



HOURLY IMPACT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY EVALUATION PILOT

RESPONSES TO RFP QUESTIONS

June 19, 2020

Update on Deadline: Proposals are still due by e-mail on Friday, July 3, as specified in the RFP. However, paper copies are not due until Wednesday, July 8, in recognition that the USPS and parcel delivery services are experiencing operational delays.

1. Based on our review of the scope, we believe the PSD has not budgeted sufficiently for the requested level of activities.
 - a. Will the department consider increasing the available budget, and if so, to what amount?
 - b. If the department will not increase the available budget, will you consider proposals that address only parts of the requested scope. If yes, can you please detail what the PSD would consider as the highest priorities for a reduced scope of work?

Response: If a bidder believes the budget is insufficient for the scope of work, please identify the budget amount that would complete the project with the minimum requirements. If a reduced scope of work is unavoidable, the bulleted list on page 2 of the RFP document lists the Department's objectives in descending order, and as such Task 3 and Task 4 are more important than Task 5.

2. Can PSD clarify or provide guidance on the relative importance of peak hour evaluation results compared to total annual energy savings or other time element?

Response: The Department is more interested in hourly savings than annual energy savings. Peak hour savings is only one aspect of hourly savings and thus respondents should not fixate on peak hour savings (e.g., one hour a year, or solely the 5:00 pm hour, etc.).

3. What are the key hourly M&V benefits that PSD is seeking?
 - a. Persistence?
 - b. Average grid value?
 - c. Resource flexibility?
 - d. Timing of impacts?

e. Others?

Response: The Department is most interested in the timing of efficiency impacts. Economic grid value and flexibility are also of interest. Persistence is not a key topic of investigation for this project. Bidders are encouraged to note what benefits are and are not suitable for measurement through Advanced M&V practices.

4. Can PSD provide information on the availability of nonparticipants in Green Mountain Power's service territory, by sector (residential, commercial, other)? For nonparticipants does can PSD provide information on the total number of customers, by sector, who have never participated?

Response: PSD expects Efficiency Vermont will be able to furnish information about nonparticipants. For context, GMP has approximately 222,000 residential customers and 43,000 commercial customers (per Form EIA-861).

5. For the Required Measures, can PSD provide information on the delivery channels used to promote the measures? Are customer-specific data available for each measure or are some measures delivered via an upstream or midstream approach that may not include customer specific information?
6. Similar to the question above, can PSD provide the same information on delivery channels and customer-specific information [for optional measures]?
7. Are measures installed through upstream programs included on the required or optional priority measure tables in Appendix 1?

Response for Questions 5, 6, and 7: Some of the required and optional measures are incentivized through upstream or midstream programs, or through a mixture of delivery methods. Efficiency Vermont collects information about the end-use customers for nearly all of the required and optional measures, including midstream measures where trade ally may receive the rebate but must report customer information to Efficiency Vermont. One notable exception is residential LED lamps sold through retailers. *For that reason, the chosen respondent will not be required to include that measure in their analysis.*

8. A major challenge with whole-building analyses are controlling for other energy efficiency measures, behavioral programs, or other influences that may affect energy consumption in a building or a particular measure. Can PSD provide guidance on several items:
 - a. The presence of behavioral or O&M programs present in the residential or commercial sectors?

Response: Efficiency Vermont used a customer comparison behavioral program by mail to a portion of residential accounts from 2014 to 2018. The program included a control group of customers that received no mailings. Efficiency Vermont currently offers a Strategic Energy Management-style program (called Continuous Energy Improvement, or CEI) to a small number of commercial and industrial accounts.

- b. For a given customer, premise, or meter, the availability of historical measure installations that precede the 2017-2018 timeframe?

Response: Efficiency Vermont has information about measures installed by account prior to 2017. See the response above to questions 5/6/7 for an exception related to residential LED lamps.

- c. The consistency of data tracking, by customer, premise, or meter, across the 2017-2018 timeframe?

Response: Data tracking is consistent for the 2017-2018 period, although the linkages between customer, premise, and meter number are imprecise. This is due to standard operational reasons (such as customers beginning and ending utility service) as well as imperfections in the source utility account information. As stated in the RFP, Respondents should identify data needs in their proposal in sufficient detail to quantify expected demands on EVT in line with Task 1.”

9. Whole building analysis is generally able to capture full energy savings from a pre and post period. Technical reference manuals often use assumptions related to “replace on failure” or other baseline practices that do not necessarily align with a customer’s equipment in the pre-period. To what degree is the comparison of savings expected to reconcile potential differences in technical reference manual savings vs consumption differences? Is PSD open to combining whole building analytics with engineering assumptions to address measure baselines that do not reflect the customer’s pre-period equipment?

Response: The contractor may use TRM and custom measure savings as part of the data analysis, but reconciling differences between TRM values and actual consumption falls outside the scope of this project. Respondents are welcome to address how the topic relates to project goals.

10. The RFP suggests that off-the-shelf or established advanced analytic approaches are expected by PSD. Is the PSD open to customized approaches that address the specifics of EVT’s programs and data? Is a tailored solution an option?

Response: The Department will consider all options, but bidders should take note of the language on page 3 of the RFP regarding Advanced M&V experience and on page 6 regarding methodological replicability and transparency. A proposal for a customized approach should clearly describe what it is and why it is better than other approaches.

11. Page 4 of the RFP states, “This project will focus on Green Mountain Power residential and commercial customers due to hourly data availability. EVT maintains a data repository with AMI data for Green Mountain Power customers with 15-minute intervals.” Will the contractor receive hourly or 15-minute interval data?

Response: PSD expects the contractor will receive 15-minute interval data.

12. How far back are AMI data available?

Response: AMI data is available from Efficiency Vermont beginning January 1, 2017. AMI data from 2016 exists but will require customer-specific requests to Green Mountain Power through Efficiency Vermont. If a full year of pre-installation AMI data is required, the contractor may choose to analyze only measures installed in 2018.

13. The project schedule is provided on page 8 of the RFP. The data access agreement with EVT is expected to be completed 2.5 months after execution of the contract and the initial draft report is due 3 months after contract execution. This schedule seems to suggest that there is two weeks to do the analysis. Please clarify. When can the selected contractor expect to receive the data?

Response: The Suggested Deliverable Dates on page 8 are intended to set a general timeline for the project. The data access agreement may take more or less than 2.5 months given complexities related to data structures and data security protocols. Respondents are encouraged to recommend a schedule in their proposals.

14. The RFP states that the final product is due on or before December 15, 2020 and the schedule indicates that the contractor has 5 months to complete the work. If the bidder is selected by the middle of July and it takes 6 weeks for the contract to be executed, the earliest that the work would start is September 1. This optimistic scenario leaves 3.5 months between contract execution and the final due date. Please clarify.

Response: The PSD recognizes that a deadline of December 15, 2020, for project completion will be difficult to meet. This is not a hard deadline, and the project may proceed into 2021 if needed. Respondents are encouraged to recommend a schedule in their proposals.

15. In Appendix 1 to the RFP, the DPS lists the measures of interest, with the first table listing the “required measures” and the second table listing the “optional priority measures.” Commercial BLPM circulator pumps are listed in both tables. Is this a required or optional measure?

Response: Commercial BLPM circulator pumps are a required measure.

16. The proposals are due on July 3, 2020, which is a federal holiday. Was this intentional?

Response: This was not an error. Respondents are welcome to submit proposals in advance of the deadline.

17. What is the yearly budget going forward for software support after the initial RFP period?

Response: A budget has not been established.

18. What detail of data is available on the individual buildings at which these AMI and EE measures are installed (list all available data) – i.e. location (address); building type (single family, multifamily, commercial sub sectors (healthcare, schools, etc.); building envelope (sq ft window coverage, etc.); equipment (age, make, model, size); ee program participation; all electric buildings (electric heat) vs electric buildings with other sources of heating; onsite renewable energy; etc.?

Response: Beyond the AMI data, customer information availability will typically include location, past efficiency program participation, and (for commercial customers) Standard Industrial Classification number. Availability of other information depends on the type of measure. On-site renewable energy and heating fuel are not available.

19. What is the minimum length of time of available data for each site that will be included in the study? Specifically, how much pre-installation and post-installation data is available (min/max) for these 2017 & 2018 measure installations?

Response: As described in the response to Question 12, AMI data is available Efficiency Vermont beginning January 1, 2017. There is no set minimum length of time for pre- or post-installation data. This is left to the contractor to choose based on standard industry practices and the objectives of the study.

20. Is it accurate to assume that all data is coming from existing AMI metering and that no AMI meter installations will be required in the SOW?

Response: Yes. The analysis can rely on existing AMI meters, and no additional installations of revenue or non-revenue meters is expected.

21. Is any field work anticipated in this SOW? To obtain more site specific data for example.

Response: No field work is anticipated in this Scope of Work.

22. Can you provide a breakdown of the # of AMI meters by residential and commercial subsectors (single family, multifamily, healthcare, school, etc.)

Response: A breakdown is not available. However, AMI adoption is widespread. Green Mountain Power has around 260,000 AMI meters and 265,000 customers.

23. Who is the third party provider of AMI Meter Data Management System for Green Mountain Power? Will the data be obtained directly from the MDMS provider or from Green Mountain Power or EVT? Will the AMI data be associated with a location and/or a utility account number? How is a gap in data handled by the MDMS (null usage records or estimated data)?

Response: The data will be obtained from Efficiency Vermont and associated with a utility account. The PSD does not know how the MDM system handles data gaps.

24. For this analysis in Task 4, is the “existing M&V work conducted for Efficiency Vermont programs using traditional methods” referenced in the first paragraph of this Task 4 section available publicly and if so can you provide a copy or link to the reports.

Response: Some, but not all, evaluation reports are posted online. Please see <https://www.encyvermont.com/about/annual-plans-reports> for Savings Claim Summary documents. Annual savings verifications and Forward Capacity Market impact evaluations are available upon request.

25. For this analysis in Task 4, is the analysis referenced in the last paragraph expected to be completed by October 2020 or later?

Response: Efficiency Vermont’s analysis may or may not be completed by October. It is expected that work will be ongoing during the autumn concurrent with this pilot project.

26. Will the work be split between multiple respondents or awarded to one respondent?

Response: The Department expects that one proposal will be selected from a single respondent or team of respondents. The analysis work will not be split among multiple, unassociated respondents.