

# Energy Resilience Planning Consultant

## SMPDC

### Request for Proposals

### Q & A Summary FINAL

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. <i>Can SMPDC provide additional detail on the reliability data and assessments currently available from the CMP and KLPD, including the format of the data and the type of assessments conducted?</i></p>	<p>SMPDC has previously received circuit level outage data from CMP for the 2021 Economic Resilience Assessment for Coastal York County. This data is used for reliability reporting. This data was provided in an excel file and include the following information for each outage: Circuit, outage date, outage time off, outage time on, Outage ID, Sequence number, protected device town code, protective device town name, protective device road code, protective device road name, protective device CMP pole, fault town code, fault town name, fault road code, fault road name, fault CMP pole, code cause outage, description cause outage, duration (hours), quantity customers impacted, and customer outages. We also received the circuit level CAIDI, FAIFI, and SAIFI figures.</p> <p>SMPDC has not previously received reliability data from KLPD.</p> <p>On May 22, 2022, the Maine Legislature enacted “An Act Regarding Utility Accountability and Grid Planning for Maine’s Clean Energy Future,” P.L. 2021, c. 702, now codified at 35-A M.R.S. § 3146. This statute provides: “No later than December 31, 2023, and every 3 years thereafter, a transmission and distribution utility shall submit to the Commission a 10-year plan that includes specific actions for addressing the expected effects of climate change on the utility’s assets needed to transmit and distribute electricity to its customers.”</p> <p>Both CMP and KLPD submitted Climate Change Protection Plans in 2023 in the MPUC docket case number 2023-00282: <a href="https://mpuc-cms.maine.gov/CQM.Public.WebUI/Common/CaseMaster.aspx?CaseNumber=2023-00282">https://mpuc-cms.maine.gov/CQM.Public.WebUI/Common/CaseMaster.aspx?CaseNumber=2023-00282</a>. Each will be required to resubmit an updated plan by Dec. 2026. According to CMP’s Climate Change Protection Plan, CMP is currently conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment (CCVS). The Plan states, “the final product of the CCVS will be a publicly available and comprehensive report detailing the methods used by CMP to identify climate change projections across the CMP system for the quantified climate variables discussed in Section 2.2; as well as a list of Priority Vulnerabilities. The study will include details on the stakeholder engagement, the projected future climate of Maine, evaluation of CMP</p>

equipment and process, and the degree to which climate hazards are projected to change and impact CMP and its customers. These results will be used in the CCRP to determine if and where resilience measures may be needed to build or maintain resilience to climate change across the CMP's electric system.”

2. *Is SMPDC already collaborating with utilities to collect grid reliability data? Will the consultant have the opportunity to submit a data request to the utility partners?*

SMPDC has previously received grid reliability data from CMP but not from KLPD. SMPDC met with representatives from CMP on multiple occasions during the scoping of this project and received a letter of support from CMP for the successful EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant application that is funding this project. SMPDC will work with the selected consultant to submit data requests to the utility partners.

3. *On page 7 of the RFP, it mentioned Terms & Conditions, but I was not able to locate them in the package. Can you please forward the document along when you have a moment?*

The “Terms and Conditions” mentioned on page 7 are an error copied from an RFP template. There are no additional terms and conditions for proposal submission. Page 7, IV. Submission Requirements, paragraph 2 should read: “By submitting a proposal, the consultant agrees to hold open the proposal for a minimum of ninety (90) days. Changes in the consultant staff during the ninety (90) days following the date of receipt of the proposal must be communicated immediately to SMPDC and may, at the discretion of SMPDC, be considered as grounds for rejection of the proposal.”

4. *Is there any flexibility for the RFP due date to be extended a few days or 1 week to allow more time for bidders to respond?*
- We are not able to change the RFP due date at this time.
5. *Task 2D asks for the consultant to conduct feasibility analysis for microgrid projects at critical community facilities. These kinds of studies can be complex and time consuming if done properly and could consume a large fraction of the budget. Can the SMPDC be more specific on how many feasibility studies they are expecting for this task?*
- The goal of Task 2D is to identify critical facilities in the region where it would be feasible to host microgrids and where those microgrids could provide the most benefit for increasing grid and community resilience. Therefore, we anticipate that this assessment to be higher level, resulting in a handful of identified sites with concept designs, cost estimates, and identified next steps for microgrid development. Please see the [FCRTA microgrid feasibility study section 7](#) for an example of the type of information we would like to see come out of this analysis.
6. *For Task 5, will the SMPDC State Team create the majority of the Southern Maine Energy Resiliency Plan with aid and support from the consultant? Or is the SMPDC State Team expecting the consultant to write the majority of the plan?*
- Yes, SMPDC will create the plan with support from the consultant. The consultant will help develop content and language for the plan strategies and next steps. The consultant will also aid SMPDC in incorporating the deliverables generated in tasks 2 – 4 into the plan (adapting content, providing figures and graphics, etc.).
7. *What is SMPDC's current relationship with the utility companies? Have they already agreed to participate or will part of the stakeholder engagement process be solidifying a relationship?*
- Please see the answer to question 2.

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| <p>8. <i>Does SMPDC envision that the State's Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission will be involved in this project? Currently the commission seems very focused on flooding resilience related to storms, but energy resilience is also important.</i></p> | <p>SMPDC had not considered the Commission's direct involvement on the project. However, there is significant cross over between the organizations and state agencies participating in the Commission and the target stakeholders for this planning process, so SMPDC would welcome opportunities to collaborate.</p> |
| <p>9. <i>The RFP notes that SMPDC is looking for a "grid reliability analysis that expands upon data from utilities" what other data is there?</i></p>   | <p>Please see the answer to question 1.</p>   |
| <p>10. <i>Could SMPDC provide a copy of the EDA grant application?</i></p>   | <p>SMPDC is not able to provide a copy of the grant application at this time.</p>   |
| <p>11. <i>The total EDA grant is \$400k, and this project budget is \$150K. Does SMPDC expect to implement the actions identified in the plan through this grant or will the additional funds be used for other projects?</i></p>  | <p>The total budget for consultant services is <b>\$160,000</b>. The remaining Project budget include federal funds and non-federal match for SMPDC's staff time to support and manage the consultant on all project tasks and in particular lead Task 1 and Task 5 of the project.</p>                               |
| <p>12. <i>How does SMPDC envision clean and renewable energy and the State's clean energy goals will intersect with this plan? Does SMPDC foresee conflicting priorities with State sustainability goals and local energy resilience goals?</i></p>                        | <p>SMPDC anticipates that this plan and the identified strategies will complement and support the state's clean and renewable energy goals.</p>   |

13. *Are there examples of regional energy resilience plans from other places that SMPDC is looking for as a model for this project?*

SMPDC has not used any regional energy resilience plans as a model for this project.

14. *Is there a page limit?*

No there is no page limit, although concise responses are appreciated.

15. *How should proposals interpret the requirement for references in the RFP? Are individual references for each proposed staff member and references for company projects required, or is there a different expectation for how references should be given?*

References should be provided for the company, not for individual staff members. It is helpful if references are for clients that had projects that required similar expertise or were of a similar scope.