



**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Power Supply Request for Proposal NorthWestern Energy - Montana (NWMT) Resource

January 15, 2024

1 Introduction

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) is a consumer-owned generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative providing wholesale electric power to 141-member rural electric systems located in nine states including Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. Basin Electric’s member systems serve 3 million consumers and span 550,000 square miles.

Basin Electric has loads and resources located on both the eastern and western interconnection. Basin Electric’s obligations within the western interconnection are within the following four balancing areas within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC): the Western Area Power Administration’s Colorado-Missouri (WACM) and Upper Great Plains West (WAUW) regions, the PacifiCorp East region (PACE), and the NorthWestern Energy Montana region (NWMT). Basin Electric’s obligations within the eastern interconnection are in both the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Energy Market and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Integrated Marketplace.

Basin Electric has issued Request for Proposals (RFP) several times over the last number of years to find options for fulfilling power supply obligations. During these years, Basin Electric has successfully negotiated and signed multiple contracts through the RFP process. Such an RFP process is utilized to optimize Basin Electric’s system across 9 states and multiple different balancing areas.

2 Summary of Needs

NorthWestern Energy - Montana (NWMT):

1. **Capacity and Energy:**

Basin Electric is interested in proposals for WRAP compliant firm capacity with callable day-ahead energy to be delivered to NorthWestern Energy’s Montana transmission balancing area. Basin Electric requests that proposals be submitted in 25 MW blocks not to exceed 200 MW with a term beginning January 1, 2028, and a duration target of 3 years.

- Basin Electric intends to utilize the product under this solicitation as qualified capacity under the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) tariff or other potential resource adequacy constructs. This would require the Seller to attest that the resource is reserved for the purpose of this

contract and firm transmission is demonstrated from the source (or sources) to the delivery point.

- Basin Electric will consider non-WRAP compliant firm capacity with callable day-ahead energy to be delivered to NorthWestern Energy’s Montana transmission balancing area.

2. Renewable Resource:

Basin Electric is interested in renewable resource in the NorthWestern Energy Montana (NWMT) balancing area in the state of Montana. Basin Electric is also interested in projects containing Energy Storage (4-hr preferred) either co-located with Solar or Wind or as stand-alone resources. Basin Electric requests co-located projects be priced with and without Energy Storage on separate Response Package templates. Basin Electric is interested in renewable resources up to 100 MW.

- Basin Electric’s interest in renewable proposals may be influenced by the Rural Utilities Service’s (RUS) New ERA program. The schedule for the RUS program is not within Basin Electric’s control.

3 Market Requirements

Basin Electric’s preference would be that the Seller is able to financially and/or physically deliver energy to NorthWestern Energy Montana (NWMT) balancing area.

Seller will be responsible for all congestion and losses to the Delivery Point.

Seller will also be responsible for network upgrade costs associated with proposed project and must be included in the proposed pricing. Network upgrade costs shall be identified in proposal.

4 RFP Schedule

RFP proposal and Evaluation Schedule:

RFP Issued	January 15, 2024
Notice of Intent to Bid	January 31, 2024
Respondents Bids Due	February 21, 2024 5:00 PM CPT

Notification of Shortlist of Bidders	On or before March 15, 2024
Decision Made	Q2 2024

Basin Electric reserves the right to unilaterally revise or suspend the schedule or terminate this RFP process at its sole discretion without liability to any Party. Any such changes will be posted on the RFP website:

<https://www.basinelectric.com/about-us/organization/Procurement/2024-power-supply-resources-rfp>

5 Interpretations/Addenda/Notice of Intent to Bid

Upon release of this RFP, all questions regarding interpretation of this RFP shall be submitted by email to: RFP@becpc.com

We request all potential bidders to notify Basin Electric of their intent to submit a proposal by E-mail by **5:00 PM CPT on January 31, 2024 with the Subject line as “NorthWestern Energy- Montana RFP”**. The notifications should be directed to: RFP@becpc.com. Please provide the following information when submitting the notice of intent to bid:

- Subject: NorthWestern Energy- Montana RFP
- Company name and address
- Authorized representative or point of contact with name, title, phone number and email address

6 Form and Submission of Proposal

By submitting a proposal, each bidder agrees to accept and abide by the terms of this RFP. All costs incurred in responding to this RFP and preparing a proposal to be borne by the bidder. Basin Electric will not reimburse any bidder for costs incurred in responding to this RFP or for costs incurred during any subsequent negotiations related to this RFP.

Proposals for this RFP must be received in accordance with the RFP Schedule. Please be prepared to conduct follow-up discussions upon submission of your proposal.

A bidder may submit more than one proposal. Each proposal submitted by a bidder will be evaluated separately and must therefore meet all the requirements of this RFP on an individual basis. -

Please follow the submittal guideline below:

Bidders must submit their bid proposals via email with the Subject line as “NorthWestern Energy- Montana RFP” to the address below. Basin Electric will not be assessing bidders with a fee for any submitted proposals.

By E-Mail: RFP@bepc.com

All proposals must arrive by **5:00 pm CPT February 21, 2024**. Basin Electric is not obligated to contact bidders concerning missing or incomplete forms. All bid packages should include any additional information required to support evaluation of the proposal.

Each Bidder’s proposal must contain the following information at a minimum:

1. Capacity and Energy:

- Seller (Corporate name and address)
- System Delivery Point and terms of delivery
- Three years of the most recent audited financial statements and footnote disclosures of the Seller or if not available, of the Guarantor or Letter of Credit provider
- If available, the most recent external rating agency report of the Seller, Guarantor, or Letter of Credit provider as applicable
- Location and type of proposed power supply
- Product and description of product
- Basin Electric will consider alternative proposal types and structures, such as heat rate call options (HRCO) or facility tolling agreements.
- Contract Quantity, Contract Term and Contract Price (similar to Table Below)

Calendar Year	Quantity	Delivery Point	Demand Price (\$ per kWm)	Callable Day-Ahead Energy Price (\$ per MWh) *
2028				Mid-C Index Based Price
2029				Mid-C Index Based Price
2030				Mid-C Index Based Price

* Mid-C Index Price shall be the Day Ahead applicable day-ahead Intercontinental Exchange (“ICE”) for the Mid-C Physical Peak or Mid-C Physical Off-Peak indices representative of the OTC market for energy WSPP Schedule-C physical Firm Energy transactions at the Mid-C trading hub.

2. Renewable Resource Proposal:

Please complete the **Renewable RFP Response Package** located on the RFP website listed below. Basin Electric will not be assessing bidders with a fee for any submitted proposals.

<https://www.basinelectric.com/about-us/organization/Procurement/2024-power-supply-resources-rfp>

7 Errors, Modification or Withdrawal of Proposal

Each bidder is expected to carefully review the information provided in this RFP as it contains important instructions which must be followed in preparing the proposal. Bidder assumes the risk of any non-compliance resulting from errors on the part of the bidder or the failure of the bidder to follow the RFP.

Amendments to proposals received by Basin Electric will only be accepted if submitted by the bidder prior to the proposal due date.

The bidder may withdraw a proposal by giving notice to Basin Electric at the email address noted in Section 6 prior to the proposal due date.

8 Reserved Rights

Basin Electric reserves the right to request further information, as necessary, to complete its evaluation of the proposals received.

Bidders agree that they are submitting their proposals without recourse against Basin Electric for any reason, including rejection or failure to execute a PPA for any reason. Basin Electric will not reimburse bidders for costs incurred in responding to this RFP for any follow up negotiations, whether or not such negotiations result in a PPA.

9 Disqualification of Proposal

Basin Electric reserves the right, without qualification and in its sole discretion, to reject any and/or all proposals and to consider alternatives outside of this solicitation.

A proposal may be disqualified at any point in the evaluation process Basin Electric determines, in its sole discretion that the bidder has attempted to gain an advantage through conduct deemed unethical, conflict of interest, interference or any such means.

10 Credit and Risk Concerns

In reviewing and considering proposals, Basin Electric will analyze potential credit and/or risk concerns in any comparison of proposals. As part of the detailed evaluation, Basin

Electric may specifically weigh the credit- and risk-related factors and/or costs underlying each of the proposals. The pricing provided shall expressly include the costs of credit support. Basin Electric will review and assess the sufficiency and adequacy of the proposed credit support and may request additional credit support sureties, as determined at Basin Electric's sole discretion.

11 Collusion

By submitting a proposal to Basin Electric in response to this RFP, the Respondent certifies that the Respondent has not divulged discussed or compared its proposal with other Respondents and has not colluded whatsoever with any other Respondent or parties with respect to this or other proposals.

12 Consents and Approval Process

Any definitive agreement entered into will be conditioned upon regulatory actions and/or approvals by regulatory authorities. Basin Electric reserves the right to seek any additional regulatory consents and approvals of third parties or governmental authorities as a condition to consummation of any transaction. All consents or approvals must be in form and substance satisfactory to Basin Electric. Respondents will be required to support Basin Electric's efforts in securing all consents and approvals.

13 Compliance with Regulations

The Respondent(s) whose proposal is selected for continued evaluation will be responsible for acquiring and/or verifying that it is in compliance with all necessary licenses, permits, certifications, reporting requirements and approvals required by federal, state and local government laws, regulations and policies, including if applicable, for the design, construction and operation of the project. In addition, the Respondent shall fully support the regulatory approval process associated with any potential acquisition arrangement.

Respondent's shall be liable for all of its costs, and Basin Electric shall not be responsible for any of the Respondent's costs incurred to prepare, submit or negotiate its proposal, or any other related activity.

14 Evaluation Factors

Factors considered in Basin Electric’s evaluation of proposals will include total cost, unit technical characteristics, operational performance, reliability, efficiency, deliverability, scheduling flexibility, environmental impacts, credit, contract considerations, Respondent experience and other criteria. Therefore, the lowest price submittal may not be selected. Proposals must include sufficient detail to allow evaluation of all factors.

The evaluation process will consist of the following steps:

1. Review of all proposals to see they meet minimum requirements
2. Preliminary economic analysis
3. Risk analysis
4. Selection of short list for further consideration and contact short list bidders
5. Conference calls with bidders to discuss short list proposals
6. Detailed economic analysis
7. Any further investigation and due diligence
8. Final decision

During any point of the RFP process, Basin Electric reserves the right to remove any or all proposals. Note that there are no guarantees of achieving a PPA because of being chosen for the short list or advancing through the evaluation process.

Evaluation of unit based proposals may require one or more site visits by Basin Electric or its authorized representatives to conduct its due diligence. Basin Electric will require reasonable access to documentation, including as-built drawings and specifications, construction and operating permits, operating logs, and maintenance history and schedules. If a selected proposal involves a generating unit not yet operational, the Respondent may be asked to provide Basin Electric with all information related to construction, including contracts, specifications, and permit applications. In addition, Basin Electric may require access to additional information deemed pertinent to evaluation of proposals.