



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Resiliency and Flexibility Valuation Studies October 18, 2021

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

In the development of the draft 2021 Power Plan, the Council considered developing proxy values for the benefits of resilience and flexibility that certain energy efficiency measures might provide. Ultimately, the Council did not include these values in its cost-effectiveness methodology in the draft plan, but they did provide an action item for the RTF to investigate methods for quantifying these values for energy efficiency.

With the planned release of the final 2021 Power Plan in early 2022, the RTF is seeking two separate studies—one on the valuation of resiliency and one on the valuation of flexibility. For purposes of this work, these terms are defined as:

- **Resiliency:** The ability to support home or building resilience, such as the increased ability to ride-through an extended power outage. For example, weatherization in a home increases the ability to ride through an extended power outage with more comfort and can reduce negative impacts (such as burst pipes from freezing).
- **Flexibility:** The ability to support grid flexibility through enabling technologies or approaches. For example, this could include a smart control that enables grid interaction. This could also include weatherization, and the ability to maintain thermal comfort longer during demand response events.

Proposers should outline their approach for developing a methodology for quantifying the value. While the RTF’s focus is on potentially incorporating this valuation into energy efficiency and demand response analysis, the contractor’s approach should be mindful that ultimately these values must be applied symmetrically across all potential resources to which the value applies. This includes all relevant energy efficiency measures, demand side resources, and supply side resources. Contractor(s) will work closely with the RTF Manager and other Council staff to bring in the necessary regional expertise across the power sector.

The RTF is considering selecting up to two contractors for the completion of this work, one for each study topic. Proposers may submit a proposal for just one or both studies. Proposers wishing to be considered for both studies must address each separately per Section IV below.

For each study, the RTF anticipates the following tasks:

- **Literature Review:** Contractors should conduct a literature review to explore how other jurisdictions have approached this question. Contractor should provide a memo summarizing the results of the literature review no later than 6 weeks after the contract start.
- **Power System Surveys (Flexibility Study Only):** Contractor should conduct up to four surveys with experts in power systems and planning. At least one survey will be with Council staff to understand the regional power system operations (both currently and in the future). The contractor should conduct up to three additional surveys to understand how different utility systems with a different mix of resources (more or less renewables, more or less thermal, etc.) might result in different considerations for metrics.

- **Development of Methodology:** Contractor will develop a methodology for estimating a value for a specific resource. The methodology should focus on the valuation for the regional power system perspective, but it should also identify aspects that would need different considerations to account for utility specific situations.
- **Vetting Methodology:** To test the viability of the methodology, the contract shall apply it to two energy efficiency measures and one demand response technology (to be determined in consultation with the RTF Manager).
- **Recommendation Memo and Presentation:** The contractor should summarize their analysis, findings, and recommendations for presentation to Council staff and the RTF.

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

Final Deliverable: Presentation and supporting documentation outlining literature review, proposed methodology, example application of methodology, and summary recommendations.

III. Timeline and Budget Expectations

The RTF estimates around \$80,000 per study. 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 these studies in the 2022 calendar year. The specific timing of the studies and completion is flexible and can be coordinated with the selected contractor(s).

IV. How to Submit a Proposal and Required Elements

Proposals shall be submitted to the RTF in electronic format by **November 30, 2021**.

Proposals shall be emailed to:
 Northwest Power and Conservation Council
 Jennifer Light
 RTF Manager/Chair
jlight@nwcouncil.org
 (503) 222-5161

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 Jennifer Light. 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. 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.

As noted above, the RTF is considering selecting up to two contractors for the completion of this work, one for each study topic. The number of awards shall be at its sole discretion based on the evaluation of each proposal per the criteria stated above.

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:	November 30, 2021
Selection of Winning Proposal(s):	Week of January 3, 2021
Project Start Date:	Week of January 10, 2022 (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](#).