

Q1: The RRP states in part (our underline emphasis).

- *The PSD is seeking expert assistance in developing its recommendations to the PUC in the update of Rule 5.500, particularly in offering specific revisions to the rule that draw from best practices in recent interconnection rulemakings in other states with very high (and growing) penetrations of distributed energy resources (“DERs”) (e.g., California, Minnesota, Massachusetts).*
- *The contractor shall, based on its review of materials in Vermont proceedings, consultation with stakeholders, and knowledge of how other states have addressed emerging interconnection practices, propose redline edits to Vermont Rule 5.500. And further states*
- *The contractor must also provide annotations or a companion document explaining the proposed edits and recommendations.*

Given the above.

- A) Please confirm or comment upon our reading of the RFP that it does not include a summary of other states’ interconnection practices, but only asks that the Consultant incorporate best interconnection practices in other states to inform the recommendation?
 - **Response:** Correct. The RFP does not include a summary of other states’ interconnection practices. It only makes reference to several other states that have recently updated interconnection requirements, in part to accommodate high penetrations of distributed energy resources (e.g., California, Minnesota, Massachusetts), as these may provide replicable best practices to Vermont.
- B) That the annotations or a companion document explaining the proposed edits and recommendations may sometimes include references to other states’ best practices to help justify the proposed edit or recommendation?
 - **Response:** Yes, where a proposed edit is based on language from another state, the annotation or companion document should briefly explain the origin and purpose of the language and any modifications made to better suit Vermont.

Q2. In order to have an apples-to-apples proposals, for each of the following Tasks how many meetings / interviews should a proposer budget for

- A) For Task 1. Review of Materials. *The Contractor shall meet with the Department (virtually) at least twice, once before and once after this review, to discuss the materials, scope of review, and paths forward*
 - **Response:** Two meetings.
- B) For Task 2. Stakeholder Outreach. *The Contractor shall reach out to affected stakeholders (including distribution utilities and renewable energy developers) to discuss priorities and potential paths forward. The number and scope of these meetings, which can be virtual, will be dependent on needs and resources.*
 - **Response:** Two to four meetings, depending on how much the Contractor can glean from the 19-0856-RULE Rule 5.500 workshop proceedings and filings. At least one meeting each with distribution utilities (as a group) and renewable energy developers (as a group) would be the minimum.
- C) For Task 3. Draft Recommendations *...may require up to eight (8) one-hour meetings (virtual) with one or more Department staff.*
 - **Response:** No more than eight meetings, but likely fewer (i.e., four) depending on how much can be accomplished via email.

Please note that the PSD expects that all meetings with the PSD and stakeholders would be conducted virtually.

Q3. The RFP clearly states, *The total budget for this public engagement contract shall not exceed \$25,000*. Nonetheless, PSD is asking for a lot of scope for \$25,000. Is there a possibility of additional budget available for optional scope? For example, if the PSD expects that the number of Stakeholder Outreach sessions proposers should budget for is ten (10), but then decides it would like sixteen (16) Stakeholder Outreach sessions, is there any possibility of additional budget being allocated to take cover the additional scope of work desired?

Response: Additional budget may be possible in extremely compelling circumstances, though the Department expects bidders to submit responses based on the parameters outlined in the RFP, including budget and numbers of meetings. The PSD will manage the meeting requests in order to accommodate workload and budget (keeping in mind that the minimum number of meetings discussed above are necessary).