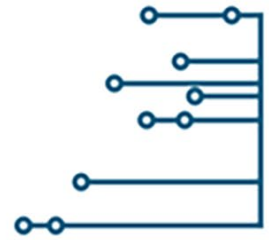


# Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission



## Frequently Asked Questions re: the Request for Proposals to Consultants to Support the Northeast States Collaborative's Transmission RFI

**\*\*\* Current as of July 28, 2025 \*\*\***

**Please note:** We have received a request to extend the date of responses to this Request for Proposals. **We will extend the due date to August 22, 2025.**

**Q: Can you confirm whether the Consultant contract will be awarded before the October 23, 2025, deadline for submitting Candidate Projects?**

**A:** Yes, our intent is to award the consulting contract in early/mid September.

**Q: We note there does not appear to be a maximum number of Candidate Projects that may be submitted. What is the Collaborative's expectation for the number of Candidate Projects likely to be submitted? Is it the Collaborative's expectation that the Consultant will evaluate all Candidate Projects received, regardless of volume, within the \$250,000 time-and-materials budget? If not, will there be a down-selection or triage mechanism?**

**A:** While we do not know for certain, we are anticipating that there will be 5 – 20 project submittals, with some submittals potentially having multiple options. We recognize that this creates some inherent uncertainty for bidders and anticipate that we will work with the successful consultant team to triage and down-select appropriately to remain within budgetary constraints.

**Q: How many candidate projects been received to date?**

**A:** The Collaborative does not anticipate receiving any candidate projects before the October due date, however we have had a robust level of interest from potential bidders.

**Q: Can you provide additional detail or examples of the type and length of analysis the Collaborative envisions as part of the "technical and econometric evaluation" of Candidate Projects, as described in the Scope of Work?**

- **Do you expect the consultant to carry out simulations (e.g. optimal dispatch) to evaluate the impacts of each project on the operational costs, GHG emissions, etc.?**
- **Does the scope of work require AC Power Flow, nodal production cost simulations, and resource adequacy simulation?**
- **Do you expect the consultant to analyze the applications shared by project developers and provide an expert view on the soundness of their calculations?**

**A:** As noted in the RFP document, the selected consultant or consultants will be asked to “perform high-level technical and econometric evaluation” of the proposed projects. We note that the candidate project submissions are limited to 12 pages, which naturally acts to limit the intensity of the analysis on any given project. Thus, we do not anticipate that the consultant will be performing detailed nodal-level power flows. Any resource adequacy or other modeling would likewise be appropriate to a high-level initial screening analysis.

We anticipate working with the selected consultant to identify the most appropriate tools for analyzing submissions, considering both the number of submittals and the maturity of projects, as well as the level of support provided by partner organizations (such as DOE or the ISOs/RTOs). Additionally, the Collaborative may elect, at some point in the future, to conduct a more intensive round of analysis, but that effort will be separately resourced.

**Q:** **Could you clarify the level of technical assessment required when evaluating the feasibility of a project? Specifically, is the consultant expected to review and understand specific equipment selected by the developers (e.g. type of cables, converters, transformers, substations, control/protection systems, etc.)?**

**A:** As noted, we are looking for “high-level technical and econometric analysis” of relatively short proposals from potential candidate projects. We expect that the selected consultant or consultants will have the expertise and technical resources to assess whether a particular transmission technology is suitable for the proposed application and assist the Collaborative to evaluate the technical feasibility of proposal. However, we are not expecting the consultant team to evaluate specific engineering proposals as that is outside the scope of this initial evaluation phase.

**Q:** **Will the Collaborative be providing RFI respondents with a standardized format or template for concept paper submissions to ensure that each of the evaluation criteria outlined in Section V is clearly addressed and consistently located within the documents? How will the Collaborative ensure that information submitted by Respondents is standardized to ensure comparability between Candidate Project data and allow for analysis?**

**A:** We anticipate working with the selected consultant team to make the RFI process as tractable as possible and welcome suggestions on standardizing responses. The RFI is

intentionally designed to invite proposals of varying degrees of maturity and standardization efforts will have to account for the varying degrees of project maturity.

**Q: With respect to CEII and other confidential information included in Candidate Project submissions, will it be the full responsibility of the RFI respondents, and not the Consultant, to identify and properly mark CEII or other protected information?**

**A:** Yes. Please see Section VI.c of the RFI document for respondent's obligations re: CEII and confidential information. Please note, however, that given the length of the anticipated proposals, we do not anticipate that respondents will be submitting substantial amounts of CEII information.

**Q: Is the Consultant expected to draft portions of ISO/RTO submission materials, engage directly with ISO/RTO planning staff, or primarily identify gaps and recommend actions for project sponsors and States to pursue?**

**A:** We recognize that the ISO/RTO planning processes dealing with interregional transmission are narrowly defined and require enhancements to support an interregional planning effort as envisioned in this RFI. However, the consultant team may also be asked to help facilitate discussions between the Collaborative, ISO/RTO planners, and candidate proposal, where appropriate, but will not be expected to prepare submission materials.

**Q: What level of engagement is expected between the Consultant and potential analysis partners, including the DOE, National Labs, and ISOs/RTOs?**

**A:** The Collaborative deeply appreciates the assistance and cooperation it has received to date from its partners at the federal level and within the ISOs/RTOs and anticipates that these entities will continue to be involved in this evaluation process. To the extent that these partners elect to participate in the evaluation process, the consultant team will be asked to help identify priorities and assist the Collaborative in working with those partners to maximize the impact of their analysis. However, the exact scope of partner involvement has not been determined.

**Q: Will the Consultant be expected to facilitate technical review sessions, or primarily support sessions organized by JHU or the Collaborative? How many sessions, roughly, will the Consultant need to facilitate?**

**A:** The Collaborative and JHU already have a robust schedule of regular engagements, and the consultant will be invited to participate in those meetings. The exact number of sessions is highly dependent on the number of submittals and partner involvement.

**Q: Can you confirm what the final deliverable should include for review of each Candidate Project? Will there be a required format?**

**A:** We anticipate that the final deliverable will be a high-level analysis of each submitted project, evaluated on the criteria spelled out in the RFI. We anticipate that the consultant's final work project will be a mix of oral and written analysis, in either a PowerPoint or comparable presentation format, and presented for feedback to the Collaborative's members. The consultant may also be asked to participate in one or more public events presenting its high-level findings to the public (consistent with confidentiality concerns).

**Q: Are there geographic limitations on the proposed candidate projects? What ISOs/RTOs are included?**

**A:** Candidate projects may be located in ISO-NE, NYISO, or PJM and are not limited to states participating in the Collaborative. Additionally, the Collaborative may consider projects crossing the Canadian border, so long as they otherwise qualify with the terms of the RFI.

**Q: Will ISO models be available or required?**

**A:** Currently, we do not have any non-public access to ISO/RTO models. Those may be made available, depending on the level of coordination with our partners. However, as noted above, the initial screening analysis is intended to be high-level, and model usage should be understood within that context.