

TRANSMISSION FACILITATION PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – CAPACITY CONTRACTS

RFP Number: GDO-TFPFY24CAP

IIJA Section 40106 – Transmission Facilitation Program

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General Announcement

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA or the Act), Public Law 117-58, codified at 42 U.S.C. 18713, directs the Secretary of Energy (Secretary) to establish a program, to be known as the "Transmission Facilitation Program" or "TFP," under which the Department of Energy (DOE) may facilitate the construction, replacement, or capacity upgrade of certain eligible electric power transmission lines and related facilities (Eligible Projects). The goals of the TFP are to facilitate the construction of needed transmission infrastructure and deployment of technologies that enhance the capacity, efficiency, resiliency, and reliability of the electric power transmission system and to improve access to low cost and low carbon energy resources while ensuring repayment of TFP support as set forth in 42 U.S.C. 18713(j)(8).

Through the TFP, DOE can offer three types of support to facilitate Eligible Projects: capacity contracts (which provide a commercial source of revenue); loans (which provide debt support); and public private partnerships (which provide equity support). This Request for Proposals (RFP) specifically solicits applications for DOE support via capacity contracts. All TFP projects must demonstrate that DOE can recover its costs as the TFP is a revolving fund and not a grant program.

Part 1 of the application requires applicants to provide a project paper that describes the project's eligibility, business case, and potential for furthering the goals of TFP by: using advanced technology that enhances the capacity, resiliency, or reliability of an electric power transmission system; improving reliability and resilience of an electric power transmission system; increasing interregional transfer capacity to support strong and equitable economic growth, or; contributing to national or subnational goals to lower electricity sector greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, applicants must describe how their projects will not only contribute to the country's energy technology and climate goals, but also meet the following four priority goals: (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) invest in the American workforce; (3) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (4) contribute to the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative). The criteria upon which DOE will consider Part 1 applications is described in this RFP. Applicants that DOE invites to Part 2 will be required to submit a more in-depth application. The criteria upon which DOE will consider Part 2 applications is described in this RFP. DOE will make selections for capacity contracts, if any, based on the Part 2 applications. DOE will invite applicants of selected projects to enter into a due diligence phase, during which DOE and the applicants will negotiate binding agreements for award of capacity contracts.

This RFP establishes the procedures for solicitation, review, and evaluation of applications for capacity contracts under the TFP. DOE invites entities that are pursuing potential Eligible Projects to apply for capacity contract support.

Key RFP Dates

RFP Issue Date	2/6/24
Informational Webinar	2/21/2024
Submission Deadline for Part 1	3/11/2024
Submission Deadline for Part 2	6 weeks after invite released (estimated end of May)
Expected Date for DOE Selection Notification and Start of Due Diligence and Contract Negotiation	October 2024

Applicants must submit their Part 1 application by 5:00pm ET on the due date listed above to be eligible for evaluation consistent with the Part 1 criteria explained in this RFP for potential invitation to proceed to Part 2. Applications must be sent to transmissionfacilitation@hq.doe.gov.

To apply to the TFP in response to this RFP, applicants must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), detailed information provided in Appendix E of this RFP, and email the application to <u>transmissionfacilitation@hq.doe.gov</u>.

Any questions on this RFP may be emailed to <u>transmissionfacilitation@hq.doe.gov</u>. Frequently asked question are located at: <u>Transmission Facilitation Program Frequently Asked Questions</u> | <u>Department of Energy</u>

I. Background and Context

a. Purpose of Program

A resilient, reliable, and expanded transmission system is critical to meeting the Nation's current and future economic, energy, and national security needs. Upgrading and expanding the current transmission system will enhance grid reliability and resilience and enable cost-effective access to low-carbon, lower-cost energy.

To help meet this need, Congress enacted, and President Biden signed, the IIJA. The IIJA provides new authorities, appropriations, and borrowing authority, including the TFP, that DOE can use to help reduce the financing challenges transmission project sponsors face and to help catalyze investment in transmission. The TFP authorizes three forms of DOE support—capacity contracts, loans, and public-private partnerships—through which DOE may facilitate the construction, replacement, or capacity upgrade of eligible electric power transmission lines and related facilities.

DOE intends to employ these tools to support Eligible Projects that demonstrate a need for the facilitation provided by the TFP; provide a reasonable prospect of cost recovery by the Federal Government; and meet the statute's articulated goals. DOE is authorized to borrow from the Treasury up to \$2.5 billion for the purpose of carrying out the TFP.

DOE is seeking to support projects that cost-effectively increase resiliency and reliability, increase interregional transmission capacity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote equitable economic growth and energy justice. It is critical that the projects not only contribute to these goals, but also: (1) support the IIJA objectives to invest in America's workforce by including specific elements to accelerate job growth and job quality; and (2) advance the Administration's equity, environmental, and energy justice priorities, including the Justice40 Initiative.¹ In addition, it is necessary that projects supported by these investments will have minimal negative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns.

DOE invites applications for projects in both Regional Transmission Organization/Independent System Operator (RTO/ISO) regions and non-RTO/ISO regions. In addition, DOE seeks applications from developers with a variety of business models, including incumbent transmission owners and merchant

¹ The Justice40 Initiative, established by Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, establishes a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Pursuant to EO 14008 and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandums M-21-28 (<u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf</u>) and <u>M-23-09</u>. (<u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/M-23-09 Signed CEQ CPO.pdf</u>), DOE recognizes disadvantaged communities as identified by the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), located at <u>https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/</u>.

transmission developers. DOE's experience reviewing applications and making selections under the previous Request for Proposals (described below) demonstrated that projects in a variety of regions, pursuing a variety of business models, can satisfy the TFP criteria.

Note that DOE offers other support to facilitate transmission deployment in addition to the TFP. Interested persons are encouraged to consult DOE's web site or to contact the Grid Deployment Office at transmission@hq.doe.gov for more information on programs administered by DOE, as well as questions concerning the ability to pair different funding opportunities offered by DOE.

b. Previous Request for Proposals

On November 18, 2022, DOE issued a Request for Proposals to solicit applications for capacity contracts under the TFP, which was DOE's first action to implement the TFP. DOE received 14 applications for Part 1 and invited 8 applicants to proceed to Part 2. Six applicants submitted Part 2 applications. DOE selected three projects to enter into due diligence and contract negotiations: (1) Twin States Clean Energy Link, (2) Southline Transmission Project, and (3) Cross-Tie 500kV Transmission Line Project.²

Applicants who applied to the first round of funding and were not invited to submit Part 2 applications may apply to this RFP for the same project. Applicants that applied to the first round of funding and were awarded funding cannot apply to this RFP for the same project. DOE will consider applications for a different project (i.e. additional phases of a previously awarded project) from sponsors of previously awarded projects for this RFP.

c. Current Request for Proposals

DOE anticipates obligating up to\$1.2 billion in capacity contracts in response to this Request for Proposals, with the final amount dependent on the availability of funds and the projects selected in this and other TFP offerings. DOE is offering a second opportunity for capacity contracts to identify additional commercially-viable transmission projects that have the potential to significantly address transmission needs but that would not be constructed, or would be constructed with less-thanoptimal capacity, without TFP support. DOE believes that the experience it gained in processing the previous Request for Proposals provides a valuable opportunity to apply lessons learned in this second solicitation. Further, the publicly-announced selections from the previous Request for Proposals provided potential applicants

² <u>https://www.energy.gov/gdo/transmission-facilitation-program-first-round-selections</u>

important information regarding how DOE envisions using this program to accelerate transmission deployment, and DOE is interested in providing potential applicants an opportunity to seek capacity contracts with this information in mind. DOE expects to make selections of applications that proceed into due diligence and contract negotiations by October 2024. This Request for Proposals is similar but includes revisions to the previous Request for Proposals for capacity contracts; as such, applicants are advised to carefully review.

II. Key Terms and Definitions for the Current RFP

The following terms have the meanings set forth below for purposes of this RFP.

- "Applicant" means an entity that submits an application.
- "Capacity contract" means a contract entered into by DOE and an entity for the right to the use of the transmission capacity of an Eligible Project.
- "Eligible electric power transmission line" means an electric power transmission line that is capable of transmitting not less than (a) 1,000 megawatts (MW); or (b) 500 MW in the case of a project that consists of upgrading an existing electric power transmission line or constructing a new electric power transmission line in an existing transmission, transportation, or telecommunications infrastructure corridor.
- "Eligible Project" means a project (including any related facility) (a) to construct a new or upgrade an existing eligible electric power transmission line; and/or (b) to increase the transmission capacity of an existing eligible electric power transmission line.
- **"Existing Corridor**" means an existing right-of-way containing transmission, transportation, or telecommunications infrastructure.
- "Proposed Project" means a project for which an application is submitted pursuant to this RFP.
- "RFP" means this Request for Proposals.

III. Application Process

This RFP sets forth a two-part application process. Part 1 applications are due by the deadline provided in this RFP. The criteria for evaluation of Part 1 applications is explained below. Applicants invited to Part 2 must submit additional material required by this RFP by the Part 2 deadline. The criteria for evaluation of Part 2 applications is also explained below. Proposed projects selected following Part 2 applications move to due diligence and contract negotiation.

All Applicants must demonstrate eligibility of proposed projects for the program. A proposed project is an Eligible Project if it is an electric power transmission line that is capable of transmitting not less than (a) 1,000 MW; or (b) 500 MW in the case of a project that consists of upgrading an existing electric power transmission line or constructing a new electric power transmission line in an existing transmission, transportation, or telecommunications infrastructure corridor.

Part 1 of the application process serves as a screening of proposed projects before requiring more detailed Part 2 applications. Applicants must provide in Part 1 applications a project summary paper as well as a table of key characteristics of the proposed project as described in Appendix A to this RFP. All Applicants must also provide in Part 1 applications a virtual presentation to DOE staff during the Part 1 evaluation period for this RFP. DOE anticipates inviting Applicants to submit more detailed Part 2 applications where those Applicants' demonstrate in their Part 1 applications the highest potential for their proposed projects to meet the TFP statutory requirements and the TFP goals. DOE expects the Part 1 evaluation period, meaning the time between receipt of Part 1 applications and invitations to proceed to Part 2, to last approximately five weeks.

Applicants invited to Part 2 must submit a Part 2 application, consistent with Appendix C to this RFP, and participate in an in-person interview in Washington, DC. DOE expects the Part 2 evaluation period, meaning the time between receipt of Part 2 applications and selection to proceed to due diligence and contract negotiation, to last approximately 14 weeks.

DOE will invite Applicants selected following Part 2 applications to proceed into the due diligence and contract negotiation phase. During the due diligence phase, DOE will validate information provided by the relevant Applicant in its Part 1 and Part 2 applications. Concurrently, DOE and the Applicant will negotiate a facilitation agreement and other appropriate award documentation. The facilitation agreement will lay out the timing and terms for the execution of the capacity contract. Subject to completion of due diligence acceptable to DOE and subject to agreement on the terms of a capacity contract and other appropriate award documentation, DOE intends to select one or more proposed projects for the award of a capacity contract. DOE reserves the right to make no award pursuant to this RFP.

Recipients of funding under the IIJA must comply with requirements of all applicable Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, DOE policy and guidance, and instructions in this RFP. No binding commitment, agreement, obligation, or right of any kind may be assumed or enforced by any Applicant against DOE other than in accordance with a duly and validly executed contract. It is a crime to knowingly make false statements to a federal agency. Misrepresentation of material facts may be the basis for rejection of an application for TFP award. Penalties upon conviction may include fine and imprisonment. For details, refer to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 18713(f)(7), DOE's entry into a capacity contract will not be considered a Major Federal Action for which environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required. If any other federal agency is required to conduct an environmental review pursuant to NEPA, an award under this RFP does not supersede or void that requirement.

To submit applications, Applicants must register with the System for Award Management as described in Appendix F.

IV. Part 1 Application: Project Paper and Virtual Presentation

a. Submission Guidance

Details of the content that Applicants must include in their Part 1 applications are included in Appendix A. The General Announcement Section above provides the due date for Part 1 applications and the email to which Applicants must submit Part 1 applications.

The attestation in Appendix B must be included in Applicants' Part 1 Applications. Applicants are advised to carefully review Appendices A and B to ensure that their applications include all requested information and documentation. If DOE determines that an application is not complete or that certain submitted information needs clarification, DOE may request that the Applicant provide further information and/or clarification.

b. Criteria

Following receipt of Part 1 applications, DOE will first determine whether the proposed project covered by each Part 1 application is an Eligible Project. For those proposed projects that DOE determines are Eligible Projects, DOE will score the Part 1 applications based on the criteria outlined below.

Reviewers will score the following criteria on a 0-10 point scale, and the total score will be weighted into a 0-10 point overall score. Applicants with the highest score will be invited to submit a Part 2 application.

Criteria		Weight
Α.	The Part 1 application demonstrates sufficient potential for the proposed project's business case to be compelling, such that DOE is reasonably likely to recover its costs if it enters into a capacity contract.	30%
В.	The Part 1 application demonstrates that TFP support has a significant potential to accelerate the development of the proposed project and/or to increase the capacity of the proposed project.	25%
C.	The Part 1 application demonstrates sufficient potential for the proposed project to provide substantial benefits and reduce negative impacts to communities of interest.	15%
D.	The Part 1 application demonstrates sufficient potential for the proposed project to: (1) enable new renewable generation; (2) increase market access for existing renewable generation; (3) apply current technology in demonstrably new ways and/or apply advanced technology in the project design; and/or (4) facilitate increased interregional transfer capacity.	15%

Ε.	The Part 1 application demonstrates sufficient potential for the	15%
	Applicant to begin construction of the proposed project by the end of	
	2029.	

V. Part 2 Application: Detailed Application and In-Person Interview

a. Submission Guidance

Details of the content of Part 2 applications are included in Appendix C. The General Announcement Section above provides the due date for Part 2 applications and the email to which Applicants must submit Part 2 applications.

The penalty of perjury statement in Appendix D must be included in Applicants' Part 2 Applications. Applicants are advised to carefully review Appendices C and D to ensure that their applications include all requested information and documentation. If DOE determines that an application is not complete or certain submitted information needs clarification, DOE may request that the Applicant provide further information and/or clarification.

In evaluating applications during Part 2, DOE will consider information provided in both Part 1 and Part 2, including the Part 1 application, Part 1 presentation, Part 2 application, and Part 2 in-person interview, as well as information obtained during consultation with regional planning entities. DOE will use this information to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed project for capacity contract pursuant to this RFP based on the criteria set forth below.

b. Criteria

DOE will score applications during Part 2 based on the criteria outlined below. Reviewers will score the following criteria on a 0-10 point scale, and the total score will be weighted into a 0-10 point overall score.

Cı	iteria	Weight
1.	It is reasonable to expect that the proceeds from the proposed project will be adequate to enable recovery of TFP financial support.	33%
2.	The proposed project is unlikely to be constructed in as timely a manner or with as much transmission capacity in the absence of TFP support (either financial or participatory).	17%
3.	The proposed project is likely to: (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) result in investments in America's workforce; (3) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and (4) contribute to the goal that 40% of the overall benefits	7%

	of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities	
	(the Justice40 Initiative), as demonstrated in the Applicant's	
	submitted Community Benefits Plan.	
4.	The proposed project, as designed, will use advanced technology, including but not limited to: reconductoring of an existing electric power transmission line with advanced conductors; use of hardware or software that enables dynamic line ratings, advanced power flow control, or grid topology optimization; and/or use of HVDC technology.	7%
5.	The proposed project, as designed, will likely improve the resiliency and reliability of the electric power transmission system.	7%
6.	The proposed project, as designed, will likely facilitate increased interregional transfer capacity.	7%
7.	The proposed project is reasonably likely to contribute to national or subnational goals to lower electricity sector greenhouse gas emissions.	7%
8.	The Applicant is reasonably likely to begin construction of the proposed project no later than December 31, 2029.	15%

In addition to the Part 2 criteria set forth above, DOE may also consider the following additional policy factors in determining which Applicants to select to proceed to the due diligence and contract negotiations phase:

- The degree to which a capacity contract for the proposed project optimizes the use of available TFP funding;
- The degree to which the proposed project will deliver the greatest benefits for the least amount of TFP funding;
- The degree to which the proposed project, or group of proposed projects selected to move into due diligence and contract negotiations, represents a geographic distribution;
- The degree to which the proposed project's solution or strategy will maximize deployment of additional transmission capacity, system resilience and reliability, and/or other priorities; and
- The degree to which the proposed project leverages existing infrastructure, facilities, and/or workforce skills.

VI. Due Diligence and Facilitation Agreement

a. Due Diligence

At the conclusion of Part 2, DOE will invite the most qualified Applicants to proceed to the due diligence and contract negotiations phase of the selection process. In the due diligence phase, DOE will attempt to validate information provided by the relevant Applicant in its Part 1 and Part 2 applications. This may include the use of federal and non-federal industry experts. Due diligence may also include further DOE consultation with regional planning entities, Tribal Nations and states.

During the due diligence phase, DOE and the Applicant will concurrently negotiate a capacity contract and appropriate award documentation. This includes negotiating the terms of a facilitation agreement, which will describe the events and actions that must occur before the capacity contract takes effect and the terms and rate under which DOE will enter into the capacity contract. The facilitation agreement will include terms such as:

- Conditions precedent to the execution of the capacity contract, which will include conditions related to the proposed project's financing, commencement of construction, commercial operation, and receipt of regulatory approvals;
- Appropriate milestones to demonstrate measurable progress of the proposed project to commence construction and achieve commercial operation, and remedies if a milestone is not met;
- Performance of the Community Benefits Plan; and
- Provisions intended to promote the transfer of DOE's capacity commitment to third parties and to enable DOE to exit the proposed project and recover its costs as soon as practicable.

b. Capacity Contract

The capacity contract will be consistent with the Applicant's open access transmission tariff or equivalent and must be in compliance with any applicable requirements of the Federal Power Act and any regulations thereunder. The capacity contract will specify the contract capacity, scheduling rights, rate, point of receipt and point of delivery, and term of capacity commitment. Any rate charged under the capacity contract must represent the fair market value for the use of the transmission capacity, as determined by DOE.³

c. Cost Recovery

The IIJA authorizes DOE to recover its cost of facilitation activities carried out in entering into a capacity contract.⁴ As a condition for the Applicant's participation in the due diligence and contract negotiation phase, DOE will require the Applicant to

³ 42 U.S.C. 18713(f)(2)(a).

⁴ 42 U.S.C. 18713(d)(4)(a)(i).

enter into a cost reimbursement agreement to reimburse DOE for its third party legal and consulting services costs incurred in the due diligence and contract negotiation phase.

d. Federal Funding Obligation Requirement

The total award for this round of capacity contracts for all proposed project is expected to be up to \$1.2 billion. When DOE awards a capacity contract to a proposed project under the TFP, DOE's financial participation is obligated at the full amount of the award and those funds are no longer available for use by DOE to facilitate other projects

DOE intends to select multiple proposed projects through this RFP. Applicants are advised to size their capacity commitment request consistent with DOE's objective and its funding limit. DOE may inform an Applicant that DOE is evaluating the proposed project at a lower amount of support than requested by the Applicant (in which case DOE will identify the amount or range of support that DOE is prepared to consider), to allow the Applicant to determine if it wishes to proceed on that basis.

VII. Restrictions on Disclosure and Use of Information

Confidential business information shared with DOE is subject to Federal laws, regulations, and DOE policies. As a matter of policy, the TFP and its federal employees do not enter into confidentiality agreements. Application materials may become federal records and subject to disclosure statutes such as the Freedom of Information Act. To the extent practicable, DOE will protect confidential business information from public release. Patentable ideas, trade secrets, proprietary and confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the Applicant, should be included in an application only to the extent that such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. The use and disclosure of such information will be restricted, to the extent consistent with applicable law, provided the Applicant specifically identifies and marks such data as described below:

1. Upload the following legend on a separate page when submitting an application (be sure to specify the section number(s) from the application that contain(s) such data): "Applicant submits this application based on DOE's assurance that the application will be kept confidential to the extent consistent with applicable law. Applicant hereby certifies that Section(s) [___] of this application contain(s) trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with the agreement with DOE, if any, entered into in response to this application. If Applicant executes a capacity contract because of, or in connection with, the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data contained herein, other than such data that have been properly declared to be trade

secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and is exempt from public disclosure."

- 2. Include the following legend on the first or cover page of each document or electronic file submitted that contains such data (be sure to specify the page numbers from the document or electronic file that contains such data): "Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data Pages [____] of this document contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a capacity contract between the submitter and the Government. The Government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source."
- 3. Include the following legend on each page containing trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential: "Contains trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and exempt from public disclosure."
- 4. In addition, each line or paragraph containing trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential should be marked with brackets or other clear identification, such as highlighting. For more guidance regarding the treatment of confidential information, please refer to DOE's regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (10 CFR 1004).

Appendix A: TFP Part 1 Application and Bid Submission Checklist

Applicants must provide the following information in tabular format.

Project Name		
Applicant		
Applicant Ownership		
Project Total MW capacity		
Length of Project in Miles		
Project Path/Route and all Point(s) of Receipt and Point(s) of Delivery		
Expected Quarter and Year of Construction Commencement		
Expected Quarter and Year of Energization		
Requested DOE Capacity: Amount in MW of Capacity Requested for DOE Capacity Contract		
Requested DOE Financial Support: Total estimated contract value (Rate*Years*MW)		
AC or DC		
Service Provided (e.g., firm point-to-point, bidirectional or unidirectional)		
Expected MW capacity of new renewables enabled by the project		
Expected number of temporary jobs created		
Expected number of permanent jobs created		
Expected minimum direct investment commitment (in \$) for communities impacted by the project (do not include taxes or indirect benefits)		

In addition, Applicants must provide a project paper, not to exceed 15 pages with limited appendices. This paper must at a minimum address the topics listed below. Applicants must also provide references to relevant publicly available documentation.

Executive Summary

ES1. Project Description

ES2. Project Value and Benefits

ES3: Project Eligibility: Describe expected total capacity and whether project is using an existing or new right-of-way (ROW) corridor.

Section 1: Information for Criteria A: Business Case

1a. Description of the ownership and management structure of the Applicant (and any parent companies) during each phase (development, construction, operation) of the project.

1b. Description of the existing, planned, and potential generation resources⁵ available to supply the project, including any communications to date with potential suppliers.

1c. Identification of targeted load centers, including drivers of long-term demand for the supply delivered through the project in those areas.

1d. Description of the full transmission path(s) from supply to targeted load centers and the proposed interconnections.

⁵ Note that generation includes electric storage resources for purposes of the information that Applicants must submit in response to this RFP.

1e. Description of likely off-takers for supply delivered through the project, including any communications to date with potential transmission users.

1f. Description of any anticipated transmission rate structures, required approvals, and resulting rates for delivery of supply through the project.

1g. Description of the competitiveness of supply delivered through the project in the targeted load centers over time.

1h. Identification of competing transmission projects that may be available to serve the same transmission users.

Section 2: Information for Criteria B: Renewable Generation, Interregional Transfer Capacity, and Advanced Technology

2a. Identification of any advanced technology by type and application, for example conductors, HVDC, hardware/software enabling dynamic line ratings, advanced power flow control, and/or grid topology optimization, included in the project design.

2b. Identification by type of proposed or potential generation sources, new and existing, which will utilize the transmission.

2c. Identification of targeted load sources, new and existing, and long-term forecasts.

2d. Identification of and rating for proposed transmission route, including all points of delivery and points of receipt.

Section 3: Information for Criteria C: Community Benefits

3a. Short narrative describing highlights of the benefits the project will provide to impacted communities

Section 4: Information for Criteria D: TFP Catalytic Impact on the Project

4a. Explanation of why the project is unlikely to be built, or unlikely to be built with as much transmission capacity or in as timely a manner, absent a DOE capacity contract. Applicant must explain why TFP support has a high potential to accelerate the development of the project and/or to increase the capacity of the project.

Section 5: Information for Criteria E: Construction Commencement

5a. Project schedule with key milestones

5b. Table of key permits needed with the dates expected for securing these permits.

5c. High-level plan for securing needed ROWs, including identification of which miles of ROWs have already been secured and which miles of ROWs remain to be secured.

5d. Identification of key challenges that could affect the ability to obtain permits and/or secure needed ROWs along with description of planned mitigations, if any.

Appendix B: Applicant Attestation

- Applicant affirms the following:
 - Applicant has read and understands the Transmission Facilitation Program Request for Proposals – Capacity Contract, RFP Number: GDO-TFPFY24CAP issued by the U.S. Department of Energy.
 - Applicant is legally authorized to enter into a capacity contract and is in good standing with the U.S. Department of Energy and all other federal programs.
 - Applicant is current on payment of all amounts owed to the federal government.
 - The Proposed Project will be built and operated within the United States or its territories.
 - If the answer to any of these questions above is "No," include a detailed explanation of the circumstances that cause the answer to be "No."
- <u>Lobbying, Debarment, and Related Certifications and Assurances</u>: Applicants will need to certify compliance with 10 CFR Part 601 "New Restrictions on Lobbying," and 10 CFR § 600.113 "Governmentwide Debarment."
- <u>Penalty of Perjury Statement</u>: The following certification must be included with each application:
 - "The undersigned certifies that the data and information submitted in this Application and any attachments to this Application are true and correct, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge and belief after due inquiry, and the Applicant has not omitted any material facts. The undersigned further certifies that [s]he has full authority to bind the Applicant."

Applicant (Organization Name)

Name of Applicant's Authorized Officer

Signature of Authorized Officer

Title of Authorized Officer

The following Appendix describes what applicants will need to provide if they are invited to Part 2. The invitation from DOE will include instructions on transmittal and labeling of documents. There are eleven sections of information in Appendix C. All material must be submitted in PDF, except where a different format is otherwise noted.

Section 1. Summary Table

1a	Project Name
1b	Applicant
1c	Applicant Ownership
1d	Project Total MW capacity
1e	Length of Project in Miles
1f	Project Path and Point(s) of Receipt and Point(s) of Delivery
1g	Expected Quarter and Year of Construction Commencement
1h	Expected Quarter and Year of Energization
1i	Requested DOE Capacity: Amount in MW of Capacity Requested for DOE Capacity
	Contract
1j	Requested DOE Financial Support: Total estimated contract value (Rate*Years*MW)
1k	AC or DC
11	Service Provided (e.g., firm point-to-point, bidirectional or unidirectional)
1m	Expected MW capacity of new renewables enabled by the project
1n	Expected number of temporary jobs created
10	Expected number of permanent jobs created
1p	Expected minimum direct investment commitment (in \$) for communities impacted by
	the project (do not include taxes or indirect benefits)

Section 2. Project Plan

Section 2	Project Plan. Provide a narrative of the project plan including the following:
2a	Equipment that will be used to construct the transmission infrastructure (line, substation, radio station) and its anticipated capacity and voltage ratings,
2b	Design defining percentage complete, equipment procurement methodology, and construction methodology plan.
2c	Interconnection agreements with status indicator (identified need, draft, issued, signed)
2d	Unidirectional or bidirectional capabilities
2e	Land rights status
2f	Corridor location with type (transmission, transportation, telecommunication)

2g	Permit list and status
2h	Environmental clearance(s)
	A risk management plan addressing: (1) schedule; (2) costs;(3) demand for
2i	transmission capacity; (4) technical design and engineering; (5) equipment and
21	labor availability; (6) equipment performance; (7) property and land use rights; (8)
	regulatory approvals, licenses, and permits; and (9) interconnection agreements
	Intended use of advanced technology for innovation and impacts that enhance the
	capacity, efficiency, resiliency, and/or reliability of an electric power system.
	Specifically: (1) advanced conductors; (2) hardware and/or software that enables
	dynamic line ratings, advanced power flow control, and grid topology optimization
2:	to maximize grid-enhanced technology; (3) high voltage direct current(HVDC)
2j	technology; (4) current standard practice and/or state-of-the-art technology in the
	applicable field, defining the specific innovation of the proposed approach, the
	advantages of the proposed approach over current state of practice, and the overall
	impact on advancing the field when the project is successful.

Section 3: Project Plan Documentation

Section 3	Project Plan Documentation. Provide the following to support the Project Plan Narrative required by Section 2:
За	Level 3 Project Schedule that includes milestones required to begin construction by December 31, 2029. Schedule should include: (1) critical path contracts and agreements, including interconnection agreement(s), (2) environmental and ROW permits; (3) contracts for engineering, procurement and construction, and other long lead time contracts; (4) commencement of site preparation and major construction activities; (5) delivery of key equipment/materials to site; and (6) commencement of testing and commissioning activities Commercial operation date (COD).
3b	Provide documentation on the facility rating of the line consistent with North American Electric Reliability Corporation FAC-008-05
3с	Project map with endpoints, interconnections, full route of the proposed transmission line, and corridor type if existing along proposed route. Identify on the map, and in supporting text, land use and property rights necessary for construction and operation of the proposed project with current status of rights attainment.
3d	System interconnection and study request documents
Зе	Project Costs: Estimated total project costs with a summary detailing key assumptions and the methodology used to calculate the project costs. Include all eligible costs paid and forecasted that are related to the Proposed Project. Also include costs for escalation and contingencies in this calculation

Section 4: Ownership and Management

Section 4	Section 4	Ownership and Management (Maximum 2 pages of text, with additional
Section 4		information provided in Appendices).

	Provide the following concerning the ownership and management of the proposed project:
4a	Description of the ownership structure of the Applicant (and any parent companies).
4b	Description of the management structure of the Applicant during each phase (development, construction, operation) of the project.
4c	Description of the qualifications of the Applicant and its employees to develop, construct, and operate the project. Include the projected number of full-time equivalent employees working on the development and construction phases of the project.
4d	Identification of any other entities that the Applicant expects to have a material role in the proposed project.
4e	If there is more than one investor in the Proposed Project, description of the role of each investor and which investor, if any, will be responsible for day-to-day management of the proposed project.

Section 5: Need for DOE Capacity Contract

Section 5	Need for the DOE Capacity Contract (Maximum 2 page of text, with additional information provided in Appendices). Provide the following to explain the need for a capacity contract under the TFP for the proposed project:
5a	Explanation of why the proposed project is unlikely to be built, or unlikely to be built with as much transmission capacity or in as timely a manner, absent a capacity contract awarded under the TFP.
5b	Description of how the Applicant believes a DOE capacity contract would encourage other entities to enter into capacity contracts for the proposed project and/or mitigate or eliminate the financing or cost recovery barriers to begin construction of the proposed project. Description of how the Applicant believes a contract capacity awarded under the TFP would address any other barriers or create unique opportunities for commencement of construction and/or expansion of the transmission capacity of the proposed project. Examples may include but are not limited to supply chain challenges, development of strategic business partnerships, or RTO/ISO benefits.

Section 6: DOE's Likelihood of Recovery of TFP Support

Section 6	DOE's Likelihood of Recovery of TFP Support (Maximum 10 pages of text, with additional information provided in Appendices). Provide the following to support the business case of the proposed project, and, in turn, DOE's likelihood of recovery any TFP financial support. Additional relevant information should be included in the Market Report, as required in Section 8.	
Financial Information		
6a	Detailed information on the source and structure of the proposed project's equity funding during each project phase (development, construction, operation), including:	

	i The amount of equity invested to date by the Applicants
	i. The amount of equity invested to date by the Applicant;
	ii. If the Applicant has sufficient cash on hand or uncalled funding
	commitments (if applicable) to meet the development and construction
	equity requirements for the proposed project, or if the Applicant will be
	required to raise new equity to do so;
	iii. If a new equity raise will be required, the target investor groups and the
	timeline for the equity raise process; and
	iv. Any forms of equity funding apart from ordinary equity under consideration
	by the Applicant (including but not limited to preferred equity or
	subordinated debt).
	Description of expected sources of debt and any debt arrangements that have
6b	already been completed. Description of the status of in-process debt negotiations.
00	Identification of the amount of debt that will be provided by the Applicant or any
	parent company.
	Explanation of the rationale for the following elements of the proposed project's
	assumed debt structure:
	i. Debt-to-Equity Ratio;
	ii. Tenor;
6c	iii. Pricing;
	iv. Target Debt Service Coverage Ratio/Loan Life Coverage Ratio; and
	v. Amortization profile.
	Also statement of whether the debt structure assumes a refinancing during the
	proposed project's operating period (and if so, in which years), or if the initial term
	debt is expected to amortize fully over the debt term.
	In Excel format, pro forma financial statements covering the period from project
	development through final maturity of the proposed project. These must include
6d	balance sheet, profit and loss statement, source and application of funds
	statements, and debt service ratios. The details of this required item are described
	more fully in Section 10: Financial Model.
	Audited financial statements for the Applicant for the last three years. If the
6e	Applicant is a consortium, provide these financial statements for each consortium
	member.
Supply on the P	roposed Project
	Identification of any known specific existing, planned, or potential generation
	resources associated with the proposed project (e.g., through preliminary
6f	commercial negotiations, different phases of planning, and contracts) and their
01	current operational or development status. Include any specific communications to
	date and agreements (whether in draft or final form) with potential suppliers.
Demand for Sup	ply Delivered Through the Proposed Project
6g	Identification of targeted load centers and of any relevant organized wholesale
<i>ч</i> б	markets.
	Identification of any specific communications to date and agreements (whether in
6h	draft or final form) with potential transmission users of the proposed project in the
	relevant region(s).

6i	Explanation of the Applicant's plan to market unsold capacity on the proposed project over time.
Availability of T	ransmission Capacity to Deliver Supply Through the Proposed Project
6j	Description of the full transmission path(s) from generation resources to targeted load centers or organized wholesale markets.
6k	Provide cross-references to other parts of the Application where interconnection- related information is provided regarding the full transmission path(s), including expected upgrades, the status of studies, and the responsible party for the cost of any upgrades (or provide here if not provided elsewhere).
Competitivenes	s of Delivered Supply Through the Proposed Project
61	Detailed description of any anticipated transmission rate structures, required approvals, and resulting rates for delivery of supply through the proposed project, including a plan for obtaining required rate structure approvals and relevant precedent to support approval.
Opportunity for	DOE Exit
6m	Identification of the proposed capacity charge (in \$/kW-month) that will apply under the DOE capacity contract and how that charge will change over time, if at all.
6n	Description of mechanism(s) for DOE to exit a capacity contract with the Proposed Project, whether prior to the commercial operation date or thereafter.
60	Description of innovative mechanisms to facilitate DOE's ability to exit a capacity contract with the proposed project and to protect DOE's interests and preserve value for DOE prior to exit.

Section 7: Market Report

Section 7	Market Report (Maximum 25 pages of text, with additional information provided in Appendices). Provide a Market Report, prepared by an entity independent from the Applicant and its affiliates, which includes the following information, organized based on the list below. Provide all assumptions used in the analysis and modeling, and any modeling approach(es) used to prepare the Market Report.		
Supply on	Supply on the Proposed Project		
7a	Provide a detailed assessment of existing and new generation resources across the relevant region(s) that are likely to utilize the proposed project. This should include generation type, capacity, capacity factor, and planned or forecasted timing of commercial operations. This can include results from interconnection queues, resource planning by utilities and state regulators, and/or other sources.		
7b	Identify any known specific generation resources associated with the proposed project (e.g., through preliminary commercial negotiations, different phases of planning, and contracts) and provide their current operational or development status.		
Demand fo	or Supply Delivered Through the Proposed Project		

7c	 For identified targeted load centers and organized wholesale markets for the proposed project, provide a detailed assessment of drivers of long-term demand for the supply delivered through the proposed project, including: The status of all relevant public policies and programs as well as utility programs in the targeted load centers and/or organized wholesale markets; A survey of recent commercially oriented integrated resource plans, resource procurements, project announcements, and other forecasts by significant buyers and other planners (e.g., state regulators, RTOs/ISOs) indicating load and resource forecasts and what type of supply is being considered for purchase over the next 10-20 years in buyer locations relevant to the Proposed Project (including references and links); and As applicable, a further survey of other recent longer-term planning studies and/or forecasts by national laboratories, RTOs/ISOs, state regulators, regional planners, and others which are potentially relevant to the demand for transmission capacity on the proposed project (including references and links).
7d	Provide a detailed assessment of likely specific buyers/off-takers for generation supply delivered through the proposed project (e.g., load serving entities) as well as
7e	other potential transmission users, such as power traders.Provide quantitative estimates of the benefits provided by the Proposed Project to the entities which may utilize the proposed project, with an emphasis on long-term buyers of generation products (energy, capacity, and ancillary services) but also including other potential transmission users such as power traders, and regional benefits, such as resilience.
7f	Building on the analysis in the prior items, provide quantitative and qualitative analysis to show that there is a reasonable expectation that demand for utilization of the proposed project will be sufficient to support the financial viability of the proposed project.
Availability o	f Transmission Capacity to Deliver Supply Through the Proposed Project
7g	Provide detailed analysis of the availability of transmission capacity on the full transmission path(s) from generation resources to targeted load centers or organized wholesale markets, including ownership of any facilities required to complete the full transmission path(s). Explain how potential transmission users of the proposed project can secure needed transmission capacity on facilities that are not part of the proposed project to ensure deliverability of products.
Competitiver	ness of Delivered Supply Through the Proposed Project
7h	Provide detailed analysis of the competitiveness of supply delivered through the proposed project in the targeted load centers or organized wholesale markets over time, including analysis of the competitiveness of generation resources available to supply the proposed project for those identified areas of demand. Include a comparison of the delivered cost of generation using the proposed project with historical prices for clean energy contracts, estimates of forecast levelized costs of clean energy available to buyers, and historical and forecast wholesale energy and capacity market prices (if available/applicable).

7i	Identify competing transmission projects that may be available to serve the same potential transmission users and explain why those competing transmission projects will not undermine the proposed project's valuation. Where available, provide analysis of the current or anticipated delivered cost of generation using the competing transmission projects as compared to the proposed project, including references to information that forms the basis of the analysis.
Opportunity for	DOE Exit
7j	 Provide a detailed explanation of the proposed capacity charge (in \$/kW-month) that will apply under the DOE capacity contract and how that charge will change over time, if at all. If the charge is based on a cost-of-service approach, clearly identify: i. The assumptions and components which underlie the capacity charge; and ii. How the value of each component will change over time. If the charge is based on an alternative approach, provide a detailed rationale for the assumed capacity charge describing all relevant factors (such as competing transmission charges, market price differentials, etc.), and how the capacity charge will vary over time (for example, the rationale for the assumed escalation rate).
7k	Building on the analysis in the prior items, provide quantitative and qualitative analysis to show that there is a reasonable expectation that DOE will be able to market, transfer, or relinquish its capacity from the proposed project on terms sufficient for DOE to recover the costs it incurred over the life of the capacity contract.
71	Provide a detailed description of the major risk factors underlying the proposed project and assess their impact on the viability of the proposed project (quantitative and/or qualitative), including on revenues and the ability of DOE to exit its capacity contract. These may include both summaries of the data provided in response to the items above and additional data on factors such as more rapid completion of competing transmission projects, low demand growth, changes in market rules or design, and competing technology improvements.

Section 8: Greenhouse Gas Modeling

Section 8	Greenhouse Gas Modeling. Provide the following to support the impact of the Proposed Project on greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector:
8a	Provide qualitative descriptions of the expected greenhouse gas emission reductions that are a direct result of the proposed project, including (1) the geographic location of expected reductions, such as the load centers that will receive electricity transmitted by the proposed project, and (2) the sources and CO ₂ emission intensity (MWh/lb) of generation expected to be offset as a direct result of the project. Explain how the expected emission reductions will vary over time. Provide a) a qualitative description of the expected reductions consistent with any projected forecasts of line use and production cost modeling, and b) a completed copy of the avoided greenhouse gas emissions form which will be provided when DOE sends invites for Part 2.

Section 9: Independent Engineering Report

Section 9	Independent Engineering Report (Maximum 25 pages of text, with additional information provided in Appendices). The Independent Engineering Report should provide an assessment of the Proposed Project, including design, equipment procurement, construction, and risk management plan. Specifically, the Independent Engineering Report must provide the following analysis and recommendations, and demonstrative evidence:
9a	Advanced technology deployment in design and construction.
9b	Engineering and design approach, including engineering risks and mitigations.
9c	Proposed management team.
9d	Engineering, procurement, and construction contracting strategy.
9e	Interconnection study results and plans.
9f	Integrated project schedule, including the schedule for completion.
9g	Cost estimates and technical input to the financial model.
9h	Contractual requirements and arrangements.
9i	Project construction and operating risks, including mitigation activities and milestones.
9ј	Direct labor requirements during construction and operation.
9k	Siting and permitting.
91	Testing and commissioning.
9m	Operation and maintenance.
9n	Waste disposal plan.
90	Systems Integration.
9p	Evidence that the proposed project is not duplicative of the functions of existing or planned transmission lines.
9q	Information demonstrating that the proposed project is consistent with regional transmission plans and priorities.
9r	Evidence that the proposed project aligns with the needs assessment performed by the regional transmission entities, and how the proposed project will be integrated into the grid.

Section 10: Financial Model

Section	Financial Model (Provide in Excel).
10	The Financial Model must be fully functional and should include the following elements:
10a	Clearly identified "input" worksheet[s] for timing, revenue, cost, and macroeconomic assumptions. When the relevant input on the worksheet is altered, the changed value should dynamically flow through the modeled cash flow projections.

10b	An assumptions log indicating the source of each model input. The relevant inputs should be consistent with the recommendations contained in the Market Report and the Independent Engineering Report.
10c	Detailed information regarding the sources, forms, and terms of equity and debt funding, including any fees payable by the project for this funding.
10d	Detailed breakdown of the timing and amounts of costs projected to be incurred during the construction period.
10e	Identification and modeling of contingency cost assumptions (i.e., the budgeted/owners contingency should be utilized under the base case over the construction period).
10f	Detailed identification of sources and uses of funds covering the period from financial close through the start of commercial operations.
10g	Inclusion of reserve accounts required by project lenders or by a prudent project operator (such as a debt service reserve fund and a major maintenance reserve fund). These funds should be integrated into the modeled cash flow projections such that, for example, if cashflow available for debt service is insufficient to meet the debt service obligations in any period, the model would show a draw on the debt service reserve account to remedy the shortfall.
10h	Calculation of project-level tax liabilities (as applicable), such as property taxes, federal and state income taxes if not a "pass-through" entity).
10i	Comprehensive build-up of revenue projections based on contracted capacity amounts and the relevant rates (e.g., \$/kW-mo) applied to each unit of contracted capacity. The model should have the flexibility to show a step-up in contracted capacity over time.
10j	Comprehensive build-up of operating costs anticipated to be incurred in normal project operations.
10k	Modeling of major/non-routine maintenance activities/events, duration and costs.
10	Clearly identified inflation assumptions applied to revenues and to costs (shown on the "input" work sheet(s) noted above).
10m	Modeling of working capital calculations.
10n	Timeline presenting the calculation of [quarterly/semi-annual] cash flows consistent with the expected frequency of debt repayments.
100	Cash waterfall worksheet providing for a customary priority of payments, starting from contracted cash revenues less cash operating costs, less taxes, less financing fees, resulting in cashflow available for debt service (used to calculate the applicable coverage ratios), less scheduled debt service payments (interest and principal), less deposits into/releases from reserve accounts, and ending with cash available for distributions, for each debt service period (payment date) through the assumed final maturity date.
10p	Calculation of forecast equity Internal Rate of Return on a pre-tax and post-tax basis.
10q	The financial model should allow for the following sensitivity analysis: (1) increases in operating costs and/or maintenance costs; (2) variations in the inflation rate applied to revenues and costs; (3) variations in (i) the amount of contracted capacity over time and (ii) the rate applied to the contracted capacity; and (4) variations in the project's financing structure (such as changes to the debt amount, debt tenor, interest rate and/or amortization profile).

Section 11 Community Benefits Plan Template

Community Benefits Plan Template for Demonstration and Deployment

Applicant should insert here: RFP Number and RFP Title Organization Name Project Title

Instructions for Use of this Template:

The purpose of this document is to summarize the **specific** objectives the Applicant is committing to in its Community Benefits Plan (CBP).

Important information about using this template:

- The instructional textboxes within each section can be removed when submitting the application. The information below the instructional textboxes is intended to provide examples of commitments that may be relevant to each section, proposed project, or program. Not all information provided may apply.
- All information included in this CBP Template must be consistent with other parts of the application. The CBP should accurately define the work that is planned and the progress that will be expected throughout the project to be achieved.
- Wherever possible, the objectives laid out in the CBP should be in quantifiable terms with SMART milestones: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely and include timelines. The Community Benefits Plan may include multiple milestones but should have at least one SMART milestone per budget period as well as one SMART end of project goal.
- The information provided in the Community Benefits Objectives and Outcomes (CBOO) summary table in the final section should be consistent with the commitments made throughout the CBP Template and broader application.
- By submitting this form, Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the information provided may be distributed or made publicly available, without any restrictions or obligations to maintain confidentiality, as required by applicable laws, rules and regulations. If Applicant wishes to protect proprietary or trade secret information submitted with this CBP Template, every line and paragraph containing such information must be clearly marked as "CONFIDENTIAL" and designated with double brackets or highlighting to indicate the confidential information. Please refer to VII. Restrictions on Disclosure and Use of Information

A. General Project Information

Instructions: This section asks for the applicant to provide general information on the project, including a high-level description of the CBP and how it integrates with the project, including critical information on the construction components, identification of potential risks, and the locations and communities affected. Applicant should also provide a description of the project personnel overseeing the community benefits plan, their qualifications, and time allocated for the activities proposed.

1. High-level description of the CBP and project

Please provide description here.

2. Construction Information

For each planned project location identified in the Location(s) of Work document (included with the application package), **please address each of the following:**

- a. any known construction risks that could cause delays to the schedule, such as availability of skilled workers, permitting delays, materials or supply delays, etc.:
- b. potential public and worker health and safety risks and hazards:
- c. known possibilities of labor disruption:
- d. plans for coordination among various employers (i.e., prime contractors and subcontractors):
- e. plans for resolution mechanism to avoid potential project delays (including issues that may arise among contractors and subcontractors as well as employees):
- f. the general contractor or Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor, if known:
- g. the primary business of the general contractor or EPC contractor:

3. Locations and Communities Affected

For each location identified in the Location(s) of Work document (included in the application package), **please identify each known location served or impacted by the project, including:**

- a. the location(s) of construction or alteration activity listed above,
- b. communities geographically near the Applicant's proposed project,
- c. communities that are part of the proposed project's supply or waste life cycle (e.g., where raw materials are being sourced and where waste is planned to be sent),
- d. communities impacted that are disadvantaged communities.⁶

⁶ Justice40 directs that 40% of benefits from Covered Programs flow to "disadvantaged communities." DOE's working definition of "disadvantaged" is based on cumulative burden and includes data for 36 indicators collected at the U.S. Census tract level. See "<u>About Community Benefit Plans: What is a</u> <u>Disadvantaged Community</u>" for more information.

Instructions for Sections B through E:

Sections B through E below should summarize the specific objectives the applicant is committing to, broken into specific commitments and tasks.

Wherever possible and relevant, each commitment or task should be stated in quantifiable or measurable terms and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely) milestones with timelines should be identified. The CBP may include multiple milestones but should have at least one SMART milestone per budget period as well as one SMART end of project goal.

If awarded, the progress towards meeting the objectives and milestones set forth in the CBPs will be included as part of the Due Diligence evaluation.

B. Community and Labor Engagement

1. Community and Labor Stakeholders Engaged to Date

Instructions: This section should describe the specific stakeholders and organizations already engaged by the project. Examples include local governments, tribal governments, labor unions, and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities described in section A3 above.

If the project has received support from any of these stakeholder organizations, describe the nature of the support (e.g., verbal, written, financial, etc.) and commitments that the project has made to the organization that provided the support. For funded projects, funding recipients will be required to report on these activities.

[Example]

Name of Organization or Community of Interest Already Engaged:

Type of Engagement (e.g., Meeting, Community-Engaged Project Development, Research & Design, Reporting, Project Decision Making, Community Input, Reporting Back, Technical Assistance, Other):

Date of Engagement:

Outcome of Engagement (e.g., Memorandums of Understanding, Letters of Support, concerns or opposition, ongoing discussion, survey data or other qualitative/quantitative data, other):

2. Community and Labor Stakeholders to be Engaged.

Instructions: This section should list stakeholders that the project has engaged or plans to engage. Examples include local governments, tribal governments, labor unions, and community-based organizations that support or work with disadvantaged communities described in section A3 above. For funded projects, funding recipients will be required to report on these activities.

[Example]

Name of Organization or Community of Interest Engaged:

Type of Engagement (e.g., Meeting, Community-Engaged Project Development, Research & Design, Reporting, Project Decision Making, Community Input, Reporting Back, Technical Assistance, Other):

Frequency of Engagement:

Outcome of Engagement (e.g., Memorandums of Understanding, Letters of Support, concerns or opposition, ongoing discussion, survey data or other qualitative/quantitative data, other):

3. Workforce and Community Agreements

Instructions: This section should identify whether the applicant is committing to negotiate workforce and/or community agreements and what type of agreements the applicant is committing to negotiate. If the applicant is not committing to negotiate any workforce or community agreements, applicant should note that a Workforce Continuity Plan may be required and should refer to the Community Benefits Plan webpage. If applicant has no entries for this section, continue to section 4 below.

A non-exhaustive list of relevant optional examples of workforce and community agreements are listed below. The applicant should modify, add, or delete to reflect the specific agreements committed to. If negotiating multiple agreements, provide this detail for each agreement.

For each agreement:

- The summary should describe the intended parties to the agreement and the intended scope of the agreement in concrete and specific terms.
- List key tasks and sub-tasks involved in finalizing the agreement (Milestones), with associated budget periods.

[Example]

Agreement A: Good Neighbor Agreement or Community Benefits Agreement

Agreement Summary:

Examples of intended scope include:

The community benefits to be delivered, including those for disadvantaged communities (as discussed in the Justice40 section that follows)

- i. Access to jobs and business opportunities for local residents
- ii. Investments in training for local workers
- iii. Commitments to pay wages and benefits above the required prevailing rates for construction workers
- iv. Commitments to pay above average wages and benefits for hourly nonconstruction workers
- v. Remedies for non-compliance
- vi. Commitments to make investments in subsidies for caregiving (e.g., childcare subsidies) and/or in transportation services for workers to access the worksite
- vii. Other: [Describe]

Budget Period to be completed:

Milestones with timelines:

[Example]

Agreement B: Collective Bargaining Agreement (pertains to non-construction work)

If the project is in the operation phase, a summary of any existing collective-bargaining agreement(s), in specific terms, can be included here. Additionally, a copy of any applicable collective-bargain agreements can be attached to the applicant's CBP.

Agreement Summary:

Examples of intended scope include:

- i. Access to jobs and business opportunities for local residents
- ii. Investments in training for local workers
- iii. Wages, hours, working conditions
- iv. Guarantees against strikes, lockouts, and similar job disruptions
- v. Effective, prompt, and mutually binding procedures for resolving labor disputes arising during the term of the agreement
- vi. Mechanisms for labor-management cooperation on matters of mutual interest and concern, including productivity, quality of work, safety, and health
- vii. Utilization of registered apprentices
- viii. Other: [Describe]

Budget Period to be completed:

Milestones with timelines:

[Example]

Agreement C: Community Workforce Agreement

Agreement Summary:

Example of intended scope include:

- i. Access to jobs and business opportunities for local residents
- ii. Investments in training for local workers (e.g., support of registered apprenticeship programs, contributions to training institutions to assist in the provision of workforce training)
- iii. Commitments to make investments in subsidies for caregiving (e.g., childcare subsidies) and/or in transportation services for workers to access the worksite
- iv. Commitments to pay upper quintile wages and benefits for the industry
- v. Broad recruitment activities, particularly with strategies to reach underrepresented demographic groups
- vi. Other: [Describe]

[Example]

Agreement D: Project Labor Agreement or Community Workforce Agreement (pertains to construction work)

Agreement Summary:

Examples of intended scope include:

- i. Access to jobs and business opportunities for local residents
- ii. Investments in training for local workers
- iii. Commitments to pay wages and benefits above required prevailing rates for construction
- iv. Guarantees against strikes, lockouts, and similar job disruptions
- v. Effective, prompt, and mutually binding procedures for resolving labor disputes arising during the term of the agreement
- vi. Provide mechanisms for labor-management cooperation on matters of mutual interest and concern, including productivity, quality of work, safety, and health
- vii. Utilization of registered apprentices
- viii. Other

Budget Period to be completed:

Milestones with timelines:

[Example]

Agreement E: Other Type of Agreement

Agreement Summary:

Scope:

Budget Period to be completed:

Milestones with timelines:

4. Other Community and Labor Engagement Goals, Commitments, and Milestones

Instructions: This section should describe any additional key goals and milestones.

If the applicant is not, at this stage, committing to negotiate any workforce or community agreements, this section should describe the overall goal of community and labor engagement and key milestones, with budget periods and timelines, that will be used to monitor progress toward successful community and labor engagement.

C. Investing in Job Quality and Workforce Continuity

1. Worker Organizing and Collective Bargaining

Instructions: If the applicant plans to support worker organizing and collective bargaining beyond their legal obligations consistent with the National Labor Relations Act, those commitments should be listed below.

The applicant should add or delete commitments to reflect their specific plan.

Please describe the plan to support worker organizing and collective bargaining related to the following commitments:

[Examples]

Commitment C1.1: Commitment to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for construction activity (as summarized above in Section B)

Commitment C1.2: Pledge to remain neutral during any union organizing campaigns

Commitment C1.3: Intention or willingness to permit union recognition through card check (as opposed to requiring union elections)

Commitment C1.4: Intention to enter into binding arbitration to settle first contracts

Commitment C1.5: Pledge to allow union organizers access to appropriate onsite non-work spaces (e.g. lunch rooms)

Commitment C1.6: Pledge to refrain from holding captive audience meetings⁷

Commitment C1.7: Other commitments or pledges:

2. Union support

Please list any unions supporting the project and any commitments made to unions that aren't listed above in C1.

3. Job Quality and Workforce Continuity

⁷ "Captive audience" meetings refer to the practice among employers of meeting with employees during union organizing campaigns to express the employer's view of the possible negative effects that unionizing may have on the general workforce. Some employers have structured such meetings as mandatory and held them on company property during working hours.

Instructions: This section should stipulate commitments made regarding wages and benefits, education and training investments, and involvement of workers in health and safety committees. These commitments may also be covered by workforce agreements described in section B.

The applicant should add or delete commitments, provide quantitative values where appropriate, and re-number appropriately to reflect their specific plan.

Funding recipients will be required to report on job creation, wages, and benefits.

Please note that (a) pertains to ongoing operations and production jobs and (b) pertains to construction jobs.

Please describe the applicant's plan to ensure that jobs created by this project are good quality, to attract and retain a skilled workforce, including the following commitments to wages and benefits, education and training investments, and worker involvement in health and safety:

a. Ongoing Operations and Production Jobs

[Examples]

Commitment C3a.1: Applicant will provide above-average wages and benefits, benchmarked to industry and occupation reported by BLS:

- The minimum starting wage for production workers is \$_____ per hour compared to the [75th or 90th] percentile of \$_____per hour for the [______] industry.
- The minimum value of the following benefits offered to hourly workers is
 - Health insurance: \$_____ per ____
 - Retirement contributions: \$_____ per ____
 - PTO: ____hours per _____
 - Paid sick or family leave: _____ days per ____
 - Childcare or other caregiving financial assistance: \$_____per worker or provision of on/near-site care
 - Transportation assistance: \$ _____per worker_
 - Education/tuition reimbursement or financial contribution: \$_____
 - Other: \$_____per worker____

Commitment C3a.2: Applicant will provide workforce education and training through:

- Establishment of or contribution to labor-management training partnership(s)⁸
- [Insert minimum number of hours per worker] hours of paid on-the-job training
- Sponsoring registered apprenticeships: [insert goal number of apprentices]
- Covering costs and paid time for professional development and continuing education: [Enter certifications]
- Other:

Commitment C3a.3: Applicant will ensure workers are engaged in the design and implementation of workplace safety and health plans. Specifics include:

- [insert number of hourly workers] will participate in health and safety committee and will be paid [insert time and rate paid] for their time participating.
- Indicate which of the following, if any, the training provided will include:
 - worksite safety analysis
 - hazard prevention and control
 - $\circ \quad \text{safety and health training} \\$
 - \circ anti-harassment and by-stander intervention training
 - Other: [Describe]
- Indicate the frequency of these health and safety committee planning meetings will be held.
- Indicate plans for how these safety and health plans will be considered by the company's management (e.g., when they will be reviewed and by when a decision to incorporate the recommendations will be made).

b. Construction Jobs

[Examples]

Commitment C3b.1 Applicant commits to pay competitive wage and benefit rates benchmarked against local Davis Bacon prevailing wages as follows:

- %____above posted prevailing wage per hour for base wages
- Health insurance: \$_____ per ____
- Retirement contributions: \$_____per ____
- PTO: ____hrs per _____

Commitment C3b.2 Applicant will provide workforce education and training through:

• Utilization of registered apprentices at [insert percentage] of total project labor hours.

Commitment C3b.3: Recipient will ensure highest standards of construction site health and safety, including site free of harassment and discrimination. Specifics include:

• [insert percent] of onsite workers that will have OSHA 30 certification

⁸ For more information on labor-management partnership, see this resource.

- [insert percent] of onsite workers that will have OSHA 10 certification
- The training provided will include [indicate which applies]
 - o worksite analysis
 - o hazard prevention and control
 - o safety and health training
 - $\circ \quad \text{anti-harassment training} \\$
 - o Other: [Describe]_____

D. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Instructions: This section should summarize the applicant's plan to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives into the project. A non-exhaustive list of possible commitments is provided below.

Each commitment may include a brief summary of the plan and should enumerate specific elements as sub-commitments below.

The applicant should add or delete commitments to reflect their specific plan.

For funded projects, funding recipients will be required to report on partnerships described.

[Examples]

Commitment D1. The applicant commits to partnering with socially disadvantaged business enterprises, for contractor support needs.

Please describe your approach to partnering with Socially Disadvantaged Businesses.

Commitment D1.1: [Name of partnership] Summary of scope of work: [insert here] Contract amount: \$_____ Overall value of partnership: \$_____

Commitment D2. Applicant commits to implementing a plan to reduce barriers and improve access to jobs for local and underrepresented workers, including residents of disadvantaged communities, those with disabilities, returning citizens, opportunity youth, and veterans.

Commitment D2.1: Applicant will partner with quality pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship

readiness programs⁹ to foster improved access for underrepresented workers to career-track training and employment.

Please indicate how, if applicable, partnering programs specifically work to improve access for under-represented workers.

Name and description of readiness program(s): [insert here]

• Partnerships and financial contributions to community-based organizations to provide support services to workers or people in relevant training (e.g., childcare supports, transportation vouchers, employability skills training, etc.): [Describe]

Commitment D2.2: Applicant will partner with training and placement programs [other than pre-apprenticeship programs] for underrepresented workers.

Name of training and placement programs: [insert here] Establishing and executing an inclusive recruitment strategy (e.g., a strategy to support broad recruitment for the apprenticeship programs, outreach to community-based organizations that work with prospective workers/apprentices): [Describe]

Commitment D2.3: Applicant will provide (\$_____) in supports/subsidies for workers to access affordable, reliable and high-quality childcare, or other types of care. **Description of services:** [insert here]

Commitment D2.4: Applicant will provide flexible work schedules. **Description of flexible work schedule program:** [insert here]

Commitment D2.5: Applicant will provide of (\$_____) in transportation assistance to and from work and training sites.

Description of assistance provided, including any cost to employee, contractor, or trainee: [insert here]

Commitment D2.6: Applicant will provide emergency cash assistance for items such as tools, work clothing, etc.

Commitment D2.7: Applicant will hire local, disadvantaged, or underrepresented workers for % [insert percent] of construction work hours.

Commitment D2.8: Applicant will adopt local and economic hiring preferences as follows: [insert description here]

⁹ <u>Explore Pre-Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship.gov</u> See <u>https://www.apprenticeship.gov/employers/explore-pre-apprenticeship</u>

E. Justice40 Initiative

Instructions: This section should reflect the Justice40 benefits and plan for identifying and mitigating any anticipated negative impacts on disadvantaged communities. Justice40 benefits are grouped by category of benefit, with space to add additional benefits for benefits that do not fit in categories provided.

For each benefit, the applicant should indicate:

- which disadvantaged community is to benefit;
- how and when planned or anticipated benefits are expected to flow to communities;
- SMART milestones to indicate progress toward benefit delivery;
- metrics to be used to track and report on benefits; and
- community-based organizations involved in identifying, negotiating, or delivering benefits.¹

The applicant should add or delete commitments (and re-number accordingly) to reflect their specific plan.

[Examples]

E.1. A decrease in energy burden (energy costs for low-income households) Benefit E1.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Unanticipated barriers and strategies to address barriers:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.2. A decrease in environmental exposure and burdens

Benefit E2.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.3. An increase in access to low-cost capital

Benefit E3.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.4. An increase in quality job creation, the clean energy job pipeline, and job training for individuals

This section should clarify any quality jobs-related commitments that are specific to a disadvantaged community and are distinct from more general quality jobs commitments noted in section C or D above.

Benefit E4.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.5. Increases in clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (e.g., socially disadvantaged business enterprises)

Benefit E5.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.6. Increases in energy democracy, including community ownership of project assets

Benefit E6.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.7. Increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption Benefit E7.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.8. An increase in energy resilience

Benefit E8.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.9. Other: Please identify additional, measurable benefits here.

Benefit E9.1: [Description of benefit]

- Disadvantaged communities that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered (e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver):
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

E.10. Anticipated or potential negative environmental impacts

Instructions: This section should summarize anticipated environmental impacts on disadvantaged communities, including projects geographically near the project or directly affected by project construction or operations, as well as known impacts upstream (in the supply chain, e.g., raw material extraction) or downstream (e.g., waste disposal).

This section should also summarize the applicant's plan to monitor and mitigate negative impacts.

F. Summary Table: Community Benefits Outcomes and Objectives

Instructions: This section should be filled in to reflect the commitments and relevant time-based milestones covered throughout this document.

The applicant should add or delete rows and columns so the table summarizes commitments and timelines from sections above. Red text indicates examples and should be deleted or modified to reflect applicant's plan. The following items should not be included in the CBOO:

 \cdot Specific dates (only include general time frames (i.e. Demonstrate XYZ result by Month 3, not Demonstrate XYZ by June 8th, 2013).

 \cdot Subcontractors, vendors or individuals by name. The award is with the prime and, as such, the CBOO should not generally reference the subcontractors.

Existing or Planned	Budget Period 1	Budget period 2	Budget period 3	Budget period 4 milestone
	milestone	milestone	milestone	
🗆 Yes		-		
Not at this time		signed		
	identified			
🗆 Yes	Parties	Agreement		
□ Not at this time	and scope	signed		
	identified			
□ Yes	Initial	MOU	Agreement	
□ Not at this time	meeting	signed	signed	
□ Yes				
\Box Not at this time (If				
,				
	 Yes Not at this time Yes Not at this time Yes Not at this time 	Period 1 milestone Yes Parties and scope identified Yes Parties and scope identified Yes Parties and scope identified Yes Initial meeting Not at this time Initial meeting Yes Initial meeting Yes Initial meeting Yes Initial meeting Yes Initial 	Period 1 milestone period 2 milestone Yes Parties and scope identified Agreement signed Yes Parties and scope identified Agreement signed Yes Parties and scope identified Agreement signed Yes Initial meeting MOU signed Yes Initial meeting MOU signed Yes Initial Not at this time MOU signed Yes Initial Not at this time (If "Not at this time", Initial Initial	Period 1 milestone period 2 milestone period 3 milestone Yes Parties and scope identified Agreement signed Image: Comparison of the comparison

	explanation in this cell).		
Investing in Job Quality and Workforce Continuity	Total Number of Permanent Operations Jobs: [#] Number of Construction phase jobs: [#]		
Minimum starting wage for permanent hourly jobs:	\$/hr		
Pay upper quintile wages for industry and occupation	□ Yes □ No		
Fringe Benefits	 Employer- sponsored health insurance Contributions to retirement Transportation assistance Childcare assistance 		
Training	□ Contributions to labor-management training partnership □ Utilization of registered apprentices for at least 15% of construction jobs □ Paid training □ Tuition support or reimbursement		
Health and Safety Committee with Hourly Worker Representation	□ Yes □ Not at this time		
Support for Worker Organizing/Collective Bargaining	 Pledge to remain neutral during any union organizing campaigns Pledge to permit union recognition through card check Intention to enter 		

	into binding arbitration to settle first contracts □ Pledge to allow union organizers access to appropriate onsite non-work spaces (e.g. lunch rooms) □ Pledge to refrain from holding captive audience meetings ¹⁰			
Other Job Quality and Workforce				
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	 Local and/or targeted recruitment efforts MWBE contracting Partner with quality pre- apprenticeship or apprenticeship readiness program¹¹ 	Partnershi ps with communit y-based organizati ons and ed/trainin g providers for workforce needs planned.		
Other DEIA				
Justice40 Initiative				
Identifies benefits/impacts to disadvantaged communities	☐ Yes (If yes, list communities here) ☐ No			
Reduction in energy	🗆 Yes			
costs	🗆 No			
A decrease in environmental exposure and burdens	□ Yes □ No			
An increase in access to low-cost capital	□ Yes			

¹⁰ "Captive audience" meetings refer to the practice among employers of meeting with employees during union organizing campaigns to express the employer's view of the possible negative effects that unionizing may have on the general workforce. Some employers have structured such meetings as mandatory and held them on company property during working hours.

¹¹ Explore Pre-Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship.gov https://www.apprenticeship.gov/employers/explore-preapprenticeship

	🗆 No		
An increase in quality job creation, the clean energy job pipeline, and job training for individuals	□ Yes □ No		
Increases in clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (e.g., socially disadvantaged business enterprises)	☐ Yes □ No		
Increases in energy democracy, including community ownership of project assets	□ Yes □ No		
Increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption	□ Yes □ No		
An increase in energy resilience	□ Yes □ No		
Other Justice40			

Appendix D: Penalty of Perjury Statement

The following certification must be included with any part Application:

• The undersigned certifies that the data and information submitted in this Application and any attachments to this Application are true and correct, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge and belief after due inquiry, and the Applicant has not omitted any material facts. The undersigned further certifies that the undersigned has full authority to bind the Applicant.

Applicant (Organization Name)	
Name of Applicant's Authorized Officer	
Signature of Authorized Officer	
Title of Authorized Officer	

Appendix E: Federal System Registration Requirements

System for Award Management (SAM) – Applicants must register with SAM at https://www.sam.gov/ prior to submitting an application in response to this RFP. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration.

The Applicant must maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or application under consideration. More information about SAM registration for Applicants is found at: <u>https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration</u>.

Unique Entity Identification – Applicants must obtain a UEI from the SAM to uniquely identify the entity. The UEI is available in the SAM entity registration record.