



**LIMITED SOLICITATION**

**RATE DESIGN AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS  
BY VERMONT MUNICIPAL AND COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
UTILITIES**

**Responses to Questions**  
December 1, 2021  
Updated December 2, 2021

As of December 1, the Department had received three questions. On December 2, the Department received three additional questions. Further questions are welcome and responses will be posted within two business days by updating this document posted on the Rate Design Initiative page.

**1. What is the expected turnaround time for approval? When would funding of the selected proposals become available?**

Proposals are due by 4:30 pm on December 8. The Department will select proposals by December 15 and begin the contracting process soon after. Approval time varies for subgrant agreement reviews conducted by the Vermont Agency of Administration, but plan for 4 to 6 weeks for this process before the subgrant agreement can be executed by the recipient and the State of Vermont. Thus, February 2022 is a reasonable time to plan for a project kick-off.

If recipients do not already have a registration in SAM, the US Government's System for Award Management ([sam.gov](http://sam.gov)), it will save contracting time to register upon learning that a proposal has been funded.

**2. If [an applicant] has multiple proposal ideas, are these best suited as individual submissions or a combined submission?**

Either approach is acceptable, although the Department recommends submitting separate proposals for each project if each project can be completed independently.

**3. For the DOE quarterly and final project reporting, can the time spent compiling these reports contribute [towards] the 20% [match] contribution for the selected utility?**

Yes, although quarterly reporting is not very time-consuming. See the “Reporting” section in the solicitation for details.

**4. Will funding awards be based solely on merit or is the objective to provide funding to all who apply?**

The Department will select the best combination of projects to advance innovative rates and pilots by as many distribution utilities as possible, while also acknowledging that the total funding amount is limited. The selection criteria are listed on page 6 of the PDF.

**5. Do proposals need to include an hourly rate for each individual who may work on the project?**

An hourly rate is requested for each position title or position category. The names of individuals need not be included.

**6. The solicitation says that “Activities funded under this solicitation should begin by January 2022,” but the Responses to Question document says that “February 2022 is a reasonable time to plan for a project kick-off.” How should respondents plan?**

The most likely execution date for the contract is February 2022, but execution could occur during January 2022.