

Gas-Electric Interface Study

Questions Regarding Request for Proposals

April 25, 2017

Link to [Gas-Electric Interface Study Request for Proposals](#).

Q1. The cover page for the RFP distributed on April 14th is titled “Draft Request for Proposals.” When will the final document be available?

A1. The cover page for the RFP distributed on April 14th was incorrect. The document was the final RFP. WECC has posted a corrected version.

Q2. The RFP requests pricing on a firm fixed price basis. Would WECC consider pricing with a range of costs, based on the uncertainty of effort required for each of the elements listed in the Tasks, Deliverables and Time Schedule?

A2. WECC prefers a single fixed price for project proposals. However, will not disqualify responses that offer a time and materials (T&M) or other cost proposal, provided that they include a firm not-to-exceed amount.

Q3. Will WECC consider proposals that include subcontracts for one or more deliverables?

A3. Yes, WECC will consider proposals that include subcontracts. However, a single entity must assume responsibility for completing all deliverables. If WECC awards a contract to an entity that includes one or more subcontracts, all contract payments will be made only to the primary contractor.

Q4. Is there a defined project budget?

A4. WECC has allocated up to \$1.5 million over the next two years.

Q5. What is the desired project schedule?

A5. WECC expects the study to take about a year, starting in mid-2017 and being complete in 2018. It is more important to do the study correctly than to do it quickly.

Q6. Are there specific metrics that WECC would like the contractor to consider with respect to storage or other risks?

A6. No, WECC does not have specific metrics in mind. One of the considerations in this study is that WECC would like some guidance on an appropriate methodology to study risks related to the



WESTERN ELECTRICITY COORDINATING COUNCIL
155 North 400 West, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103-1114

gas-electric interface. Although WECC has significant expertise in electric operations and planning, it does not have similar expertise on the gas side.

Q7. What is the scope of the desired hydraulic evaluation? A complete analysis of the entire gas transmission system in the Western Interconnection would be a huge undertaking.

A7. Like the previous question, WECC seeks guidance and expertise on an appropriate scope for this analysis. It is likely that there are a relatively small number of potential contingencies for which a focused analysis would return the maximum benefit. WECC does not have a “short list” of these contingencies, but invites bidders to recommend the most vulnerable points on the system for which detailed analysis might produce the most informative results.

Q8. Is there a defined set of expected stakeholder engagements on study results?

A8. No, although there are some likely communications over the next 12-18 months. The Western Electric Industry Leaders (WEIL) group meets 3-4 times each year, and the Steering Committee for this study includes many members of WEIL. Thus, WECC would expect briefings at each of the WEIL meetings. In addition, WECC expects regular webinar briefings to the core project team and Technical Advisory Committee.

Q9. The RFP refers to the 2026 Common Case as a reference for analyses. What, specifically, is included in the Common Case? Gas is dispatched five times daily—does WECC seek to understand gas operational issues at the daily level or more granularly, perhaps hourly?

A9. The 2026 Common Case is a data set that includes the most likely set of loads, resources and transmission topology in 2026 and forms the foundation for WECC’s “Year 10” analyses. In addition, the Common Case includes a production cost model (PCM) analysis of transmission path flows and resource mix based on the data that identifies hourly dispatch for each of the 8,760 hours in the study year. WECC is seeking guidance from the contractor on the appropriate study granularity, but expects that it will be necessary to consider dispatch and operations at a level more granular than daily.

Q10. The RFP refers to the use of simulation models to estimate gas burns and analyze impacts of electric system reliability. Does WECC expect the winning bidder to conduct the energy market modeling or is that something that WECC will undertake, presumably in collaboration with, or with input from, the consultant? If WECC will be doing the modeling, can you please indicate which software packages you use.

A10. WECC has published the [analytical results of the 2026 Common Case](#) based on the GridView production cost model, as well as [details of the data set](#). WECC expects the winning bidder to complete any additional modeling that may be needed to evaluate gas burns, transmission and

distribution flows and other information that would provide insight into new infrastructure requirements.