

Connecticut DEEP Request for Notices of Interest and Draft Concept Papers for Federal Funding Opportunity: Grid Innovation Program (Section 40103(b))

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), was signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. This federal legislation authorized billions of dollars in funding opportunities for energy infrastructure projects, some of which is to be awarded through states. The [Grid Innovation Program \(GIP\)](#), which is outlined in Section 40103(b) of the BIL, is intended to fund projects that improve grid reliability and resilience using advanced technologies and innovative partnerships and approaches. States are eligible to apply for GIP funding, with \$1.82 billion in total funding available during the first round of funding and project awards of \$250 million, or up to \$1 billion for interregional transmission projects.

In its 2020 Integrated Resources Plan and its 2022 Procurement Plan Update, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) identified the transmission system as a key impediment to deployment of the region's offshore wind potential. Accordingly, DEEP has worked to identify solutions to address these concerns. On September 1, 2022, DEEP joined several New England states in issuing a [Request for Information on a Regional Transmission Initiative](#), seeking potential long-term solutions.

The GIP funding opportunity, which is being implemented by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and is discussed as part of this Notice of Interest (NOI), may further help to expedite the deployment of offshore wind and other clean energy resources. As stated in DEEP's 2022 Procurement Plan Update, these DOE funding opportunities "have the potential to lower the cost to state ratepayers associated with new transmission investments."

On November 18, 2022, DOE issued a [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#) for the GIP. As an eligible entity, DEEP is interested in information that may support pursuing GIP funding and submitting Concept Papers to the U.S. DOE by the January 13, 2023, deadline. DEEP is also exploring coordination with neighboring states to collaborate on this effort. DEEP may submit more than one Concept Paper and Full Application to this FOA, provided that each application describes a unique, scientifically distinct project and provided that an eligible Concept Paper was submitted for each Full Application.

To assist DEEP in exploring development of a Concept Paper and potential application for the GIP, DEEP requests a Notice of Interest and Draft Concept Paper(s) from any project developers interested in proposing projects for DEEP to consider including as part of a funding application to the GIP. Interested parties are requested to submit a Notice of Interest outlined in the attached

document to Bruce Ho, Senior Policy Adviser, via email (Bruce.Ho@ct.gov) by **December 23, 2022, at 5 p.m.** Please include “GRIP NOI” in the subject line of your email.

Information provided in the Notice of Interest will be subject to Connecticut’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) unless a statutory exemption applies. When a respondent submits confidential information to DEEP, the respondent acknowledges that FOIA governs the public’s accessibility to that information. If a respondent believes portions of information submitted in response to this NOI are exempt from FOIA disclosure, the respondent must clearly indicate which information is confidential and identify which FOIA exemption the respondent believes is applicable to the specific information claimed as confidential. Examples of FOIA exemptions include, but are not limited to:

- Trade secrets, C.G.S. § 1-210(b)(5)(A);
- Commercial and Financial information given in confidence, not required by statute, C.G.S. § 1- 210(b)(5)(B);
- Public records exempt under federal law or state statute, C.G.S. § 1-210(a).

Information collected under this section may be shared with other states that afford such information similar protection from public disclosure to facilitate multi-state projects. Public access to information shared with other states will be governed by the public records laws of those individual states. In the event confidential information is submitted to DEEP and confidential treatment is not afforded for any reason, by a governmental agency or otherwise, DEEP shall not be held responsible.

This request for Notices of Interest and Draft Concept Papers does not obligate DEEP or any other state entities to pursue a Concept Paper or application.

Notice of Interest to CT DEEP for BIL 40103(b) Grid Innovation Program (GIP)

For each Proposed Project, please respond to the following questions. These questions address some of the goals and objectives of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#). Please review the full FOA for more information. DEEP intends to review all responses to determine interest in developing a Concept Paper with Proposed Project(s). All information provided will be maintained for the sole and confidential use of Connecticut, its agencies and offices. However, information collected under this section may be shared with the other states that afford such information similar protection from public disclosure to facilitate multi-state projects.

Please limit responses to no more than 15 pages.

1. Please describe the Proposed Project Developer business and business structure and experience developing energy transmission and/or distribution projects, including experience in New England and Connecticut.
2. Please include a description of the Proposed Project, including:
 - a. Which Area of Interest is addressed by the Proposed Project?
 - i. Area of Interest 1: Transmission system applications
 - ii. Area of Interest 2: Distribution system applications
 - iii. Area of Interest 3: Combination systems applications
 - b. Technical description
 - i. Please identify the Proposed Project's location and the technical issue the Proposed Project addresses.
 - ii. Please indicate if the Proposed Project will include any of the following: distributed generation assets; load point flexibility enhancements; energy storage systems and other flexibility enhancements; technologies to increase the capacity of the transmission and distribution system; grid-edge technologies; sensing, communications, and control technologies and approaches; grid-forming power electronics; integrated system design.
 - c. Project design and development description
 - i. Please indicate if the Proposed Project will include any of the following: innovative financing and permitting solutions; uncommon or innovative regulatory structures, innovative planning, modeling, or cost allocation approaches, and other similar projects.
 - ii. Please include an initial breakdown of anticipated Proposed Project costs, including plans to meet the required 50% cost share, and describe how the Proposed Project will provide enhanced system value, improving current and future system cost effectiveness.

- iii. Please include a project development timeline that demonstrates that the Proposed Project can come to commercial operation in the required 60 to 96 month period of performance.
 - iv. Please describe why the Proposed Project requires federal funding to be completed and how federal funding will address the risks identified in the application and increase the likelihood of securing additional public and/or private investment.
 - 3. Please describe how the Proposed Project meets the following DOE funding opportunity goals and Connecticut clean energy goals:
 - a. Grid Reliability and Resilience
 - i. Please indicate if your Proposed Project will address any of the following:
 - 1. increasing transfer capacity between regions,
 - 2. addressing the most consequential system needs and challenges that cause or contribute to long and increasing interconnection queue time for clean energy, and/or
 - 3. increasing supply of a geographically and technologically diverse sets of location-constrained energy resources to enhance resource adequacy and reduce correlated generation outages.
 - ii. Please describe how the Proposed Project utilizes multiple approaches and how these approaches interact with each other and any existing infrastructure to increase overall system resiliency.
 - iii. Please describe any other ways the Proposed Project will contribute to increased reliability and resilience in Connecticut.
 - b. Innovation and Decarbonization
 - i. Please describe how the Proposed Project will contribute to the decarbonization of the electricity and broader energy system, including increasing distributed energy resources and electrification opportunities.
 - ii. Please describe how the Proposed Project can demonstrate a strategy that is suitable for wide-spread adoption.
 - iii. Please describe how the Proposed Project will enhance collaboration between and among eligible entities and private and public sector owners and operators on grid resilience, including in alignment with regional resilience strategies and plans
 - iv. Please describe how the Proposed Project results will enable asset owners and operators to effectively articulate within local, state, and Federal decision-making frameworks the economic, technical, and societal benefits of new innovative approaches.
 - c. Workforce, Economic Development, and Equity

- i. Please describe how the Proposed Project will invest in America's workforce, meaningfully engage communities and stakeholders, advance energy and environmental justice, and ensure diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
 - ii. Please confirm that the Proposed Project can meet all Justice40, Buy America, and Davis-Beacon Act requirements.
 - iii. Please confirm that the Proposed Project developer agrees to work with Connecticut to develop and implement meaningful monitoring and reporting strategies.
4. Multi-State Collaboration and Project Portfolio Options
 - a. Please describe if the Proposed Project provides benefits to multiple states and may be suitable for a multi-state application. Please confirm that the Proposed Project Developer would be willing to work with multiple states on a Full Application.
 - b. Please describe if the Proposed Project Developer has pursued or identified potential partnerships or portfolios to form a GIP application.
 - c. Please describe the Proposed Project Developer's willingness to be part of a portfolio of projects sponsored by Connecticut and/or other states as part of a GIP application, and description of any terms or conditions that would be required for participation in a portfolio application.
 - d. Please identify any project risks associated with joining a portfolio of projects as part of a GIP application.
5. In addition to your responses above, please describe how the project would meet any other applicable GIP funding eligibility requirements (if sponsored by Connecticut and/or other states), as outlined in detail in the FOA.
6. Connecticut participated in a region-wide transmission request for information (RFI). Please describe whether the Proposed Project is consistent with or responsive to any of the concepts discussed in the RFI and its attachment. The RFI is available for review at <https://newenglandenergyvision.files.wordpress.com/2022/09/transmission-rfi-notice-of-proceeding-and-scoping-revised.pdf>.