

2022 SOLAR, ONSHORE WIND, & STORAGE RFP WEBINAR



Webinar Date: 6/9/2022

For further inquiry on the posted Q&A, the Webinar, or the RFP, contact

DEVCleanEnergyRFP-Acquisition@dominionenergy.com

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
1	The Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) is currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). When the final rule is published to changing the status to endangered, will the requirements associated with the NLEB change as a result of the listing?	Yes. Once the final rule becomes effective, the existing 4(d) rule, which exempted many tree removal activities associated with energy development from take prohibitions will no longer apply, and the ESA Section 9 take prohibition will apply in full.
2	What projects will be impacted by the NLEB Listing?	Any project that proposes removal of trees or structures.
3	When will the NLEB endangered status take effect?	The final rule is expected to be published in November, 2022 and take effect in December, 2022.
4	What are the options for compliance with NLEB take prohibitions?	While full details of the rule will not be known until it is published in November, current agency guidance and best information based on previously listed species suggest the following options: 1. Adhere to a tree clearing/structure removal Time of Year Restriction (TOYR) from April 1 – November 15 2. Conduct a habitat assessment to document the absence of suitable habitat for the NLEB and coordinate with USFWS for confirmation (Note that the NLEB may occupy a fairly wide range of habitat types and the complete absence of habitat on large sites that will require significant tree clearing is unlikely) 3. Conduct field surveys to determine the presence or absence of NLEB at a specific project site during the May 15 – August 15 survey window. This will require coordination with USFWS on both survey protocol and results. If NLEB is not identified at the site, a TOYR will not be necessary. Negative surveys remain valid for a period of 5 years.
5	Why is the NLEB being listed?	The northern long-eared bat is a wide-ranging, federally threatened bat species, found in 37 states and the District of Columbia. FWS determined that the NLEB is in danger of extinction throughout all of its range. The species typically overwinters in caves or mines and spends the remainder of the year in forested habitats. Northern long-eared bat is a medium sized insectivorous bat. Since primary habitat during the spring, summer, and fall months for the northern long-eared bat consists of trees and forested areas, any project that proposes to remove trees may be affected by this proposed rule. FWS cites white nose syndrome as the primary stressor, and adds climate change, wind energy and habitat loss as additional stressors to the species.
6	As you probably already know, the PJM IX reform process is underway and will create significant delays for WMPA processing for all projects including DG interconnection projects. I am reaching out to verify that Dominion is requiring DG RFP bidders to have a WMPA queue position for projects 20MW or less connecting to Dominion distribution facilities.	Distribution level interconnected projects are required to be entered into both the Virginia State Interconnection queue process to obtain an SGIA, and the PJM interconnection queue process to obtain a WMPA.
7	We have a question on what queue number is required to meet the RFP; a PJM Queue number or the State Queue number? Specifically, for a project interconnecting at the Distribution level the PJM tariff states: What is the interconnection process according to RFP requirements?	Distribution level interconnected projects are required to be entered into both the Virginia State Interconnection queue process to obtain an SGIA, and the PJM interconnection queue process to obtain a WMPA.
8	Is there any Bid fee or bid security?	It is not required to enter the RFP however exclusivity is required.
9	What does "initial study agreement" refer to in the interconnection requirements? Where to apply for interconnection queue? Is it Dominion or PJM? Is WMPA agreement mandatory? What is the timeline for interconnection study and agreement?	Transmission level interconnected projects are required to be entered into the PJM interconnection queue process. Distribution level interconnected projects are required to be entered into both the Virginia State Interconnection queue process to obtain an SGIA, and the PJM interconnection queue process to obtain a WMPA. PJM and Dominion Energy Virginia can provide the timeline for projects to complete their respective queue processes.

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10	Could you please explain the step by step interconnection process as per RFP requirements?	Transmission level interconnected projects are required to be entered into the PJM interconnection queue process. Distribution level interconnected projects are required to be entered into both the Virginia State Interconnection queue process to obtain an SGIA, and the PJM interconnection queue process to obtain a WMPA. Applications to the PJM queue are through PJM.com. Applications to the State Interconnection queue are through DominionEnergy.com at this site: https://www.dominionenergy.com/virginia/large-business-services/using-our-facilities/parallel-generation-and-interconnection .
11	Regarding the VA DEQ Memo on April 14th, what is "interconnection approval"?	Our understanding is that the definition of "interconnection approval" for the purposes of the April 14, 2022 DEQ Memo is still under development.
12	What is considered and accounted for in the 15acre/MWac for solar projects?	The 15 acres/MWac is a guideline, and would be essentially everything that would be included within the fence line. This includes solar facility (including the modules, inverters, and spacing between them), interconnection facilities, setbacks and buffers, and stormwater control features, such as basins. We have found, through prior experience constructing dozens of projects, that requires about 15 acres per MWac. This can certainly vary project-by-project, depending on the local requirements, environmental and wetlands characteristics, orientation of parcels and total land area.
13	<p>I noticed that Dominion doesn't publish Project Interconnection Customer company names in the quarterly interconnection queue update. I would like to volunteer to have Encore Renewable Energy's name published in the Dominion Queue quarterly update along with the other data that is considered non-confidential under Chapter 314 rules.</p> <p>We understand that Dominion is operating under tight restrictions regarding the interconnection process and we feel that publishing the names of developers could help facilitate the market to solve some of the queue congestion problems and bring ready-to-build projects through the process faster. Since 20VAC5-314-110 - (Chapter 314, section 110), states that the interconnection customer name is not confidential information for any project in the queue, we thought it would be worthwhile to volunteer to participate with more transparency and include our name as part of the queue data for the projects we are involved with and encourage other developers to do the same.</p> <p>Is that something that Dominion would be willing to do?</p>	This question should be addressed to your assigned Project Manager when you applied for interconnection in the Virginia State Jurisdiction Interconnection process. We cannot opine on process changes to that regulated process.
14	Can an acquisition project be located on the same parcel as a PPA project?	Utility-scale projects can be co-located with another facility, however DER projects (<3MW) cannot be co-located with any other project, either PPA or APA to qualify. An acquisition project must be separate and distinct from a PPA project, including its own unencumbered local permit.
15	Emil said that Dominion wants the Interconnection process to be far enough along to get a cost estimate. Does that mean we should wait to submit our Proposal until we receive that information?	We would prefer projects to at least have a system impact study, but we will also consider those projects that are in the current AG2 or AH1 queue group for this RFP, which are expected to go into Transition Cycle #2 in PJM's transition plan & schedule.
16	What if a project is sitting in the AG2 PJM queue with no good timeline for when the Feasibility or Impact studies will be completed. At what point should we be submitting a proposal?	We will consider projects in the current AG2 or AH1 queue group for this RFP, which are expected to go into Transition Cycle #2 in PJM's transition plan & schedule.
17	For battery spacing, is it 6MWh usable? or total?	Total
18	Given the delays in the PJM interconnection process, will Dominion consider projects that have filed queue requests but that have not received any studies?	We will consider projects as late as the AG2 or AH1 queue group for this RFP, which are expected to go into Transition Cycle #2 in PJM's transition plan & schedule, which are expected to obtain final interconnection agreements in 2026.

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19	Can projects previously submitted in past RFP responses be eligible for the rolling RFP?	Yes. Please submit an updated proposal that aligns to the requirements associated with the 2022 now rolling RFP.
20	Good afternoon. The acquisition scope for utility-scale projects - does this scope also apply to the PPA RFP or only the Acquisition RFP?	This scope only applies to the acquisition RFP - it is anticipated that scope requirements for PPA projects will come later this year under a separate RFP.
21	Will Dominion require a deeded easement or fee simple conveyance (ownership) for the interconnecting substation footprint?	The requirement is based on what is required by the Regional Transmission Operator/Owner. The RTO requires, as part of the interconnection process, that the property that is part of the transmission substation be deeded over to the RTO. If the land is being conveyed by fee simple, those costs need to be included in the Proposal.
22	Can you please confirm what the setback requirement will be for energy storage projects that are less than 10 MWs	Setback requirements for energy storage projects that are <10MWs in nameplate system size will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
23	Since DOM will be responsible for EPC, can you provide some guidance regarding assumptions to be used in determining the ac/dc ratio? Will DOM accept proposals based on AC rating only consistent with interconnection application?	Both the AC and DC rating (for solar) is required to be included in the proposal. As part of our review of projects, we will be assessing a project to ensure that there is sufficient land to build a facility of the capacity that has been proposed. Typically, a DC-to-AC ratio is 1.3, and a typical project requires ~15 acres of land available per MWac, but as communicated, each project will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis.
24	Would Dominion consider contracting with the developer of an asset for the engineering, procurement, and construction of that asset? If so, when would that contracting take place for asset acquisitions?	We have done this in the past, but requires the developer to have a construction division with a depth of successful construction experience building large power generation facilities, and a good safety and environmental track record. There will be a separate competitive solicitation for the procurement of construction / EPC services. Any firms that are interested in learning about that process or are interested in potentially being a participant in that RFP should contact our Project Construction and Supply Chain teams.
25	Can you provide guidance on what Dominion would consider reasonable interconnection costs for distribution interconnected projects? We're trying to understand if our project interconnection costs would eliminate our project for consideration before we spend money developing the project.	We acknowledge that interconnection costs are an important economic consideration when valuing projects and making investment decisions, but we do not have specific guidance to offer on a threshold range of acceptable costs. We evaluate a number of factors when reviewing proposals, both quantitative and qualitative. So, we would suggest that you submit any project that meets our RFP criteria.
26	Do you plan on running this RFP annually over the next few years, as you have done over the past couple years?	Through this RFP, we have now initiated an open process, where we will accept proposals year-round. However, we expect to annually update the proposal requirements and form acquisition agreement around the same time each year (2nd quarter). We also expect to have a similar annual webinar, as we may need to communicate those changes.
27	Is it mandatory to follow 15 acres / MWac for bid or it is project specific ?	The total acreage is project-specific, as conditions vary site-by-site and the required setbacks and buffers are often driven by specific conditions governed by local zoning or the local permit, such as the CUP. The 15 acres/MWac is provided as guidance. I will note that we have experienced very aggressive land and design assumptions, resulting in challenges to construct the total MW capacity of projects, both in DC and AC size. Proposals that include a total capacity that is not achievable (DC or AC) will be considered non-conforming.
28	Is 15 acres/MWac a requirement or a guideline? Will it be evaluated on a project by project basis?	The 15 acres/MWac is a guideline and projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
29	What is the "initial study agreement" in interconnection section?	I believe we are referring to the Feasibility Study.

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30	Does Dominion's DER group still prefer facilities with a unit capacity of 1 MW or less like in the 2021 RFP? If so, can these still be co-located on a single parcel?	We do not have a particular preference on project size because, again, a number of factors are considered when reviewing project proposals. The co-location restrictions as defined in the legislation will apply to any proposal.
31	Can you clarify your statements that you want the projects to be construction ready with all permits & studies, but also said that AH1 and AG2 projects without studies should be submitted?	We understand that there may be some delay due to PJM reform. By "construction ready" we mean that a project shall have an approved local permit, all of the site studies and surveys completed, etc.
32	Apologies I missed the previously asked question...sites that are co-located cannot be combined with this RFP and the PPA RFP?	Projects used to satisfy VCEA compliance are subject to the same VCEA co-location restrictions
33	Can you clarify your comments about accepting AH1 and AG2 projects without studies, but also needing the projects to be construction ready?	See prior responses - #31 and #15, #16, #18