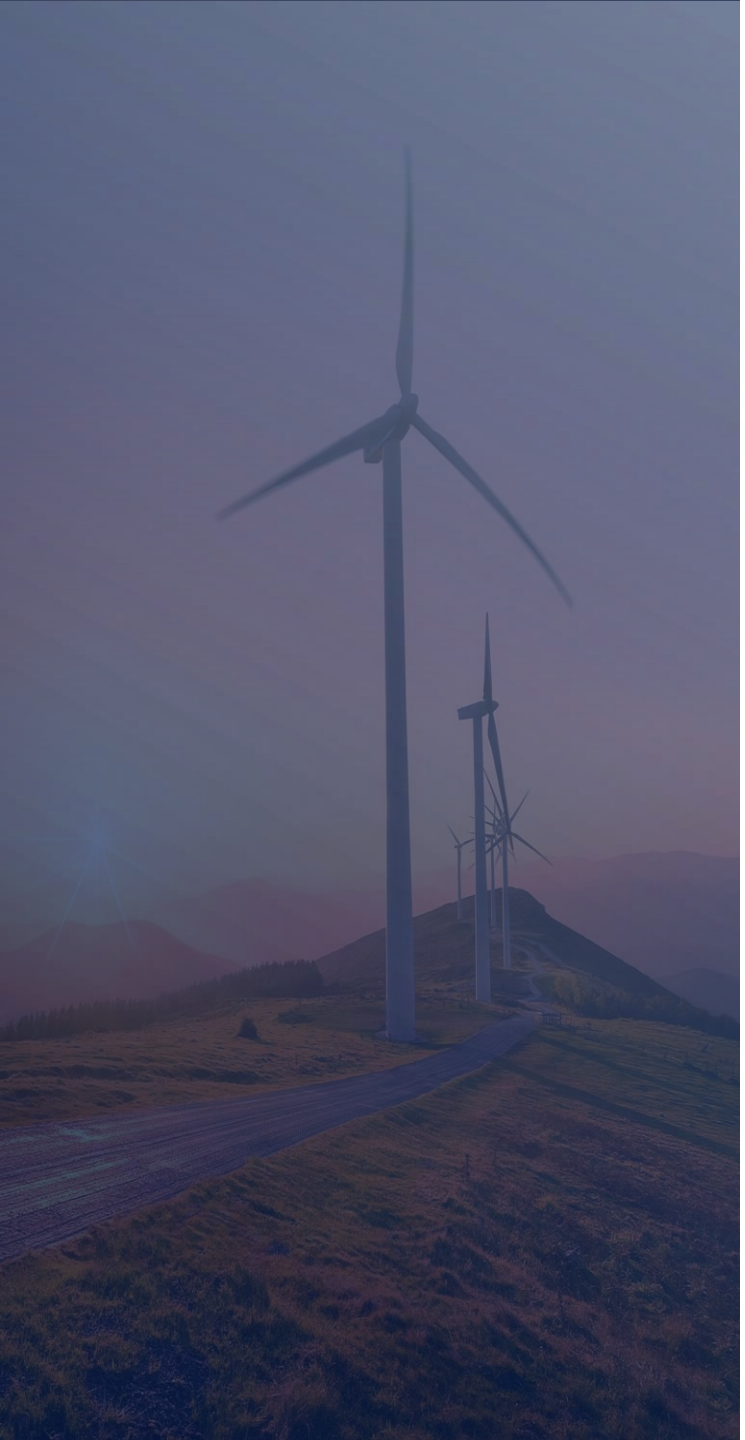
# Evaluation Process:

1. The Collaborative intends to evaluate projects through Q1/Q2 2026.

2. The Northeast States Collaborative is in the process of seeking a consultant to assist with high-level analysis of Candidate Projects.

3. The States Collaborative may also seek assistance from entities including, but not limited to, ISOs/RTOs, DOE, NERC, or National Lab entities in the review of proposals.

4. Scoring will be conducted on a holistic basis, according to the criteria set forth in the RFI.



# Key Considerations:  Impact & Market Viability

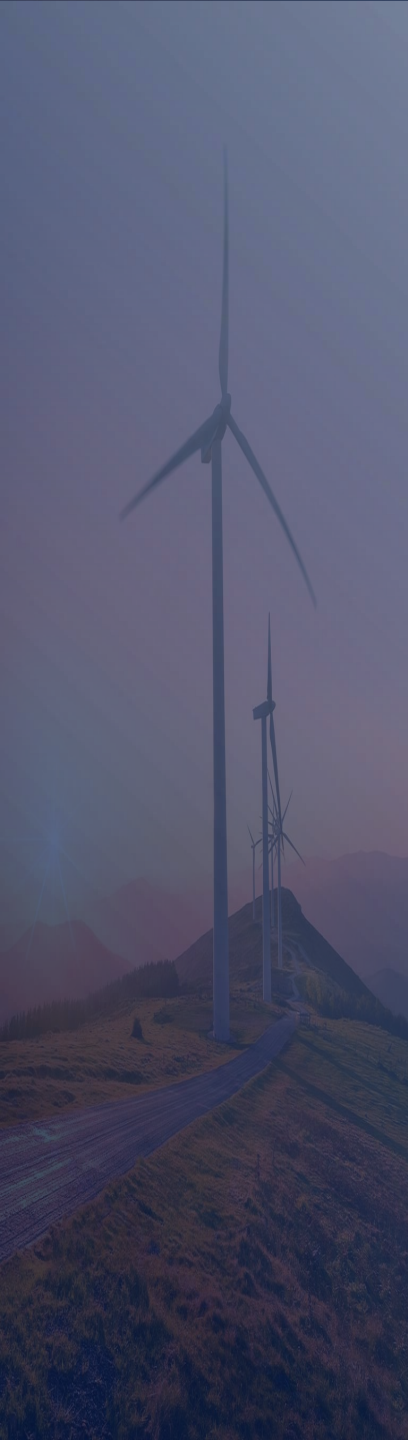
- Address affordability
    - reduced production costs, diversified supply and avoided infrastructure investment.
- Enhance existing regional or interregional system reliability.
    - relieving transmission system constraints, reducing reliance on stored fuels and improving system resilience.
- Leverage use of existing ROW; reduce environmental impacts.
- Enhance grid reliability and resilience against extreme weather events.
- Innovative approaches to enhance transmission systems through advanced technology.

# Key Considerations: Project Plan & Feasibility

> The States Collaborative will also review whether each Candidate Project demonstrates understanding of the key anticipated risks (e.g., technical, financial, market, environmental, regulatory) involved in the proposed work and the quality of the mitigation strategies to address them, taking into account the maturity of the concepts.

- Request for Information at page 6.

- Contribute to the Member States' energy requirements and objectives and States' economic development.
- Offer public benefit with a clear path to replication, scale, or ability to ensure grid reliability or resilience.
- Maximize energy market and resource adequacy benefits.
- Potential impact in providing spillover benefits, for example by leading to more widespread deployment of advanced technologies; innovative partnerships; new financial arrangements; increased non-state investment; and/or innovative environmental siting, permitting strategies, or community engagement practices.
- Leverage non-ratepayer funding opportunities, including any federal tax credits or other financial support.



# Confidentiality:

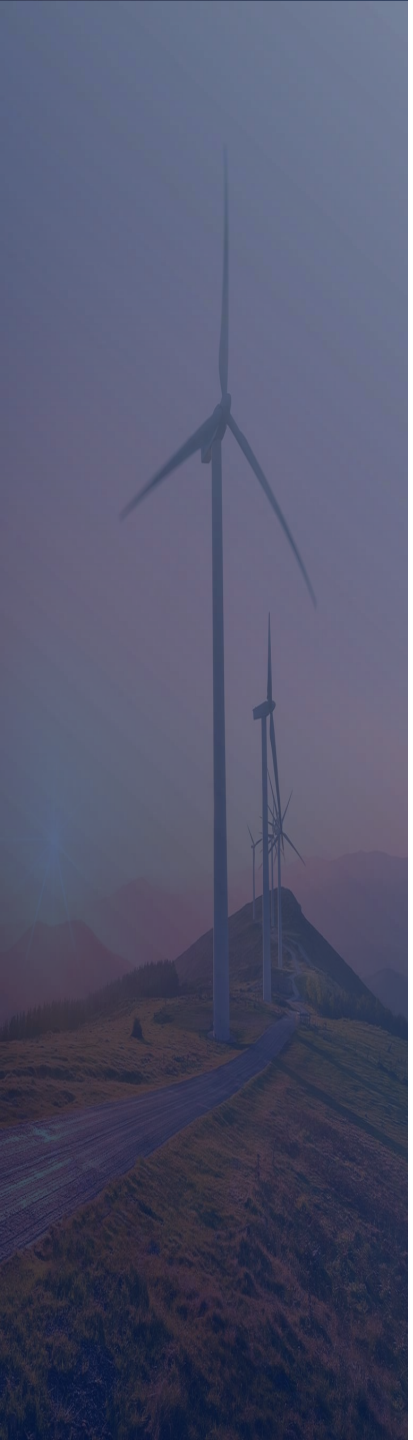
1. The Collaborative takes confidentiality concerns seriously and is interested in working with developers to make this process successful.

2. Respondents seeking confidential treatment must submit complete, unredacted versions of their Candidate Projects and label submissions as confidential, including items designated as CEII (if applicable).

3. Respondents may submit versions that redact Respondent's confidential information and redact information that is deemed confidential within two weeks of submission.

4. If Respondent does not submit a redacted version, the States Collaborative will assume that the unredacted version is not confidential.

5. The Collaborative anticipates that project proposals not selected for further development will remain confidential, to the extent allowed under applicable state law.



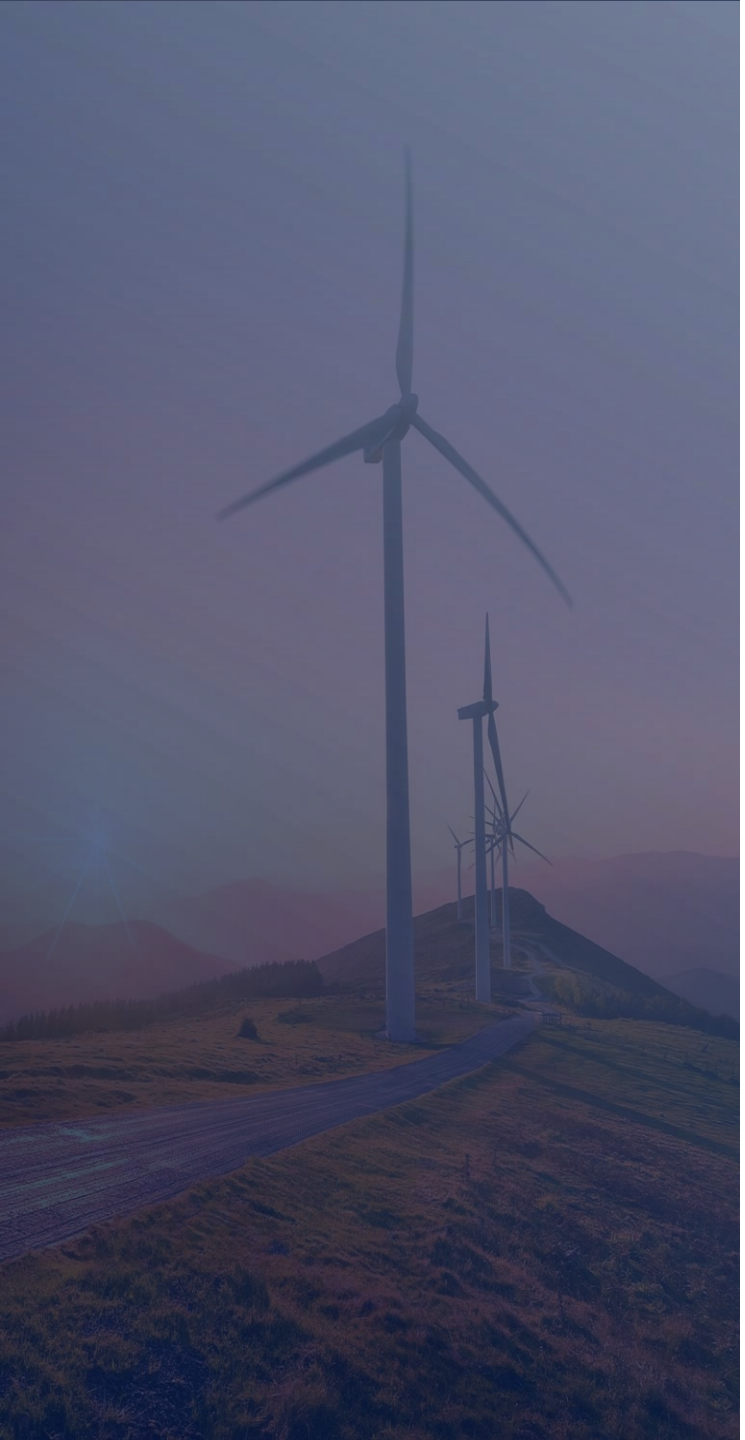
# Confidentiality FAQ:

**Q: How will the Collaborative and its agents address confidentiality of concepts submitted into the RFI?**

A: The Collaborative recognizes the importance of protecting respondents' intellectual property and takes the need to preserve commercially sensitive information seriously. The Collaborative anticipates that project proposals not selected for further development will remain confidential, to the extent allowed under applicable state law. Submittals that are selected for further consideration may be made public, in consultation with the proposer, with appropriate redactions. In all cases, respondents must submit redacted versions of their proposals, as discussed in section VI.c of the RFI, in order to support confidentiality claims.

**Q: Will submitted concepts be made public and put out for bid?**

A: The Collaborative does not anticipate conducting a competitive solicitation of the submitted concepts. To the extent that a competitive process is required by ISO/RTO or FERC rules, the Collaborative anticipates that it would likely identify a genericized transmission need, suitable for inclusion in the applicable transmission planning process(es). Proposers would then be encouraged to submit the candidate project as a means of meeting that transmission need.



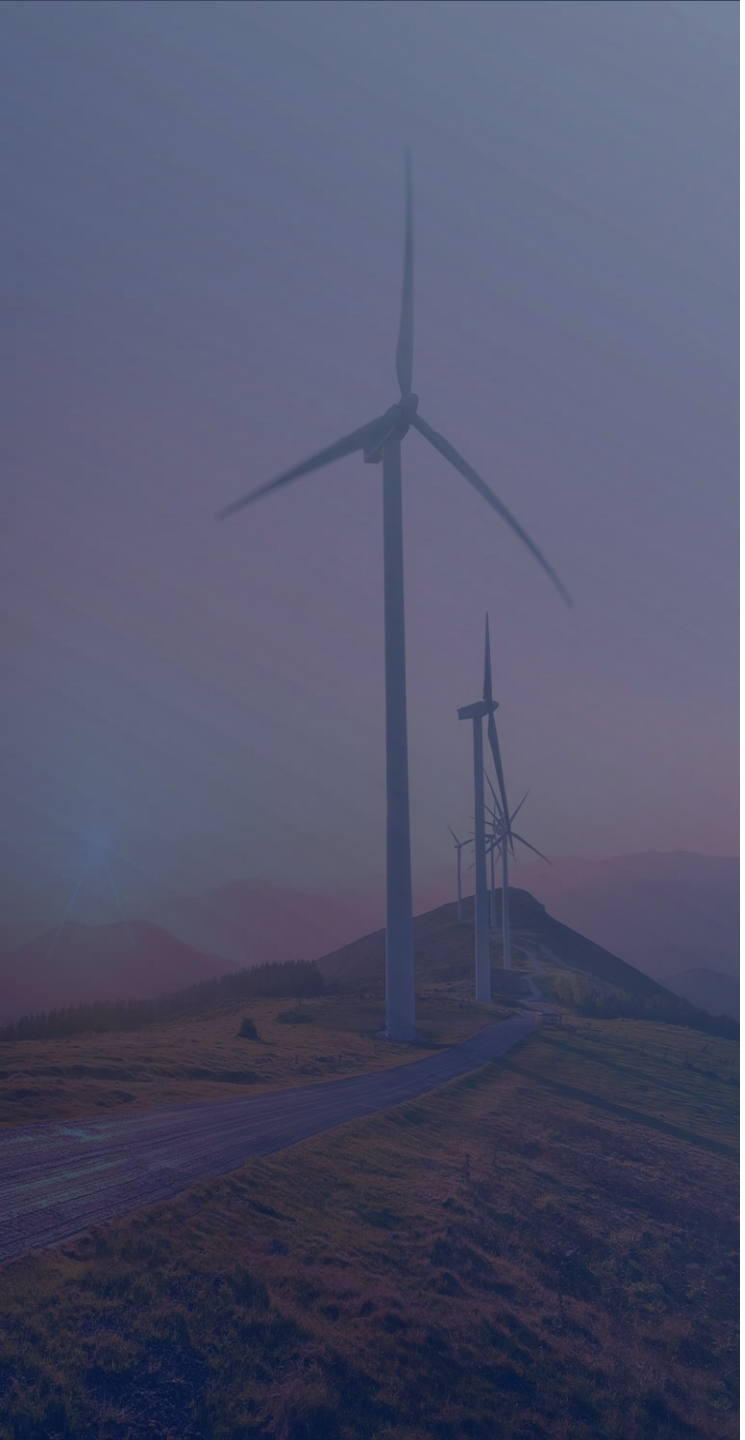
# Benefits, Cost, Funding & Next Steps

1. Entities proposing Candidate Projects should clearly identify benefits to consumers across two or more of the relevant ISO/RTO regions.

2. Member States may elect to work with project sponsors, existing transmission owners, and/or any relevant ISOs/RTOs to facilitate evaluation of potential needs and benefits associated with more detailed project proposals through each ISO/RTO planning process

3. Potential funding mechanisms for proposed interregional transmission projects may be explored by the States Collaborative and may include regional or interregional cost allocation, voluntary cost allocation agreements, direct state or federal support, or other options.

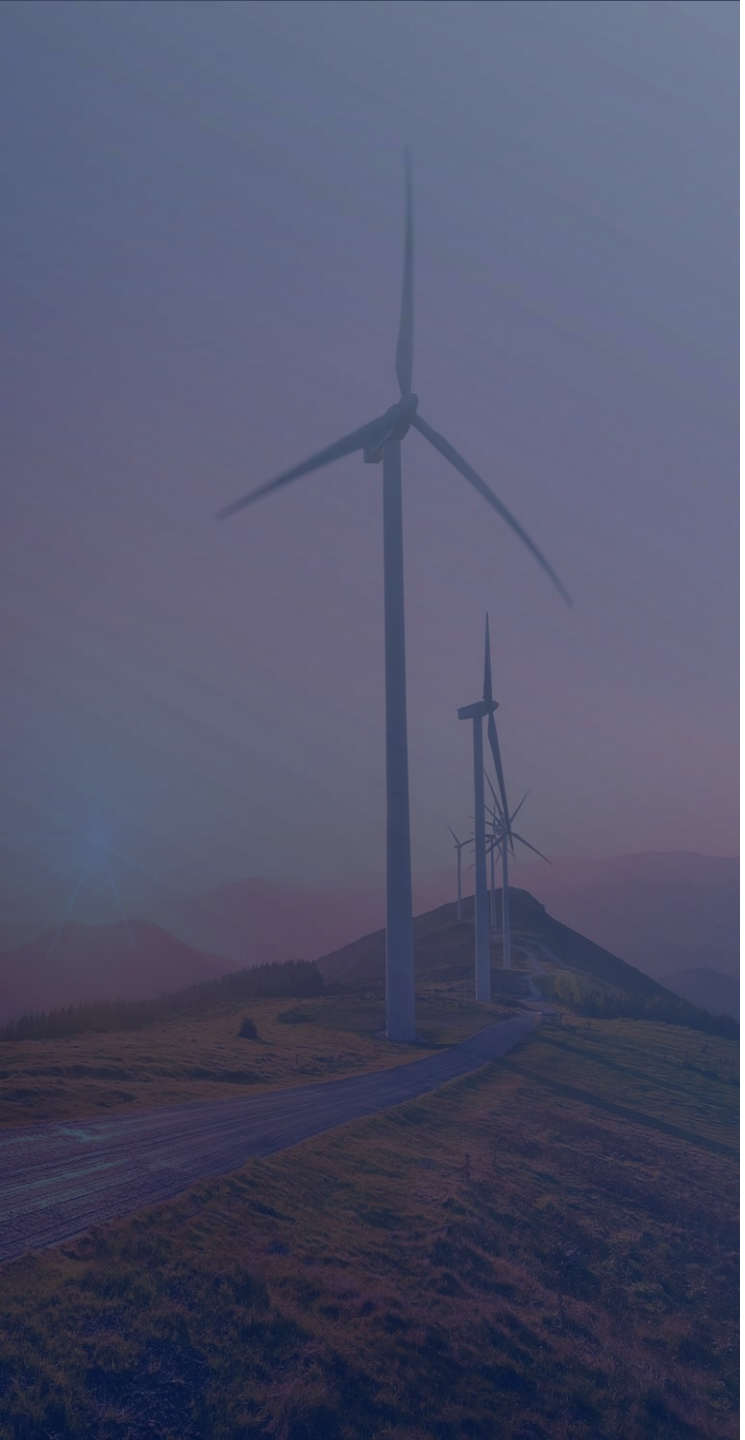
4. This RFI will help inform the States Collaborative's considerations of potential funding mechanisms for these types of projects.



# Next Steps FAQ:

**Q: If a developer submits a concept paper, and that concept is selected by the Collaborative for further development, what process does the Collaborative envision following the RFI?**

A: The Collaborative recognizes that the existing interregional transmission process remains under-developed, and the Collaborative anticipates working with FERC, the ISOs/RTOs and other interested stakeholders to develop a workable process for advancing consideration of candidate projects identified as being of interest to one or more Collaborative states.



# Thank you!

Please submit any additional questions (whether FAQ or otherwise) to:

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or
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