



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Data Centers Market Characterization May 3, 2024

I. Contracting Organizations

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) Regional Technical Forum (RTF) is issuing this Request for Proposals.

A. The Council

The Council is an interstate compact agency formed by the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington as authorized by Congress in the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §839, et seq. The Council is composed of eight Council members, two appointed by the governor of each of the four states. Congress charged the Council with developing two major planning documents:

- A program for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities in the Columbia River Basin, and
- A plan for meeting the electric energy needs of the Pacific Northwest for the next 20 years that includes an examination of conservation, renewable, and conventional energy sources that are available to meet those needs.

Congress also charged the Council with informing the Pacific Northwest public of major regional power issues and insuring widespread public involvement in the formulation of its regional power plan and fish and wildlife program.

B. The RTF

The RTF is an advisory committee to the Council. Per a congressional directive, the RTF was chartered in 1999 to:

- Develop standardized protocols for verification and evaluation of energy savings,
- Track regional progress toward the achievement of the region's conservation and renewable resource goals, and
- Provide feedback and suggestions for improving the effectiveness of conservation and renewable resource development programs in the region.

- Conduct periodic reviews of the region’s progress toward meeting its conservation and renewable resource goals.

II. Services Sought by the RTF

Computer servers, data centers, and related devices are consuming an increasing amount of electricity in the Northwest and nationally. The RTF has allocated resources in 2024 to focus on new measure development and this market presents an optimal opportunity to explore potential energy efficiency and demand response technologies. This market ranges from large enterprise data centers to small, embedded data centers, and the scope of this project is intended to get a broad sense of the entire data centers market, increase understanding of the potential load for the region, and the possible measures for energy efficiency and demand response in each type of data center. Proposers should outline their approach for characterizing the data centers market. Contractor will work closely with the RTF Manager, RTF contract analysts, and other Council staff to ensure market characterization meets RTF and Council needs.

For this scoping study, the RTF anticipates the following tasks:

- **Task 1—Review and recommend updates to existing Council measures for data centers:** Contractor should conduct a review and recommend updates or changes to the existing Council Measures for embedded or collocated data centers from the 7th Plan and servers and power supplies from the 2021 Plan. As part of the review and recommendation, Contractor should identify updates to savings, costs, etc., and in addition develop potential estimate for these types of measures. *Deliverable and Timeline: Present recommendations and provide any resources and documentation to RTF and Council staff by August 30, 2024.*
- **Task 2—Data Center Market Characterization:** Contractor should conduct a review of the data center market and provide a memo documenting the current characterization and findings from this effort. Characterization should be regionally focused and should cover at minimum:
 - Types of data centers overview, including for each identified type, the:
 - baseline energy use
 - breakdown of energy consumption by end-use
 - energy efficiency measures
 - Energy efficiency measure potential for the RTF and Council and for any recommended measure, identification of the:
 - competition groups (i.e., information on which products/vehicle classifications typically compete, which ultimately would inform a measure baseline)
 - any existing specification or programs (i.e., any existing programs, resources, definitions, or specifications that identify energy efficiency metrics and criteria, such as ENERGY STAR®)
 - assessment of the accuracy and consistency of savings mechanisms metrics and measure identifiers
 - identification of potential data to be leveraged
 - Demand response opportunities in data centers
 - Any potential or existing programs

- *Deliverable and Timeline: The contractor should summarize their analysis, findings, and recommendations for presentation to RTF and Council staff and the RTF by December 20, 2024.*

In addition to anticipated tasks outlined, proposals should include further tasks proposers believe will be required for successful completion of this work and proposed timeline.

Final Deliverable and Timeline: Memo, workbooks with any analysis or findings, and presentation and supporting documentation outlining market characterization and summary recommendations.

III. Timeline and Budget Expectations

The RTF estimates between \$50,000-\$100,000 for this work. The RTF reserves the right to revise this budget. Proposers shall include the proposer's estimated costs per study, irrespective of the RTF's estimated budget. Proposals should be based on time and materials, with a not-to-exceed limit, and include a detailed cost estimate.

The RTF would like to complete this work in the 2024 calendar year. The specific timing of the study and completion is flexible and can be coordinated with the selected contractor.

IV. How to Submit a Proposal and Required Elements

Proposals shall be submitted to the RTF in electronic format by **May 31, 2024**.

Proposals shall be emailed to:

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Laura Thomas

RTF Manager

rtfadmin@nwcouncil.org

Proposals shall include the following elements:

- Contact information and brief description of the firm submitting the proposal
- Description of the technical and management approach to complete the work and deliver the services
- Qualifications of all personnel who will be working on the project
- Budget proposal that includes the hours and rates of all personnel, with a not to exceed cost
- Reporting schedule and project timeline
- Web site addresses or listing of similar work that can be reviewed by the proposal evaluation team
- Any other material the proposer deems pertinent

Any questions regarding this RFP shall be directed to Laura Thomas. Please note that responses will be limited to correcting errors in the RFP or clarifying the RFP's provisions. If questions received identify significant information that would assist proposers in submitting proposals, such information will be made available by reasonable means, such as posting on the RTF's webpage, to

all persons or entities who have received the RFP to ensure all proposers have access to the same information.

V. How the RTF Will Select a Final Proposal

An evaluation team will review the proposals. The team will be comprised of staff from the Council’s Resources Team, RTF Contract Analysts, and RTF Operations Subcommittee. Proposals will be evaluated based on the proposed approach to and the qualifications for the services sought in Section II above. The evaluation committee will also consider the proposer’s cost of service.

VI. Right to Reject and Proposal Costs

The RTF reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and may cancel, modify, or revise this RFP at any time. The RTF shall not be obligated to procure any services resulting from this RFP. Neither the Council nor the RTF is liable to any proposer for any loss or expense caused by or resulting from a delay, suspension, or cancellation of the RFP, award, or rejection of any proposal. Proposer shall bear all costs incurred in developing and submitting its proposal.

VII. Project Schedule

Proposals Due:	May 31, 2024
Selection of Winning Proposal(s):	Week of June 10, 2024
Project Start Date:	Week of June 17, 2024 (or as agreed to)

VIII. Equal Opportunity

The Council and the RTF promote equal opportunity for all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, military or veteran status, or any other protected status in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

IX. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Responders are encouraged to review the Council’s [inclusion statement](#). The Council is interested in learning from and encourages, in all opportunities, the participation of those who are also taking steps to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in their work. To this end, please consider providing a response to the following questions. Providing a response is voluntary. Responses will not be considered in proposal evaluation and selection.

- Please indicate if you are a small, minority, woman, or veteran-owned business.
- Please outline any efforts taken at your organization to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in your organization’s practices or policies, including, for example, staffing and contracting

X. Disclosure Notice

The Council does its work in public as required by the Northwest Power Act. The Council, although not a federal agency, complies with the Freedom of Information Act. The Council’s policy is available for review on our [website](#).