

USDA Charleston Solar PV & BESS RFIs

1. Please provide more specific information on the 2 days of storage RFP requirement. For example, does this only include the typical 8 working hours per day Monday thru Friday or 24 hrs for 2 days? **Solar system will run 24 hours/ 7 days a week. Grid power is the backup only!**
2. Please confirm that the proposed solar system can utilize the remaining open area not only the rectangle labeled "Solar Farm Area." **The proposed system can utilize the remaining open area.**
3. Please provide clarification on the 2-day storage capacity requirement. Does the storage capacity need to be available during a utility outage and have an islanding functionality or be grid-tied only? **Solar system will run the specified PODs or units (daily) off the power grid with battery backup for two (2) days in the event there is no sun.**
4. Per L.8 INQUIRIES of Solicitation 12405B23Q439 document there is no deadline stated for inquiry submission. Is there a deadline for inquiry submissions? **12pm Eastern time August 9, 2023**
5. Who is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) over this property for code and permitting purposes? **Federal Government property**
6. Please provide the most current topographical survey of the potential solar array site. **N/A**
7. Please provide the most current geotechnical report of the potential solar array site. **N/A**
8. Please provide the most current underground utilities maps of the potential solar array site. **Locate will be provided**
9. Please provide the most current electrical systems maps of the potential solar array site. **Grid power comes from pole**
10. Please provide engineering drawings showing the exact location of interconnection for the potential solar array site. **Local power company has not designed interconnection yet (currently planning). Solar is primary power!**
11. Is there any requirement for ground cover in the ground solar array such as geotextile fabric & crushed rock or planting grass? If so, what are the specific requirements? **N/A**
12. Are there any restrictions to changing grade or elevation in the ground solar array area? **None**
13. What area can be used for a material and equipment laydown to include the storage of containers and vehicles? **Surrounding area will be identified to winning vendor.**
14. Is a job trailer allowed? If so, where could it be located? What are the procedures to connect power to a job trailer? **A temporary facility is allowed. Vendor will be responsible for temp power connection. Office & Port-a-potty**
15. Will water be provided on site? If so, where can we get water? **Temporary water is available (NO WATER FOR RESTROOMS)**
16. Will spoils be allowed to be disposed of on site? **Yes!**
17. Please provide electrical details and interconnection details for any and all sources of backup and emergency power generation that will be connected to the same electrical grid as the proposed PV system, to include any site-wide systems. If there are no sources of backup or emergency power generation, please confirm that there are none. **Dominion Energy will add a backup grid power connection (currently planning).**
18. Does solar PV need to be included in the scope if it is more cost-effective to just install a grid-tied battery to meet the storage requirements? **Include solar PV**
19. Please confirm that an off-grid microgrid is required for this project. **Required.**
20. Please confirm the microgrid is required to manually disconnect from the utility. **Required!**
21. Please confirm an interconnection application has been submitted to Dominion Energy. **Yes! Currently developing with Dominion Energy.**
22. Please confirm the 3-phase distribution will be installed by Dominion Energy as a cost incurred to USDA. To support the storage and generation required for this project a 3-phase distribution is required. **A single phase transformer is currently feeding all 8 containers. We will keep to this design.**
23. Is there an estimated cost magnitude for construction? **N/A**
24. Please provide a two-week extension for the bid, extending the deadline to August 25. The additional time is crucial to obtain necessary clarifications on questions. **CO to answer.**