Request for Proposals
for Energy Storage Projects Pursuant to
35-A M.R.S. §10313

This is a draft Request for Proposals. The Department is not seeking proposals in response to this draft. Interested parties may submit comments by April 20, 2026.

Issued by the Maine Department of Energy Resources

[Final RFP Release Date TBD]

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

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ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
CCIS	Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard
CEII	Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information
CMP	Central Maine Power
CNRIS	Capacity Network Resource Interconnection Service
COD	Commercial Operation Date
Commission	Maine Public Utilities Commission
DACF	Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Safety
DECD	Maine Department of Economic and Community Development
DEP	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
DOER/Department	Maine Department of Energy Resources
DOL	Maine Department of Labor
DPS	Maine Department of Public Safety
EMA	Energy Market Adjustment
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
ESC	Energy Storage Contract
FCA	Forward Capacity Auction
FCM	Forward Capacity Market
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FOAA	Maine Freedom of Access Act
FOIA	U.S. Freedom of Information Act
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HVAC	High-voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High-voltage Direct Current
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
ISO-NE	Independent System Operator New England
ITC	Federal Investment Tax Credit
kW	Kilowatt
LOC	Letter of Credit
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt Hour
NCIS	Network Capability Interconnection Standard
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NMISA	Northern Maine Independent System Administrator
NRIS	Network Resource Interconnection
OPA	Office of the Public Advocate
P-node	Pricing Node

PTC	Production Tax Credit
PTF	Pool Transmission Facility
RFP	Request for Proposal
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
State	State of Maine
T&D	Transmission and Distribution
Versant	Versant Power

Definitions

Term	Definition
Bid Price	A price in $/kW-month proposed by the bidder to determine monthly payments pursuant to the Energy Storage Contract.
Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard	An ISO New England capacity and energy requirement to ensure intrazonal deliverability by avoiding the redispatch of other capacity network resources, includes the same criteria as the Network Capability Interconnection Standard.[1]
Capacity Network Resource	That portion of a generating facility interconnected to the transmission system under the Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard, which includes the criteria for interconnecting a generating facility seeking capacity network resource interconnection service, or an elective transmission upgrade seeking capacity network import interconnection service, in a way that avoids any significant adverse effect on the reliability, stability, and operability of the New England transmission system.[2]
Class I/IA Renewable Energy Resource	A new renewable capacity resource such as wind, solar, biomass, hydropower or geothermal (35-A M.R.S. §3210).
Cluster Request Entry Window	A window of time, established by ISO New England, to submit a complete interconnection request package as part of the cluster study process.
Critical Energy Infrastructure Information	In accordance with FERC, this refers to specific engineering, vulnerability, or detailed design information about proposed or existing critical infrastructure (physical or virtual) that: (1) relates details about the production, generation, transmission, or distribution of energy; (2) could be useful to a person planning an attack on critical infrastructure; (3) is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the US Freedom of Information Act; and, (4) gives strategic information beyond the location of the critical infrastructure.[3]
Delivery Point	The specific location on the Pool Transmission Facilities where Eligible Project shall charge and discharge its energy.
Efficiency Maine Trust	A program that offers performance based incentives for

[1] ISO-NE, Glossary and Acronyms, Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard. Available at https://www.iso-ne.com/participate/support/glossary-acronyms#Network_Capability_Interconnection_Standard

[2] ISO-NE, Glossary and Acronyms, Capacity Network Resource. Available at https://www.iso-ne.com/participate/support/glossary-acronyms#cnr

[3] ISO-NE, Glossary and Acronyms, CEII. Available at https://www.iso-ne.com/participate/support/glossary-acronyms#ceii

Term	Definition
Energy Storage System Program	the deployment of energy storage systems during summer peak demand conditions.
Energy Storage	A commercially available technology that uses mechanical, chemical or thermal processes for absorbing energy and storing it for a period of time for use at a later time.[4]
Energy Storage Contract	A contract executed between one or more T&D utilities and one or more selected Bidder(s) pursuant to the terms of this RFP.
Energy Storage Project	A project to construct and operate a resource that uses Energy Storage technology.
Freedom of Access Act	A law that grants the people of Maine a broad right of access to public records while protecting legitimate governmental interests and the privacy rights of individual citizens; the act also ensures the accountability of the government to the citizens of the state by requiring public access to the meetings of public bodies. (1 M.R.S. Chapter 13).
Investment Grade	Having one or more credit ratings of BBB or above from Standard and Poor's, BBB or above from Fitch, or Baa3 or above from Moody's.
Net Contract Capacity	The sustainable capacity in MW specified in the Energy Storage Contract at which the Energy Storage facility can deliver power to the grid.
Network Resource Interconnection Service	The Interconnection Service selected by the Interconnection Customer to interconnect its Generating Facility to the Administered Transmission System in accordance with the Network Capability Interconnection Standard, as defined by ISO New England in Schedule 22, Large Generator Interconnection Procedures.[5]
Pool Transmission Facility	A facility rated 69 KV or above owned by a participating transmission owner over which ISO New England has operating authority in accordance with the terms set forth in the Transmission Operating Agreements.[6]
The Act	Refers to Public Law 2025 Chapter 476 (LD 1270, An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources or the Act) which establishes the Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER or the Department) as the successor to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) previously established in 2 M.R.S. §9 and enacts 35-A M.R.S. §10313, the statutory authority for this solicitation.

[4] 35-A M.R.S. §3481
[5] ISO-NE, Schedule 22, Large Generator Interconnection Procedures.
[6] ISO-NE, Glossary and Acronyms, Pool Transmission Facility. Available at https://www.iso-ne.com/participate/support/glossary-acronyms#PTF

Term	Definition
The Maine Energy Plan	A strategic plan, published by the Department of Energy Resources in January 2025, for the state to advance affordable, reliable and clean energy for Maine's people and economy.
Transitional Cluster Study	A cluster study process being conducted by ISO New England to transition from the serial queue interconnection process to the cluster based interconnection process required by FERC Order No. 2023.
U.S. Freedom of Information Act	A law passed in 1967 that provides the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency (5 U.S.C. § 552).

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER or the "Department") leads energy policy, planning, and development for the state. DOER provides policy leadership and technical assistance, develops energy programs, monitors energy markets, and reports on heating fuel and electricity prices, among other activities. DOER works in partnership with various state agencies, federal and local officials, industry, nonprofit interests, and academia on energy issues.

DOER's mission is to deliver the expertise and coordination needed to strengthen the state's energy system and ensure affordable, reliable and increasingly cleaner energy for all people and businesses.

In January 2025, in accordance with law, the Department published the Maine Energy Plan ("Plan"). The Plan is a strategic plan for the state to advance affordable, reliable and clean energy for Maine's people and economy.

The Plan offers five objectives and associated strategies and actions to advance Maine's energy system and support achievement of the state's climate and clean energy requirements. The five objectives include delivering affordable energy for Maine, ensuring Maine's energy reliability and resiliency, advancing clean energy, deploying technologies to reduce energy costs, and expanding clean energy career opportunities in Maine.

The Plan identifies energy storage as key to "decrease costs by supplying power when grid electricity is most expensive, and store energy to be utilized when intermittent clean energy resources may not be as abundantly available" (p. 29). The Plan further contemplates advancing energy storage systems, as part of a diverse portfolio of energy resources, because these resources can provide important reliability and resilience benefits to Maine ratepayers. In addition, the Plan includes a strategic goal of increasing the amount of locally produced electricity from renewable generators and pairing that energy with advanced energy storage. Such pairing can diversify the region's electricity supply and lower carbon emissions by reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The Department is required by law to conduct regular clean energy and other energy infrastructure solicitations to advance the energy policies of the state consistent with the state energy plan (35-A M.R.S. §10313; hereafter §10313). Specifically, DOER is required to initiate and conduct a competitive procurement no later than January 15, 2026 (P.L. 2025 Ch. 476 §A-18).

DOER will only award energy resources through competitive solicitations that will provide benefits to ratepayers in Maine that exceed any costs to ratepayers in Maine. To the extent any proposals are received which satisfy this threshold requirement of providing net benefits to Maine ratepayers, the Department's objectives for this competitive procurement as established by §10313 will include:

A. To provide the benefits of renewable and clean resources to ratepayers in the State;

B. To provide the benefits of renewable and clean resources toward meeting the greenhouse gas reduction obligations and climate policies of the state;

C. To contribute to the State's economic and workforce goals;

D. To minimize the impact of energy generation on the environment of the State;

E. To ensure the protection of low-income ratepayers; and

F. To avoid or minimize the curtailment of other renewable or clean resources.

Pursuant to §10313, the Department is seeking to procure between 200 megawatts (MW) and 300 MW of new Energy Storage Projects. The Department may procure more, less, or no resources, whatever is most consistent with the objectives and criteria of this Request for Proposals (RFP). The Department has not set a maximum allowed size for individual resources. Future solicitations may be issued to support achievement of the statutory goal of installing at least 400 MW of energy storage resources in the state by 2030 (35-A M.R.S. §3145).

This RFP outlines the process that the Department will follow, sets forth a timetable regarding the solicitation process, provides information and instructions to prospective Bidders, and describes the evaluation process that will be followed once proposals are received. If selected, projects will enter into an Energy Storage Contract with one or both of Maine's investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities, i.e., Central Maine Power Company (CMP) and Versant Power (Versant) (collectively, the "T&D Utilities").

In accordance with the Act, the Department is consulting with the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) during the development of this RFP. The Department is soliciting feedback on this draft RFP from interested stakeholders. The Commission reviewed and approved this RFP on [DATE] in Docket No. [NUMBER].

2. RFP PROCESS

2.1 Overview of Process; Schedule

Proposals are due on or before 3:00 PM Eastern Time on [DATE].

Proposals must be submitted to the Department in accordance with the submission instructions. The Department will conduct a rigorous analysis of submitted proposals following the process described in this RFP. The Department will assess whether any of the proposed projects are reasonably likely to result in contracts that are cost-effective for electric ratepayers in the state of Maine. In addition, the assessment will take into consideration potential economic, environmental, and other benefits to Maine ratepayers along with furthering the goals of the Act. Ultimate project selection will be at the sole discretion and authority of the Department.

Bidders will be notified by the Department whether they have been selected to enter into contract negotiations with the T&D Utilities. If a project or projects are selected, the Department will direct that either or both T&D Utilities enter into contract negotiations with the selected Energy Storage Project(s). Finalized contracts will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval. The Department, in consultation with the T&D Utilities, will develop a standard form Energy Storage Contract, to be included as Appendix A. Bidders may suggest changes to the draft Energy Storage Contract in a marked Energy Storage Contract draft submitted with the proposal. Modifications to the standard form contract will be limited to those necessary to conform the contract to the specific facility and the specific transaction terms approved by the Department. Bidders should ensure that all other provisions contained in the standard form contract are acceptable to it and to any potential lenders or investors prior to submitting a proposal. The Department reserves the right to reject any or all changes to the Energy Storage Contract included in a selected proposal.

Instructions for submitting proposals will be posted to the RFP website at:
[LINK]

The Department will retain broad discretion throughout the evaluation phase of project review. The Department may ask for supplemental and/or clarifying information from bidders and may propose and/or require modifications to the proposed pricing or structure of the bid. Bidders may accept or reject any modifications proposed by the Department. The Department reserves the right to revise, suspend, or terminate the RFP at its sole discretion, consistent with applicable requirements. In such event, the Department will inform all bidders as soon as reasonably possible. The Department also reserves the right to extend the deadline for submission of proposals or to seek additional proposals pursuant to this RFP to ensure the objectives of the Act are met. If at the close of a competitive bidding process conducted under this section, the Department determines that the proposals submitted do not satisfy the requirements of the Act, the Department reserves the right to reject all proposals and may subsequently open a new competitive bidding process.

The table below summarizes the key milestones of this RFP process. Any changes to this schedule, up to and including the due date for submission of proposals, will be posted at [LINK]. The Department reserves the right to revise the schedule as necessary.

Event	Expected Date
RFP Issuance	TBD
Bidders' Conference	1 weeks from RFP Issuance
Final Date for Submission of Questions from Bidders[7]	3 weeks from RFP issuance
Deadline for Department to Answer Questions	5 weeks from RFP issuance
Proposals Due	2 months from RFP issuance
Provisional Selection of Proposals	2 months from Proposals due (4 months from RFP issuance)

2.2 RFP Documents and Information; Contact Persons

2.2.1 Questions: Bidders may submit questions or request additional information by email to: [EMAIL]. The Department will maintain a Question-and-Answer Log on the RFP Website with written answers to questions in a manner that is equally accessible to all bidders.

2.2.2 RFP Documents and Contact Person: The RFP and all related documents and information are available on the RFP website. The RFP Contact Person is [NAME] at the Department. [NAME] can be reached at [EMAIL].

2.2.3 Changes / Supplements to RFP: Following bid submission, each Bidder is responsible to keep the Department informed on a timely basis about the status of their proposed project, including, but not limited to, status updates in obtaining permits, financing, site control, supply chain commitments, and interconnection.

3. EVALUATION STANDARDS AND CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Objectives Under The Act

In accordance with the Act, the Department is responsible for initiating and conducting procurements of Energy Storage resources to meet and manage reasonably expected growth in electricity demand or to meet reliability needs or that the Department determines are otherwise necessary in accord with the Plan. Any selected Project must be reasonably likely to provide benefits to Maine ratepayers that exceed the costs to Maine ratepayers. Furthermore, in evaluating eligible proposals and selecting one or

[7] All questions submitted by this date will be answered and published on the RFP website. The Department will make best efforts to respond to questions submitted after this date, but is not obligated to do so.

more proposals for contract awards, the Department shall give the greatest weight to the benefits to Maine ratepayers. Pursuant to the Act, the Department may not select a proposal for a contract award unless the Department determines the proposal is reasonably likely to provide benefits to ratepayers in the State in excess of all costs to ratepayers as a result of the contract. The Department shall also weigh any ratepayer impacts over the course of the Energy Storage Contract.

Therefore, consistent with the Act, the Department will evaluate Project(s) based on their ability to:

- Provide benefits to ratepayers of the state,
- Provide benefits to meeting GHG goals of the state,
- Contribute to economic and workforce goals,
- Minimize environmental impacts,
- Ensure protection of low-income ratepayers, and
- Avoid or minimize curtailment of other renewable or clean resources.

3.2 Threshold Evaluation

In the initial evaluation, proposals that fail to meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements will be disqualified from further review and evaluation. Following an initial review, Bidders will have a one-time opportunity to cure any identified deficiencies.

3.2.1 Eligible Bidder: An Eligible Bidder is a developer of an Energy Storage Project that has experience in the development, financing, and operations of Energy Storage Projects or similar generation projects. CMP and Versant are not Eligible Bidders in this RFP.

3.2.2 Eligible Project: To be eligible a Project must be an Energy Storage Project. An Energy Storage Project stores energy for later discharge to the grid, and operates through chemical, mechanical, or thermal means. The Eligible Project includes the construction and operation of all facilities required for charging and discharging energy from the Energy Storage Project at the Delivery Point. Eligible Projects must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulatory and land use requirements. Eligible Projects must demonstrate that the technology is commercially available and has been used in similar applications successfully.

3.2.3 Site Control/Interconnection Route Control: The Bidder must demonstrate control or an irrevocable option (conditioned only upon the payment of a reasonable amount) to acquire control over the site for the proposed Energy Storage Project, including any additional land

rights (including easements) that are necessary for the development, construction, interconnection and operation of the facility.

3.2.4 Eligible Proposal Size: An Eligible Project must offer a nameplate capacity of at least 3 MW. A Bidder may offer bids for a portion of the full nameplate rating of its proposed Energy Storage Project.

3.2.5 Interconnection and Deliverability: The Energy Storage Project must be able to charge and discharge throughout the term of the contract. It is the responsibility of the bidder to satisfy the delivery requirement. The Delivery Point must be located so that T&D Utilities are not responsible for wheeling charges to move energy to and from the Pool Transmission Facility (PTF). The T&D Utilities will not be responsible for any costs other than the payment of the bid prices.

The Delivery Point of an Eligible Project must be on a PTF located within ISO New England (ISO-NE). For an Eligible Project connecting to a local distribution system, the Delivery Point shall be the ISO-NE pricing node (P-node) that electrically represents the Eligible Project's injection point onto the PTF system, as determined through ISO-NE asset registration, interconnection studies, or established nodal mapping. If a final P-node has not yet been assigned, an Eligible Project may provide a proposed or representative P-node based on the expected interconnection location, along with a description of the basis for that selection.

The bidder will be responsible for all costs associated with and/or arising from: (a) interconnecting its project to charge and discharge on the PTF system at both the Network Capability Interconnection Standard ("NCIS") and Capacity Capability Interconnection Standard (CCIS); and (b) for ensuring that the Energy Storage System is recognized in ISO-NE's settlement system as injected in the ISO-NE energy market at the specified and agreed Delivery Point. The bidder must interconnect at CCIS at its full injection capability that receives NCIS regardless of whether or not the bidder elects to participate in the capacity market.

At no time will one or more T&D Utilities assume the responsibility of Lead Market Participant, as defined by ISO-NE.

All bidders must have either: (a) signed an interconnection agreement for capacity network service prior to the initiation of the Transitional Cluster Study; (b) be actively participating in the Transitional Cluster Study; and/or (c) have detailed plans for submitting an interconnection request for Capacity Network Resource service with ISO-NE in the 2026 Cluster Request Entry Window. The bidder must detail the status (and conclusions, as available) of interconnection applications

and studies. The Energy Storage Project shall comply with all ISO-NE, Northern Maine Independent System Administrator (NMISA), and FERC interconnection requirements, as applicable. All technical reports or system impact studies should approximate the ISO-NE interconnection process, including but not limited to clear documentation of study technical and cost assumptions, reasoning, and justification of such assumptions. An Eligible Project connecting to a local distribution system must also comply with all applicable interconnection requirements of the interconnecting distribution utility.

The burden is on bidders to provide the Department with information, analysis, and studies required by the Department to make a determination that the proposal includes all costs associated with completing the upgrades that would be required by ISO-NE's NCIS and CCIS. Bidders must provide adequate information and analyses regarding the upgrades and must explain how the identified upgrades will satisfy this interconnection standard.

3.2.6 Energy, Capacity and Other ISO-NE Markets: Bidders must identify their intentions to participate in each ISO-NE market and provide forecast revenues from each market. Under the required pricing detailed in Section 4.2.2 (a) and Appendix C, the Seller's contract revenues will be reduced by expected energy market revenues. Bidders are not required to participate in the capacity market but must identify their intentions regarding market participation.

3.2.7 Other Contracting Requirements: An Eligible Project may not have started construction at the time of proposal, and will adhere to the effective date of the Energy Storage Contract. To be eligible, bids may not require, or allow for, payment until service has commenced from the Energy Storage Project pursuant to the terms of the Energy Storage Contract. Bidders must certify that the Project financing covers all interconnection and deliverability costs and these costs have been included in the proposal. Bidders must certify they will fulfill all contracting requirements.

3.2.8 Efficiency Maine Trust Energy Storage System Program[8]: Projects that are eligible for participation in the Efficiency Maine Trust Energy Storage System Program are not Eligible Projects in this RFP.

3.2.9 Safety and Security Plan: Bidders must address all aspects of project risk mitigation related to safety including training, emergency response, fire protection, and cyber security.

[8] Efficiency Maine, Energy Storage Program, Efficiency Maine Trust Program Opportunity Notice. Available at https://www.efficiencymaine.com/docs/PON-EM-003-2026-ESS-V1.pdf

3.3 Qualitative and Quantitative Evaluation

Proposals that meet the requirements of threshold evaluation will be subject to a quantitative and qualitative evaluation, assessing the costs, benefits, and risks of each proposal as a mechanism to procure Energy Storage on a long-term basis to the benefit of Maine ratepayers. The result of the evaluation will be a relative ranking and scoring of all proposals. Scoring will be based on a 100-point scale. Proposals will be scored with up to 70 points for quantitative factors and up to 30 points for qualitative factors.

With regard to the Qualitative Evaluation, the Department will evaluate Energy Storage Projects consistent with the objectives set forth under the Act, as well as other qualitative factors that the Department finds necessary to support a successful procurement.

The Department shall conduct the Quantitative Evaluation using direct, indirect, and auxiliary Energy Storage Contract cost and benefits. Direct and indirect costs and benefits will be used to determine if a project is reasonably likely to provide positive or negative net benefits to Maine ratepayers, i.e., to provide benefits that exceed costs. Any proposal that is reasonably likely to result in negative net benefits, using only direct and indirect costs and benefits, will not be eligible for an award. Auxiliary quantitative benefits, such as socioeconomic benefits and environmental benefits, may be used to evaluate proposals that are reasonably likely to provide positive net benefits to Maine ratepayers. These auxiliary benefits may be used either to augment quantitative scoring or to inform the scoring of qualitative factors. However, under no circumstances will auxiliary benefits be used to determine ratepayer benefits.

3.3.1 Qualitative Factors: Qualitative evaluation of proposals will be based on factors listed under the Act, and other qualitative factors meant to assess the likelihood of success and viability of the projects. Each factor and the criteria by which it will be assessed is listed below.

1. Qualitative Factors Under the Act

   a) Provides Benefits of Clean Energy to the State: Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which:

      i. The Project contributes to achievement of the statutory goal of at least 400 megawatts of installed energy storage capacity located within the State by December 31, 2030.[9]

      ii. The Project supports the objectives associated with energy storage set forth on the Plan.

   b) Provides Benefits to Meeting GHG goals of the State:

[9] 35-A M.R.S. §3145.

Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which:

i. The Project contributes to achievement of the statutory requirement to reduce GHG emissions to at least 45% and 80% below the 1990 gross GHG emissions level by 2030 and 2050, respectively, and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. [10]

ii. The Project supports the strategies described in *Maine Won't Wait*, the state climate action plan.[11]

c) Contributes to Economic and Workforce Goals: Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which:

i. The Project contributes benefits to Maine's economy and workforce.

ii. The Project demonstrates compliance with applicable workforce standards, including wage, safety, and apprenticeship standards.[12]

iii. The Project maximizes federal tax credits by including agreements described in 29 United States Code, Section 158(f) and by committing to entering into an employer and employee harmony agreement with a labor organization seeking to represent the project's operations and maintenance workers. An employer and employee harmony agreement must bind all contractors and subcontractors, other than employees who work on a temporary basis for the employer, to the terms of the agreement. The agreement must be designed to ensure that all work on the renewable energy generation project, including but not limited to work performed in the manufacturing, fabrication or maintenance of the project or operations associated with the project, is uninterrupted, prompt and safe.[13]

d) Minimizes Environmental Impacts: Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which the project will avoid,

[10] 38 M.R.S. §§576-A – 577.
[11] Maine Climate Council, Maine Wont Wait, November 2024. Available at https://www.maine.gov/climateplan/the-plan
[12] Bidders are encouraged to refer to resources provided by the Maine Department of Labor describing requirements relevant to Energy Facility Construction, available at https://www.maine.gov/labor/labor_laws/efc/index.shtml
[13] 35-A M.R.S. §3210-I (3)(D)(2).

minimize, and mitigate detrimental environmental impacts.

e) Ensures Protection of Low-income Ratepayers: Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which the Project is anticipated to create additional benefits to low-income ratepayers. For example, additional benefits could include funding of rate relief through grant programs, support of existing community programs, or other funding opportunities centered on energy affordability made available by the Project.

f) Avoids and Minimizes Curtailment of Other Renewable or Clean Resources: Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which:

i. The project provides enhanced electric reliability within the State.

ii. The project supports grid resilience within the State.

2. Other Qualitative Factors

a) Developer Experience: Proposals will be evaluated based on the Bidder's relevant experience with similar projects, and expertise, as applicable, to successfully develop, finance, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed Project. Developer experience will be assessed in part by the Bidder's demonstrated ability to successfully navigate the complex permitting and stakeholder engagement processes required to develop the Project.

Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which developer experience can be established by demonstrating that key member(s) of the Bidder's development team have previously undertaken project management responsibilities, including:

i. Successful development and construction of a similar type of project; or

ii. Successful development and construction of one or more projects of similar size or complexity or requiring similar skill sets; or

iii. Experience successfully financing power generation (or demonstrating the financial means to finance the Project on the Bidder's, Project developer's or Project owner's balance sheet).

b) Project Development, Operations, and Logistics Plan: Proposals will be evaluated based on a thorough and complete Project Development, Operations and Logistics Plan, as well as the Project Description. Proposals will be favorably evaluated that explain the selected technology choice, demonstrate its successful deployment in other projects, and show commercial availability in the supply chain. Proposals will be evaluated based on the status of supplier agreements and extent to which negotiations have advanced. Project Development, Operation and Logistics Plans that align the availability of the equipment and maturity of supplier agreements with the proposal milestones will be favorably evaluated.

   The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan will be evaluated based on how well it supports project viability through the contract duration, demonstrates the efficient use of labor resources, and establishes roles of sponsors and/or Contractor agreements. A clear and established maintenance activity plan throughout the life of the project, including testing, will be favorably evaluated.

   The risk register will be evaluated based on how thoroughly the Bidder has identified all notable risks to project development, construction, and commercial operation and the credibility of the strategies proposed for risk mitigation. A high-quality risk register that addresses all aspects of project development, financing, construction, and operations will be favorably evaluated.

c) Ability to Finance Project: This criterion will be evaluated by the strength and thoroughness of the presented Financing Plan, including detailed cost breakdown of interconnection costs. Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which the Bidder demonstrates financial and managerial capabilities to fund the development and construction costs, the required development period security, interconnection costs, and required decommissioning of the Project. Proposals will be favorably evaluated to the extent to which the Financing Plan addresses and provides mitigation or contingencies for potential financial difficulties and cost overruns. Proposals will be evaluated based on the credibility of the proposed financial metrics and assumptions (e.g., interest rates, inflation rates, target debt to equity ratio, commodity prices) in the Financing Plan.

d) Ability to Ensure Safety and Security: This criterion will be

assessed based on the credibility and thoroughness of the Safety and Security Plan, and the likelihood that the Project can ensure the safety and security standards and protocols set forth in the Plan will be followed. A high-quality Safety and Security Plan will address all elements of project risk mitigation related to safety including but not limited to: training, emergency response, fire protection, and cyber security. Projects that provide a robust mitigation plan for fire safety and cyber security will be favorably evaluated.

e) Site Control: The Proposal will be evaluated based on the extent to which the bidder has demonstrated control or an irrevocable option (conditioned only upon the payment of a reasonable amount) to acquire control over the site for its proposed Energy Storage Project, including any additional land rights (including easements) that are necessary for the development, construction, interconnection and operation of the facility. Proposals with more firm agreements for site control will be favorably evaluated.

f) Interconnection and Deliverability: Interconnection and deliverability will be evaluated based on demonstrated progress in the interconnection process and credibility of the proposed interconnection schedule. Proposals that present detailed interconnection studies and robust cost estimates will be favorably evaluated.

g) Critical Path Schedule: Project schedules will be evaluated based on presentation of a credible and reasonable timeline for development of the Project. Proposals will be evaluated based on how well the Bidder has demonstrated that the Project will become operational by the proposed COD. Schedules that identify critical path milestones, include sufficient buffer and describe contingencies will be favorably evaluated.

h) Ability to Permit Project: Proposals will be evaluated based on the thoroughness of the permitting plan, and status toward obtaining all required federal, regional, state, and local permits. Permitting plans with well documented progress in the associated application and approval processes will be favorably evaluated. Proposals that present a credible plan to obtain required permit approvals, including the extent to which opposition to the project materially affects the ability of the project to obtain timely final approval, will be favorably evaluated.

3.3.2 Quantitative Factors:

1. Direct Contract Costs & Benefits: Proposals will be evaluated on their direct costs and benefits to Maine ratepayers. The Department will conduct an analysis of the direct cost and benefits to Maine ratepayers over the proposed Energy Storage Contract term.

    a) Direct Costs: Contract revenues that flow from the T&D Utilities to the Seller.

    b) Direct Benefits: Contract revenues that flow from the Seller to the T&D Utilities.

2. Indirect Costs & Benefits: The quantitative evaluation process will include an evaluation of indirect costs and benefits of the proposals to ratepayers in Maine, which may include, but may not be limited to:

    a) Changes in Energy Market Prices: The impact of changes in wholesale energy market costs paid by ratepayers in Maine, taking into consideration changes in revenue to contracts already executed by the T&D Utilities.

    b) Reduction in Capacity Market Prices: The impact of changes in wholesale capacity market costs paid by ratepayers in Maine.

    c) Deferred or Avoided Transmission and Distribution Costs: The impact of storage operations on Maine's expected costs for grid infrastructure, reducing Regional Network Service charges through reducing Regional Network Load, or other potential cost reductions.

3. Auxiliary Benefits: The quantitative evaluation process will include an evaluation of auxiliary benefits, which do not necessarily flow to ratepayers of Maine. These factors will not be included in the threshold test to determine whether a proposal provides net benefits to ratepayers, but may be used to rank and distinguish proposals that do provide net benefits to Maine ratepayers.

    a) Socioeconomic Benefits: Independently verified, quantifiable socioeconomic benefits to the state of Maine that augment or validate the qualitative description of socioeconomic benefits.

    b) Environmental Value: Avoided emissions or avoided costs to mitigate emissions, to the extent they are not captured in other metrics.

4. Quantitative Metrics: The quantitative metrics will be expressed on a

net present value basis, using a discount rate based on the T&D Utilities' Weighted Average Cost of Capital, or similar reasonable reference. Quantitative metrics may be levelized to Maine demand to be expressed as $/MWh or levelized to contract capacity to be expressed as $/kW-month, as needed to fairly and accurately evaluate contract costs and benefits. Levelized metrics may be evaluated in nominal dollars or in real 2026 dollars.

3.4 Final Selection Process and Factors

Once proposals have undergone the threshold, qualitative and quantitative evaluation, the Department will review the proposals in order to select the project or portfolio that provides the greatest value consistent with the stated objectives and requirements as set forth in this RFP. The Department will consider and weigh at its discretion the following factors, including but not limited to:

- Ranking in the quantitative and qualitative evaluation stage
- The effects to quantitative benefit metrics of modeling multiple projects, which may have interactive effects in a portfolio
- The extent to which the project advances the Energy Storage supply chain and workforce readiness of the state
- The efficient utilization of transmission points of interconnection and transmission corridors and rights of way, if applicable
- The efficient utilization of and enhancement to distribution grid infrastructure, if applicable
- Overall consistency with the Plan and other related reports or policies issued by the Department or Commission
- The extent to which there may be benefits to sharing the project with another state or other entity.

3.5 Department Determinations

3.5.1 Guiding Authority: The Department will select Bids based on the requirements of the Act and this RFP and the Department's statutory obligations.

3.5.2 Consultation With Third Parties: In making its determinations, the Department and Department Staff may consult with the T&D utilities, and any relevant State of Maine agencies, including, but not limited to, the Commission, OPA, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the Maine Department of Public

Safety (DPS), the Maine Department of Labor (DOL) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under appropriate and specific protective order(s) and non-disclosure agreements.

3.5.3 Procurement Deemed Uncompetitive: If the Department concludes that this solicitation is not competitive, based either on the solicitation process or the resulting bids, no proposals may be selected.

3.5.4 Department Authority to Accept or Reject Proposals: The Department may accept or reject any proposal, or it may reject all proposals, based on its assessment of whether a proposal satisfies the requirements of the Act, applicable statutory policies, or this RFP, or if it fails to be within the applicable contracting authority or generally accepted business practices.

4. PROPOSAL ATTRIBUTE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Form of Proposal

Proposals must be for the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of qualifying Energy Storage resources.

4.2 Pricing

4.2.1 General: A bidder must propose a monthly payment, Bid Price, in $/kW-month for the term of the Energy Storage Contract. Prices must be in nominal dollar terms. The Bid Price may be the same each year or escalate over time at a fixed annual escalation rate. The Seller shall hold title and ownership to all market revenues from monetization of Energy, Capacity, and other sources associated with the Project. Bidders shall provide all assumptions and expected revenues in the CPPD Form available on the RFP Website. A Capacity Value will be netted out of either Fixed Price Proposal and therefore will offset some portion of the fixed monthly payment. The Capacity Value will be calculated using the following formula:

$$CV = CCP \times rMRI_{Proxy}$$

Where:
CV is the Capacity Value
CCP is the applicable annual or seasonal capacity clearing price in $/kw-month, and
$rMRI_{Proxy}$ is the seasonal accreditation factor calculated by ISO-NE for the applicable storage duration, or lesser value if duration does not match published values.[14]

[14] ISO-NE is currently pursuing capacity market changes through its Capacity Auction Reforms key project. Given that the key project is currently being developed in the ISO-NE stakeholder process, bidders are encouraged to monitor meeting materials and FERC proceedings.
https://www.iso-ne.com/committees/key-projects/capacity-auction-reforms-key-project

4.2.2 Fixed Price Proposal with Energy Market Adjustment (Required): Proposals must include a fixed price in $/kW-month that accounts for an adjustment based on expected energy market revenues. Appendix C provides the formula that will be used to calculate the Energy Market Adjustment (EMA).

4.2.3 Fixed Price Proposal without Energy Market Adjustment (Optional): Bidders may submit an alternative pricing option that does not account for an adjustment based on expected energy market revenues. Under this proposal the Bidder shall provide a fixed price in $/kW-month, and that price will not be adjusted based on energy market conditions.

4.2.4 Annual Net Contract Capacity: The proposal must provide the Annual Net Contract Capacity (MW) [15] delivered to the grid (at the POI) and Round-Trip Efficiency for all years of the Energy Storage Contract. The storage must be able to cycle at least once per day (365 Cycles on normal year and 366 on leap year). If the Storage Energy content makes it impossible to be able to cycle at least once per day (e.g. storage capability greater than 12 hours), please explain this in the proposal and provide applicable alternative commitment.

4.2.5 Submitting Multiple Pricing Proposals: Bidders may submit multiple pricing proposals for the same Energy Storage Project, as long as they are mutually exclusive.

4.2.6 Contingencies: To the extent any contingency identified by a bidder would affect the proposed pricing, the contingency must be resolved prior to the execution of any Energy Storage Contract.

4.3 Economic Benefits Reporting and Contract Payment Adjustment

The Department reserves the right to include an ongoing reporting requirement to verify that any claimed economic benefits to the Maine economy are provided by the resource and impose remedies for non-performance which may include price adjustments or return of previously paid contract payments.

4.4 Security

4.4.1 Seller Security: Sellers will be required to provide performance security in an amount equal to $40/kW of Net Contract Capacity specified in the Energy Storage Contract. Acceptable forms of performance security are: (1) cash (U.S. currency); or (2) an irrevocable, transferable and unconditional standby letter of credit (LOC) issued by a U.S. commercial bank or a foreign bank with a U.S. branch with such bank having a minimum credit rating of A- from S&P

[15] The Annual Effective Capacity is defined as the sustainable capacity (MW) at which the Energy Storage facility can deliver power to the grid by contractual year and as defined by year.

or A3 from Moody's.

An Initial Security amount of $10/kW of Net Contract Capacity must be provided no later than five (5) business days after execution of a contract. An additional amount of $20/kW of Net Contract Capacity of the Facility must be provided no later than five (5) business days after execution of a Large Generator Interconnection Agreement with the Interconnecting Transmission Owner and ISO-NE as defined in Schedule 22 to the Open Access Transmission Tariff. The final $10/kW must be provided no later than five (5) business days after the Facility reaches commercial operations.

Facilities awarded a contract will forfeit the Initial Security if the project does not reach commercial operation. Please refer to the security provisions in the standard form contract in Appendix A.

So long as no Event of Default exists and is continuing, the amount of security may be reduced to $30/kW of Net Contract Capacity of the Facility on the fifth (5^{th}) anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date (COD), $20/kW of Net Contract Capacity of the Facility on the tenth (10^{th}) anniversary of the COD and $10/kW of Net Contract Capacity of the Facility on the fifteenth (15^{th}) anniversary of the COD.

4.4.2 T&D Utility Security: T&D Utilities shall not be required to post any initial security. If, at any time during the term, the T&D Utility does not have a credit rating or the T&D Utility's credit rating falls below Investment Grade and the T&D Utility's Net Worth is less than $275,000,000, then the T&D Utility shall be required to deliver to Seller financial security in an amount equal to approximately two months of contract payments as approved by the Department. Acceptable forms of T&D Utility Security are: (1) cash (U.S. currency); or (2) an irrevocable, transferable and unconditional standby (LOC) issued by a U.S. commercial bank or a foreign bank with a U.S. branch with such bank having a minimum credit rating of A- from S&P or A3 from Moody's.

4.5 Standard Form Contract

A standard form contract, herein referred to as the model Energy Storage Contract will be included as Appendix A.

Modifications to the model Energy Storage Contract will be limited to those necessary to conform the contract to the specific facility and the specific transaction terms approved by the Department. Bidders should ensure that all other provisions contained in the standard form contract are acceptable to it and to any potential lenders or investors prior to submitting a proposal.

4.6 Contract Term

Bidders may offer contract terms for up to 20 years. Bidders may offer a proposal for a project that is less than 20 years, but must offer at least one proposal for a 20-year term.

4.7 Firm and Final Bids; Supplemental Proposal Information

The proposals and pricing submitted in response to this RFP are firm and final bids and will be binding on the bidder. Any contingencies associated with a proposal must be clearly described and supported in the bidder's proposal(s). To the extent any contingency identified by a bidder would affect the proposed pricing, the contingency must be resolved prior to any award by the Department, or the proposal must include a limit or cap on the amount the price may be increased.

Changes to proposals will not be accepted after the submission of bids except if the Department requests a change. The Department reserves the right to ask bidders to provide additional information related to any aspect of a proposal, or to clarify, correct, or amend a proposal. Failure to provide any such items within the timeframes requested may result in disqualification.

4.8 Requests for Additional Information

Following the submission of proposals, the Department may request clarification and additional information from Eligible Bidders at any time during the evaluation process. Eligible Bidders who do not respond within the timeframe provided by the Department to such information requests or do not provide adequate information may be eliminated from further consideration. The Department may adjust information from proposals provided by Eligible Bidders to produce a reasonable and appropriate evaluation.

4.9 Confidentiality

Bidders may designate information in its proposal as proprietary or confidential information. The Department will take every reasonable step, consistent with applicable law, to protect information that is clearly identified as proprietary or confidential on the page on which it appears. Protected information may be made available to the T&D Utilities, and any relevant State of Maine agencies—including, but not limited to, the Commission, OPA, DACF, DECD, DPS, DOL and/or the DEP—under appropriate and specific protective order(s) and non-disclosure agreements. The identity of winning bidders and general information about proposals selected will become public at the time of the Department's decision. The contracts and associated prices of selected proposals will ultimately become public.

ISO-NE, NMISA, the T&D Utilities, and Maine state agencies may be requested to provide information to the Department concerning proposals as part of the proposal evaluation process. Information classified as CEII will only be shared with members of the Department who are cleared to receive CEII by ISO-NE. By participating in this RFP

and signing the Proposal Certification and Authorization Form in Appendix B, Bidders agree that ISO-NE and the Department may exchange information related to the projects that may otherwise be considered confidential under the ISO-NE Information Policy. The Department will treat the information provided as confidential as described above.

5. PROPOSAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Bidders are required to organize the narrative sections of their Proposals consistent with the instructions provided herein. Proposals must include the following sections, which are described in more detail below.

To assist in the evaluation of Proposals, Bidder must complete the Proposal Requirements Checklist in Appendix D and provide along with the submission.

5.1 Project Information

The following details regarding the proposed project must be included in the proposal. Bidders shall provide the following information using the Proposal Information Form included in Appendix E.

5.1.1 Executive Summary: The Executive Summary must identify the Project development team, a description of the proposed Project, an overview of the proposed installation technology, pricing schedule, proposed contract term, overall project schedule and key milestones. If multiple Project alternatives and pricing options are offered in this proposal, the Executive Summary should clearly summarize these alternatives and options. The Executive Summary shall also describe the proposed economic benefits to Maine. The Executive Summary may include any other factors that the Bidder deems to be important. The Executive Summary shall not exceed seven (7) pages. The description shall, at a minimum, provide the aforementioned information and the following:

1. Bidder Information: Provide a Company Overview, portfolio summary, and key contacts for proposal and project.

2. Disclosures: Summarize Pending Regulatory Investigations, Litigations, Disputes, Claims or Complaints.

3. Project Overview: Provide a brief description of project, capacity, duration, location, estimated total economic benefits, and any noteworthy community investments.

4. Summary Table: Provide a table summarizing proposal(s) details such as storage project location, interconnection location(s), capacity (MW), duration (hours), projected annual average utilization, energy storage technology to be deployed, COD, pricing,

etc.

5.1.2 Bidder Qualifications and Experience: Provide an overview of the Bidder's corporate structure and affiliations and include an organizational chart. Identify and describe any parent organizations of the bidder. List specific and relevant projects, including at least one grid-interconnected power generation or energy storage project, having been successfully developed, financed, constructed, and/or operated by the bidder or its principals.

Identify the primary members of the project team responsible for carrying out the proposed Energy Storage Project. Provide a management chart listing the individual personnel, and their respective experiences in development, finance, construction, and/or operations of projects of similar technology and scale. The project team should include a dedicated project director and may include other personnel dedicated to grid interconnection, supply chain and manufacturing, legal and commercial negotiations, community affairs, etc.

5.1.3 Disclosures

1. Disclose any pending (currently or in the past 5 years) litigation or disputes related to projects planned, developed, owned or managed by Bidder or parent companies or partners, or related to any energy product sale agreement. Also disclose and describe any regulatory investigations and enforcement actions by state, local, or federal authorities (currently or in the past 5 years).

2. Describe any material litigation, disputes, claims or complaints, or events of default or other failure to satisfy contract obligations, or failure to deliver products, involving the Bidder or a parent company, and relating to the purchase or sale of energy, capacity, renewable energy credits or other electricity products.

5.1.4 Description of the Proposed Project: The bidder must Include the following information for the proposed Project:

1. General Description of Project: A description of the Project, that includes the following:

    a) Identify if New or Existing Facility, or an upgrade to Existing Facility;

    b) Technology Type (e.g., mechanical, chemical, thermal);

    c) Technology Description (e.g., battery chemistry, thermal storage medium);

d) Technology Choice Selection (provide short justification as to why this particular technology was selected for this project);

e) Point of Interconnection;

f) Nameplate Capacity MW AC (at 100% project completion);

g) Net Contract Capacity MW AC (at 100% project completion);

h) Charge Rate (MW);

i) Discharge Rate (MW);

j) Storage Energy (MWh);

k) Discharge Duration at Nameplate Capacity (hours);

l) Round Trip Efficiency (%);

m) Variable O&M ($/MWh) associated with charging or discharging, to the extent it is not associated with securing grid energy for charging;

n) Other Characteristics of your system, including, if applicable, but not limited to: Depth of Discharge (%), Full Duty Cycle, etc.;

o) Max / Min cycles per year, season, and per day;

p) Inverter characteristics, if applicable; and

q) Describe the operation of the proposed Energy Storage System: (i.e. run hour limitations, ramp rates, spinning reserves, regulation up, regulation down). Please provide proposed operational management terms that memorialize the operational commitments of the facility.

2. Maps/Visuals/Descriptions: Maps or description of areas used for all aspects of the Project, including construction staging areas and rights of way. Maps must be provided in both PDF and *.kmz file format. Also provide surveys and other visual aids that support the detailed description of the Project.

3. Manufacturer Information/Commercial Availability of Equipment: To the fullest extent possible, a description of and manufacturer for the major types of equipment that will be installed (include inverter characteristics if applicable). Provide information on the commercial availability of each component and manufacturer warranties. Bidders

must submit independent verification that the technology selected will operate safely, reliably, and according to design specifications provided by an independent certification body. If the selected equipment is not currently commercially available, describe the development status and expected timeframe for the equipment becoming commercially available, and where the equipment will be manufactured. To the extent available, provide a description of backup suppliers for major equipment to derisk the project supply chain. Also, describe the viability and operational reliability of the proposed technology and track record of the manufacturer. Provide examples of similar applications of the same size and scope.

5.1.5 Site Control: The bidder must demonstrate that it has control or an irrevocable option (conditioned only upon the payment of a reasonable amount) to acquire control over the site for its proposed Energy Storage Project, including any additional land rights (including easements) that are necessary for the development, construction, interconnection and operation of the facility. Control or rights to acquire control must be documented by the bidder in all of the following ways:

1. Provide a site plan including a map of the site that clearly identifies the location of the energy storage site, the assumed right-of-way width, the total acreage for the storage project, the anticipated interconnection point and the relationship of the site to other local infrastructure, including transmission facilities, roadways, and water sources. In addition to providing the required map, provide a site layout plan which illustrates the location of all major equipment and facilities on the site;

2. Describe the value of the relative proximity of the system to any clean energy generation facility, including any increased or decreased curtailment and/or deferred investment for the generation facility. If applicable, describe how the location of the Energy Storage Project may impact the operation of existing generators;

3. Identify the individual deeds, leases, easements and other documents creating the right to use the energy storage site and any rights of way needed for the interconnection route;

4. Provide evidence that the project has a right to use the site for the entire proposed term of the contract (e.g., by virtue of ownership or land development rights obtained from the owner or a lease or easement with a term that is at least as long as the proposed term of the Energy Storage Contract). The bidder must provide documentation of any existing land use agreements or describe the status of negotiating such agreements;

5. Provide evidence that the Energy Storage Project route is properly zoned and permitted. If the site is not currently zoned or permitted properly, identify present and required zoning and/or land use designations and permits and provide a permitting plan and timeline to secure the necessary approvals;

6. Provide a description of the area surrounding the energy storage site including a description of the local zoning, flood plain information, existing land use and setting (woodlands, grassland, industrial, other); and

7. Describe and provide a map of the proposed interconnection that includes the path from the storage site to the PTF. Describe how the bidder plans to gain interconnection site control, and any rights that must be obtained by the interconnecting utility for that interconnection.

5.1.6 System Diagrams: The Bidder shall provide one-line system diagrams showing all affected existing and proposed transmission lines, substations, substation buses, transformers, and distribution infrastructure.

5.1.7 Project Development, Operations, and Logistics Plan: Bidders must provide a Project Development, Operations, and Logistics Plan, including but not limited to the following information:

1. Supplies and Equipment: The plan to procure selected equipment, including key milestones and status of the procurement process, including status of supplier agreements and negotiations. To the extent suppliers have not been selected, include the plan to identify suppliers, including the status of Bidder's engagement with suppliers, and anticipated timing of supplier selection

2. O&M Plan: An O&M Plan that demonstrates the long-term operational viability of the Project. The plan should include the location of the O&M base, staffing levels proposed for the project, the expected role of the Project sponsor or outside contractor, scheduling of major maintenance activity, and the plan for testing equipment

3. Description of Suppliers/Contractors: For suppliers and contractors that have been identified, provide a description of the capabilities and experience of the manufacturer/supplier, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor, balance of plant contractor, inverter and core equipment supplier, permitting specialist, other key construction contractors or vendors, etc.

4. Risks: A comprehensive risk register identifying all notable risks

across all project stages (development, financing, construction, interconnection, operations and maintenance, etc.) to successful development and operations of the project. Provide thoughtful and implementable strategies for risk mitigation. Proposals must identify any prior failures in achieving commercial operation dates under other contracts and present a credible description of how the proposed Project will avoid similar project delays or development issues.

5.1.8 Charge/Discharge Estimate: Proposals must include the following information:

1. Please provide a delivery plan and an annual charge/discharge profile for the proposed project, including supporting documentation. This documentation must be a forecast charge and discharge schedule. Proposals must include at least one charge/discharge profile based on 2018 weather and current ISO-NE market rules. The charge/discharge profile must consider any and all constraints to physical delivery into ISO-NE. Describe the operation of the Energy Storage System, including whether the proposed Energy Storage System will be classified as a binary storage facility or continuous storage facility, the designation of the ISO-NE markets that the Energy Storage Project would participate in, and the plan to operate in multiple ISO-NE markets.

2. In addition to the charge/discharge profile, provide as much detail as possible about the operational logic that will be used to determine storage charging and discharging. Provide a clear explanation of how different system conditions and market rules may impact the planned operation of the Energy Storage Project.

5.1.9 Financing Plan:

1. Method of Financing: Provide the proposed method of financing the Project.

2. Financial Structure: Describe the Project's projected financial structure over the term of the contract, including equity investors and designated debt lenders. Identify sources of contingent equity and possible mezzanine (subordinated) debt investors.

3. Source of Debt/Equity/Financing: Expected sources of debt and equity financing, including identification of equity investors, fixed income investors, long and short-term debt, and any other sources of capital.

4. Costs: Estimated development and construction costs, including interconnection and associated transmission and distribution

upgrade costs.

5. Capital Structure: Provide the capital structure including share of debt, tax equity, and other equity, weighted average cost of capital, and debt financing rate assumed in the Bid Price. Also, provide project contingency amount and the methodology used to derive the project contingency amount.

6. Project Ownership Agreements: Describe any agreements entered into with respect to equity ownership in the proposed Project and any other financing arrangements.

7. Previous Project Financing Experience: Provide documentation illustrating the experience of the proposed Eligible Project's sponsor in securing financing for projects of similar size and technology. For each project previously financed provide the following information:

    a) Project name and location

    b) Project type and size

    c) Date of construction and permanent financing

    d) Form and amount of debt and equity financing

8. Financial Resources: Provide evidence that Bidder has the financial resources and financial strength to construct, operate, and decommission the proposed Project.

9. Audited Financial Statements: Provide copies of the most recent audited financial statement or annual report for the Bidder for each of the past three years; including affiliates and equity partners of the Bidder (if audited statements are not available, unaudited statements are to be provided). Also, provide the credit ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's (the senior unsecured long-term debt rating or if not available, the corporate rating) of the Bidder and any affiliates and partners. If any of these documents are not available provide reasons for non-availability.

10. Credit Support: Demonstrate the ability of the Bidder (and/or the ability of its credit support provider) to provide the required security, including its plan for providing security.

11. Credit History: Provide a description of any current or recent credit issues/credit rating downgrade events regarding the Bidder or affiliate entities raised by rating agencies, banks, or accounting firms.

12. Role of Government Credits/Subsidies: Describe the role and the amount of the Federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) or Investment Tax Credit (ITC), or other federal grants, loans, incentives, or subsidies on the financing of the proposed Eligible Project. Bidders must provide a detailed explanation of their assumptions regarding the availability of all federal or state tax credits, or other federal grants, loans, incentives, or subsidies for their Project, including loans, grants, or financing from the U.S. Department of Energy. Identify how such federal or state tax credits, or other federal grants, loans, incentives, or subsidies are reflected in a Bidder's Bid Price.

13. Costs Savings from Credits and Subsidies: If the amount of PTC, ITC, or other federal grants, loans, incentives, or subsidies subsequently becomes greater than outlined in the bidder's proposal, explain how cost savings will be passed on to ratepayers in Maine, in particular, the portion of total cost savings explained by greater than anticipated tax incentives, loans or subsidies. Describe plans to monitor changes in federal tax policy and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines that will generate cost savings prior to financial close.

14. Operating Life: Specify the expected operating life of the proposed Eligible Project.

15. Approvals: Identify all regulatory, corporate, and other approvals needed by Bidder to execute a binding sale agreement.

16. Insurance: Proposals should include information and documentation concerning the insurance for the project that the facility owner and operator has or will obtain. The project must demonstrate that it has sufficient liability insurance.

5.1.10 Environmental Impact Assessment Plan: Provide a preliminary environmental assessment of the Project site and proposed Eligible Project, including both construction and operation, as applicable. In addition, the Bidder should identify environmental impacts associated with the proposed Eligible Project, any potential impediments to development, and its plan to mitigate such impacts or impediments. Bids should include a discussion of environmental diligence completed to date and describe any identified issues and mitigation actions to be taken. The Bidder should also describe whether the project makes positive re-use of a previously disturbed site, such as brownfields. The Bidder should also provide a map that identifies the land area occupied by the Project, including all balance of plant up to the point of interconnection and the interconnection path. The Environmental Impact Assessment Plan should address each of the major environmental areas presented below:

1. Impacts to water resources, including but not limited to wetlands and wetland soils, waterbodies, watercourses, groundwater, drinking water and public water supplies, and how those impacts will be avoided, reduced, and mitigated, if necessary. If an impact is likely to occur, plans to reduce and mitigate must be clearly documented. The assessment for wetlands should include a vernal pool assessment, proposed setbacks from wetlands and vernal pools, and avoidance or mitigation measures taken to reduce wetland impacts.

2. Ecological and natural resources impacts, including any impacts to endangered, threatened or special concern species.

3. Land use impacts, including how the proposed Project conforms to applicable state plans directing conservation and development and other natural resource plans. Describe any impacts to farmland and agricultural soils and the plan to mitigate such impacts or impediments. Describe any impacts to forest resources, including acreage and type of forest impacted, and measures taken to avoid or lessen forest resource impacts. Describe any previous site use (brownfield, industrial, etc.).

4. Viewshed impacts, including how the proposed Project will avoid, minimize, and mitigate viewshed impacts.

5. Bidders should also provide a plan for decommissioning and removal of the facility at the end of its useful life, which must include financial assurance and must be consistent with the decommissioning requirements established in 35-A M.R.S. §3499.

5.1.11 Safety and Security Plan: Provide a Safety and Security Plan that adequately describes the standards and framework in place to ensure physical and cyber security for the Eligible Project. The Safety and Security Plan must cover project risk mitigation related to all aspects of safety and at minimum address training, emergency response, fire protection, cyber security. In addition, describe how the Eligible Project is consistent with the standards and framework set forth by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). [16,17] In such plan, the Bidder must also demonstrate that its proposal complies with federal, state, and local fire and safety codes and standards, including but not limited to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 and NFPA 72 standards produced by the NFPA and UL 9540 and UL 9540A. Under no circumstances will T&D Utilities be considered liable

[16] https://standards.ieee.org/initiatives/cybersecurity-standards-projects/
[17] https://www.nerc.com/standards/reliability-standards/cip

for any safety incident that occurs at the facility.

5.1.12 Interconnection and Deliverability

1. Describe the status of the planned interconnection to the grid (including studies and conclusions, as available). Explain if the Bidder made a valid interconnection request to ISO-NE (provide queue position), the applicable interconnecting transmission or distribution company, or any neighboring control areas. Explain if the Bidder is currently being studied in the ISO-NE Transitional Cluster Study and provide all available documentation associated with that study. Describe the type of interconnection service requested, i.e., Capacity Network Resource Interconnection Service or Capacity Capability Interconnection Service. Identify the maximum expected interconnection costs for the proposed Eligible Project. Describe the reasonable estimated interconnection costs and the underlying assumptions for such estimates. If applicable, describe plans to submit an interconnection request in an upcoming ISO-NE cluster request window. Describe the target cluster request window, explain how the Project will be eligible for cluster participation, and how the timing of the planned cluster aligns with the interconnection plan.

2. Describe the proposed Eligible Project's electrical system performance and its impact to the reliability of the New England transmission system and the local distribution system, if applicable. Provide the status of any interconnection studies already underway with ISO-NE, the transmission owner, and/or the local distribution utility. Provide a copy of any studies completed to date. Provide a copy of an interconnection agreement, if any, executed by the Bidder with respect to the proposed Eligible Project. If an interconnection agreement has not been executed, please provide the steps that need to be completed before an interconnection agreement can be executed and the associated timeline.

5.1.13 Project Schedule: Bidders must demonstrate that the Project can reasonably be permitted, developed, financed, and constructed within a commercially reasonable timeframe consistent with the proposed Project schedule. Bidders must submit reasonable milestones that are achievable, thereby placing the Project on an achievable milestone schedule to support the proposed COD. The proposed COD must be clearly stated in this section and consistent across the Proposal. Bidders are required to provide a complete schedule for the Project from the notice of award to the proposed COD. The project schedule should be illustrated as a detailed Gantt chart or equivalent, showing each phase and element of the Project, with the anticipated start and end dates. The schedule must be provided both as a PDF and as a Microsoft Project *.mpp file. The schedule should include, at a

minimum, the tasks associated with preliminary engineering, financing, acquisition of real property rights, federal, state and/or local permits, licenses, environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements (including anticipated permit submittal and approval dates), completion of interconnection studies and approvals culminating in the execution of the ISO-NE interconnection agreement, financial close/final investment decision, procurement of EPC contracts, detailed engineering design, procurement of Energy Storage equipment, substation equipment, start and end of construction, commissioning and any other requirements and critical project milestones that could influence the Project schedule.

The Project schedule must describe the anticipated permissible construction windows, and how the construction milestones will be accommodated within these windows. The schedule must indicate any allowances for delays and describe other schedule risk mitigation strategies.

Bidders must identify the critical path. Detail the status and dates for all critical path items, including but not limited to receipt of all necessary federal, state, and local permits, ISO-NE approvals, and final investment decision.

5.1.14 Permitting Plan: Proposal must include a list or table of all required federal, regional, state, and local permits and approvals required to develop, construct, and operate the Project. For each permit or approval, identify the governmental agency responsible for issuing the permit or approval, the applicable statute, regulation, or municipal code requirement, the project activity covered by such statute, regulation, or code, the anticipated timeline for seeking and receiving the permit or approval, and the status of each permit or approval. Provide copies or working links to all submitted permit applications and permits issued.

Proposal should provide the Bidder's strategy for successfully obtaining all necessary permits, authorizations, and licenses to develop the project within the proposed project development timeline. Bidders should identify any known challenges or barriers to obtaining permits, authorizations, and licenses, which may materially affect the Project's permitting approval timelines. Bidder should describe the strategy for overcoming or mitigating each identified barrier or challenge.

5.1.15 Economic Benefits and Investment Plan: Describe how the Eligible Project will provide economic benefits to Maine and maximize economic, employment and contracting opportunities for Maine residents and businesses.

5.1.16 Stakeholder Engagement Plan: The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) must describe the overall principles and goals the Bidder will follow to understand, incorporate, and respond to the diverse perspectives, needs, and concerns of stakeholders at every stage of development, with an emphasis on Maine specific approaches. Bidders should identify and list all stakeholders relevant to their SEP. The SEP must also demonstrate at minimum a plan for community engagement towards acceptance of the facility.

Bidders must provide documentation of community outreach and engagement conducted to date. The SEP shall detail, to the extent practical, specific measures the Bidder will take to foster collaborative relationships with Maine stakeholders including, but not limited to, local community members directly affected by the Project, fire and emergency management officials, neighboring communities, local, state and federal elected officials representing communities directly affected by the Project, institutions, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Where specific measures are not yet known for certain stakeholder groups at the time of proposing, the SEP must describe how the Bidder will acquire the data needed to work collaboratively with respective stakeholder groups, including an expected stakeholder engagement schedule, communication approach, and methodology to incorporate adaptive, inclusive thinking throughout the lifecycle of a Project.

The SEP shall describe investments associated with stakeholder capacity building and engagement efforts. The SEP should provide a degree of certainty that the Bidder is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders and reporting engagement activities and progress during regular updates to the Department and in quarterly reports. Bidders are strongly encouraged to reference the Maine Energy Storage Program Report issued by the Maine Governor's Energy office in December 2024.[18]

Describe how the Bidder will use research, data, and stakeholder feedback to update the SEP and support decision-making throughout the life cycle of the Project (preconstruction, surveys, site design, construction, operations, and decommissioning). Describe how the bidder will identify and work with trusted partners in the state and use existing communication tools and channels. The SEP must identify a working list of diverse stakeholders and describe methods to update the list.

5.1.17 Project and Pricing Data: Bidders must provide pricing information

[18] https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/GEO%20Energy%20Storage%20Program%20Recommendations_Feb%2026.2024.pdf

and other project data using the Certification Project and Pricing Data (CPPD) Form. In accordance with the Proposal Certification and Authorization Form in the CPPD Form, the Bidder verifies that the price(s), terms and conditions of the proposal are valid for at least one hundred eighty (180) days following submission.

5.1.18 Exceptions to the Energy Storage Contract: Bidders may provide proposed changes to the form Energy Storage Contract provisions in redline format in Appendix A. Any proposed redlines must be accompanied by a separate narrative explaining the reason for all proposed exceptions. Bidders are discouraged from proposing material changes to the form Energy Storage Contract, and any proposed changes will be considered in the evaluation process.

5.1.19 Updates to the Proposal: Bidders are not permitted to refresh, restate, or reprice proposals, except as provided below. However, Bidders must provide updated information related to the status of obtaining permits, financing, or supplier agreements that was not available at the time of the proposal submission. These updates are for informational purposes only and will not be treated as a change or revision to the terms of a Bidder's proposal, but the Department reserves the right to consider this information during evaluation.

The Department reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request all Bidders to refresh, restate, or reprice their bids at any time during the RFP process. In the absence of such a request, Bidders may not otherwise refresh, restate, or reprice their bids for any reason.

5.2 Firm Pricing

Pricing should be a firm and final bid. All contingencies associated with a proposal and/or pricing should be clearly indicated. To the extent any contingency identified by a bidder would affect the proposed pricing, the contingency must be resolved prior to any award by the Department or the proposal must include a limit or cap on the amount the price may be increased.

5.3 Performance Security

Proposals shall include a proposed form of performance security. Proposals should include evidence of the bidder's intent and ability to fulfill the Seller Security requirements should the proposal be selected. In particular, if a proposal includes providing a (LOC) as Seller Security, the proposal should include a statement from a qualified bank meeting the minimum credit rating criteria noted above that it would provide the Seller Security required for the proposal.

5.4 Non-Refundable Bid Fees

Each proposal must be accompanied by a non-refundable bid fee, which will be used to

offset the administrative costs of this procurement, including but not limited to evaluation of the proposals and reasonable invoiced costs of consultants and counsel that may be hired by the Department, the T&D Utilities, and other sister agencies. The minimum bid fee is $750/MW of Net Contract Capacity. This bid fee includes one pricing offer and one project size. If there are changes to any physical aspect of a project, including but not limited to project size, in-service date, or delivery location, an additional $750/MW of Net Contract Capacity bid fee per requested change will be required. Each additional pricing offer for the same project, including those with contingent bids, will cost an additional fixed fee of $100/MW of Net Contract Capacity. **In no event will any portion of the bid fees be refunded, without regard to whether a bid is selected, or the stage of the evaluation at which a bid may be no longer considered.**

Base Proposal Fee	Additional fees for pricing variations on Base Proposal projects with identical configurations	Additional fees for all project variations other than price
$750/MW of Net Contract Capacity	$100/MW of Net Contract Capacity	$750/MW of Net Contract Capacity

5.5 Required Documents

Required forms will be available on the RFP Website at [LINK]. Proposals must include the following documents:

5.5.1 **Proposal Information Form:** Bidders must provide a completed **Proposal Information Form** (Appendix E).

5.5.2 **Certification, Project, and Pricing Data Form:** Bidders must provide a completed **CPPD Form** (Template available at the RFP website) in Excel format. The CPPD Form shall include a signed Proposal Certification and Authorization Form. The Proposal Certification and Authorization Form will require the bidder to confirm the completeness and accuracy of the material provided and attest that the proposal was prepared independently and without collusion or any other action taken to restrain free, competitive bidding and the terms of the proposal are commercially reasonable. The bidder shall also certify that the price(s), terms and conditions of the proposal are valid for at least one hundred eighty (180) days following submission.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 Proposal Costs

All costs associated with developing and submitting a proposal in response to this RFP

and providing oral or written clarification of its contents are borne by the Bidder.

6.2 Additional Rights of the Department

The Department may accept or reject any proposal, or it may reject all proposals, based on its assessment of whether a proposal meets the requirements of the RFP, satisfies the applicable statutory policies and objectives, is within the contracting authority of the Department, and conforms with generally accepted business practices.

The Department reserves the right to withdraw or modify the RFP at any time and to propose modifications to the bids.

Selected projects will be required to consent to the jurisdiction of the Commission, the courts of the State of Maine, and an arbitration panel located in Maine for the resolution of disputes, controversies, or claims arising from or otherwise concerning the Energy Storage Contract, or other agreement entered into by the selected Project(s) in relation to this RFP (excluding matters that are properly within the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or other regulatory authorities).

The Department may impose on selected bidders any reporting requirement(s) it deems appropriate to track the financing, development, or operation of a project or the provision of economic benefits. The type(s) and amounts of contracts awarded pursuant to this RFP will be determined by the Department consistent with applicable laws and rules, the provisions of this RFP and the Department's statutory obligations.

The Department shall not be responsible or liable in any manner for risks, costs, expenses, or other damages incurred by any bidder or other entity involved, directly or indirectly, with this RFP.

6.3 State Held Harmless

The State of Maine, its officers, agents, and employees, including the Department, its Commissioner and the employees or agents of the Department shall be held harmless from any and all claims, costs, expenses, injuries, liabilities, losses and damages of every kind and description resulting from or arising out of this RFP.

6.4 Warranty

The information contained in the RFP and provided subsequently is prepared to assist bidders and does not purport to contain all of the information that may be relevant to bidders. The Department makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. The Department, its staff and its agents shall not have any liability for any representations expressed or implied in, or any omissions from, the RFP or information obtained by bidders from the Department, its staff, its agents or any other source.

6.5 Waiver

The Department may waive any provision in the RFP at its sole discretion.

6.6 Abandonment Costs

Under no circumstances will the T&D Utilities be responsible for any abandoned plant costs or liability.

6.7 Regulatory Approval

Any contract entered into pursuant to the Act shall be subject to review and approval by the Commission.

APPENDIX A

[Standard Form Contract]

APPENDIX B

[Proposal Certification and Authorization Form]

APPENDIX C

Energy Market Adjustment Calculation

The Energy Market Adjustment (EMA) is a factor used to adjust Seller's payments based on expected wholesale energy revenues.

$$Total\ Contract\ Payments_{Monthly} = Fixed\ Price_{Monthly} - EMA_{Monthly}$$

$$Fixed\ Price_{Monthly} = BP * BC$$

$$EMA_{Monthly} = \sum_{D=1}^{k} EMA_{Daily}$$

$$EMA_{Daily} = \sum_{n=1}^{x} max\left(\left[T_n - \left(\frac{B_n}{RTE}\right)\right] * BC, 0\right)$$

Bid Price (BP)	The bid price in $/kW-mo
Bid Capacity (BC)	Project capacity in kW
k	Number of days in settlement period
D	Day
n	hour
T_n	n^{th} highest price hour of Day-Ahead Energy in relevant ISO-NE Load Zone
B_n	n^{th} lowest price hour of Day-Ahead Energy in relevant ISO-NE Load Zone
Round Trip Efficiency (RTE)	Percentage of energy discharged from energy charged
x	Bid storage duration in hours. For projects with a duration of less than 8 hours, x = project storage duration. For projects with a duration of 8 hours or longer, x = 8

APPENDIX D

[Proposal Requirements Checklist]

APPENDIX E

[Proposals Information Form]