

## 2024 Call for Power Informational Meeting Q&As

May 16, 2024 (in-person)

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**1) Can you lump payments for CEAP IRs into one payment?**

Response: Yes, you can lump everything together in one payment. Please ensure the total amount is correct.

**2) If there is disagreement between BC Hydro engineers and proponent's engineers regarding CEAP IR deficiencies, can we request a scoping meeting to clarify and understand why the cure is not accepted?**

Response: In accordance with OATT Attachment M-2 and to maintain fairness through the CEAP process, there is no opportunity for a scoping meeting. You can send an email to [CEAP2024@bchydro.com](mailto:CEAP2024@bchydro.com) with project specific questions, and we can respond.

**3) Regarding Section 10 RFP, BCUC approval - does the proponent have to submit their EPA to the BCUC?**

Response: BC Hydro will file all executed EPAs with the BCUC.

**4) With respect to the cure of deficiency list and responding to BC Hydro, do proponents need to submit the entire package or only the forms where deficiencies were identified?**

Response: Proponents only need to submit forms or items where deficiencies were identified, not the entire package.

**5) Can you clarify what aligning the RFP plant description with what is submitted in the CEAP IR means? Can you provide more clarity in addition to the Q&A posted on the website?**

Response: We are looking for material consistency between what was submitted in the CEAP IR and what is in a proponent's proposal. We will use results of the Feasibility Study in the evaluation. For example, Interconnection related costs will be used in the calculation of the Evaluation Price. A large shift in the size of a project would be considered a material change and BC Hydro would be unable to fairly evaluate the

proposal. Other changes, such as different turbines in a wind project, would likely be acceptable as long as it would not represent a material change.

**6) Is going above the stated MW capacity in the interconnection request problematic?**

Response: Going above the stated capacity is more problematic as it can constrain the system and may require additional network upgrades. There is a provision in the EPA and the interconnection process after the CEAP to allow a reduction of MW. Overall, there must be no material change to the interconnection study that was conducted.

**7) Is there a clear definition of a material change?**

Response: A MW increase or a point of interconnection change is considered a material change. A slight shift in where your project will interconnect along a line is likely okay, as long it doesn't involve changing to a different circuit. There is limited flexibility in what the proponent can change on their system without triggering a material change. However, it is common that things change as the proponent procures their equipment and develops their project further. Throughout the interconnection process, BC Hydro and the proponent will have in-depth discussions to explore different options to avoid a material change.

**8) If information a Proponent provides in the Relationship Disclosure Form changes between the RFP proposal submission and COD, would that be grounds for disqualification?**

Response: The Relationship Disclosure form provides general guidance, and it's important that Proponents put in place safeguards for potential conflicts to ensure it doesn't come up later. A Proponent can submit questions and/or notify BC Hydro of any changes and BC Hydro will evaluate. The disclosure forms are used to ensure a fair RFP process.

**9) If you are a successful proponent, what is the timing for the Bid Security to be returned – is it the same as unsuccessful proponents (i.e., 180 days)?**

Response: Our intention is not to have a 180-day turnaround period; we would return it to successful Proponents as soon practicable. Bid security and Performance security are treated separately from BC Hydro so there will be two letters of credit needed.

**10) Understanding timelines, everyone will be at a different stage of First Nations consultation by the time a Proposal is due, how will BC Hydro evaluate this?**

Response: Please refer to Section 1 of Schedule 4 regarding the appropriate level of consultation. Proponents are to include as much information as possible at the time of submission.

**11) What is considered appropriate for consultation at the stage of development?**

Response: Information on which First Nations have been contacted, that adequate time for consultation was set aside, what efforts were made to connect with the First Nations, what issues or concerns were raised during consultation and how these issues or concerns have been addressed or mitigated. BC Hydro may seek clarification from proponents.

**12) What agreements need to be in place by the proposal submission date? We understand that equity agreements may not be signed by the proposal submission date.**

Response: BC Hydro would need to see the commitment with the First Nation(s) for equity ownership and any other information you can provide about the arrangement. BC Hydro does require a statutory declaration prior to COD.

**13) Are First Nations development corporations, Bands, and individuals all given equal weighting in the evaluation?**

Response: Individuals from a First Nation partnering with an IPP would not meet the eligibility requirement for First Nations Equity Ownership. The intent is to spread benefits to First Nations broadly, so a First Nation-held company or a development corporation are okay. It's important to note that BC Hydro requires an attestation (see Form 4) from the First Nation itself demonstrating they are supportive of the agreement/arrangement.

**14) By the time we bid, do we have to have the corporate LP in place?**

Response: BC Hydro requires the name of the Proposal First Nation owning the portion of the project. The name of the legal entity is optional at the time of proposal submission.

**15) If we are able to secure equity ownership with several First Nations, in addition to non-equity benefits, can we get the credit?**

Response: The non-equity benefits letter evaluation credit is for non-equity benefits only. We designed it this way based on what we heard through engagement, and it allows to spread benefits out to more First Nations.

**16) Can First Nations partner on more than one Project?**

Response: Yes, First Nations can partner with more than one Proponent, however they should not be communicating between different parties on details on their arrangements. First Nations should refer to the No Collusion clause in the RFP for specifics (Section 14.11).

**17) If a First Nation partners on more than one project, would they be required to complete the disclosure form in Schedule 6?**

Response: BC Hydro received a similar question prior to the informational sessions that was still under development at the time that this question was asked at the May 16<sup>th</sup> informational session. Please refer to the Q&As on our website for a response to this question.

**18) Would it not be a conflict of interest if a First Nation works with two different proponents?**

Response: We would require that the First Nation not communicate information of arrangements between parties. Refer to Section 14.11.

**19) How is BC Hydro considering EA timelines and the process given that there are delays and these timelines may push projects beyond the specified COD?**

Response: We are aware of this and understand there timeline challenges. It's been a focus for the BC Hydro Task Force and the Province has been looking at how to make processes more efficient. Proponents can help these timelines by being responsive to questions and submitting information in a timely way. It's important to note, that BC Hydro is requiring projects to come online between October 1, 2028 and October 1, 2031, so there is a three year Commercial Operation Date window.

**20) Is there a provision in the EPA to extend GCOD?**

Response: Under the EPA, the GCOD may be extended due to an interconnection delay which impacts the achievement of COD and is caused solely by BC Hydro or an event of Force Majeure which impacts the achievement of COD.

**21) For the submission, there are some files that may be too large to transmit by email. How do proponents submit larger files?**

Response: 25 MB is the maximum size for files by email, but BC Hydro will provide alternative means to submit larger files in necessary. More information will be provided in August.

**22) If a Proponent has a letter of intent with a First Nation for 30% ownership, and another Proponent has an agreement in place for 25% ownership, is this taken into account in evaluation?**

Response: BC Hydro looks for evidence of First Nations equity ownership, we don't look at whether it's signed or not. The evaluation is based on the amount of First Nations Equity Ownership that is provided in the Proposal. We would require the attestation at the Commercial Operation Date.

**23) Which layer on iMAP BC should Proponents use to identify which First Nations to consult with?**

Response: BC Hydro doesn't administer iMap which is done through the Province. There is a Q&A on our website about this.

**24) Under Delivered Energy, what does hourly limit mean?**

Response: Hourly limit is a defined term in the Specimen EPA. In general, it's the stated MW hours to be delivered or the plant capacity for the project.

**25) What defines an emergency?**

Response: This is defined in the Specimen EPA and it's the same definition under the interconnection agreement. Essentially, it refers to an imminent threat to life or property or a major safety or reliability impact to the BC Hydro system (i.e. forest fire).

**26) What if the percentage of equity goes up with First Nations after the evaluation?**

Response: BC Hydro makes decisions based on the information that is available at the time of the evaluation. As we will already have issued an EPA we won't be able to offer additional credits. It would be permissible to do this, but you would not receive credit for it. Proponents must maintain commitments that are part of the Proposal, for which they received, e.g. First Nations Equity Ownership which maintains a fair evaluation process.

**27) What happens if multiple First Nations are part of the EPA, but they transfer levels of ownership while maintaining overall stated level of ownership?**

Response: First Nations can trade/sell between Proposal First Nations or sell a portion of their equity to a Project First Nation as long as a Proposal First Nations' equity doesn't fall to zero during the three-year holding period.

**28) Are royalty agreements considered First Nations equity under the EPA?**

Response: BC Hydro left the definition of Equity Ownership relatively open ended to allow for different arrangements. Please refer to the definition of Equity Ownership and consult with advisors as to the best way to structure it.

**29) Does an Investigative License application have to be accepted before the Proposal submission deadline?**

Response: We are looking for evidence of the license in place, or that the application has been submitted and accepted, or that the application has been submitted. This is not included as an eligibility requirement for the Call.

**30) Is there a flexibility choosing COD in the Proposal given uncertainties with permitting?**

Response: This has been already answered in Q&A number 6 posted on our website. A change to COD may or may not be material depending on whether or not the change has implications to the Network Upgrade cost estimate and schedule which could be impacted by how many months the COD moves between what was proposed in the CEAP IR and the Proposal Schedules. There is more information in the Q&A.