

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
RFP No 2019-01
NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR EXPERT SERVICES RELATED TO
National & Regional Electric and Natural Gas Matters

	Questions	Answers
1.	Will the OCA assign specific proposals, reports, filings, forums, meetings, activities and events for the contractor to monitor, review and/or analyze? Or is it the contractor's duty to identify the relevant ones to monitor, review and analyze?	The OCA will make the assignments but will welcome input and suggestions from the contractor. The OCA strives to have active presence in the NEPOOL committee meetings and other ISO-NE forums. To the extent, the OCA is unable to devote its internal resources to some of the committees and forums, but believes it is important to monitor those committees or forums, the contractor will be entrusted with monitoring those developments and providing its input and suggestions.
2.	Will the OCA assign specific stakeholder meetings for the contractor to participate in on behalf of the OCA or is the contractor supposed to monitor all scheduled meetings and decide which ones to participate in?	See answer to Question 1 above. The OCA will make the assignments. We will not assume the contractor is monitoring all scheduled meetings, but to the extent the contractor does so its input and suggestions will be welcome.
3.	Is the contractor expected to attend stakeholder meetings in person, or is participation by phone admissible?	Participation by phone will be permissible when agreed to in advance by the OCA. We will grant this permission when it represents the most cost-effective use of resources in light of the importance of matters under discussion at the stakeholder meetings and the location of the meetings.
4.	How many stakeholder meetings will the contractor be expected to attend in person and how many by	The OCA is unable to provide a reasonably precise estimate of the number of meetings per year or their length. Generally, the OCA expects participation in NEPOOL's Participant Committee (PC), Markets

	<p>phone in a year? What will be the total duration (number of hours) of each category in a year?</p>	<p>Committee(MC) and the Reliability Committee (RC) meetings. Typically, there are one PC, two MC, and two RC meeting days in a month, but depending on the issues being addressed in the NEPOOL meetings, the number of days of such meetings may vary somewhat. A useful reference is the calendar of 2019 NEPOOL meetings, available here: http://www.nepool.com/uploads/NEPOOL_Calendar_2019.pdf. The Consumer Advocate and the Assistant Consumer Advocate, are able to represent the OCA at about half of the meetings we deem it necessary to cover.</p>
5.	<p>Section 3 of the RFP provides a brief overview of the scope of work. Can the OCA provide a more detailed description of the tasks?</p>	<p>The OCA is essentially looking for this contractor to be the OCA's eyes, ears and voice at regional meetings it is unable to staff with in-house personnel. In some instances, this will require decision-making in real-time about how best to represent the interests of New Hampshire's residential ratepayers, when to consult with the Consumer Advocate, and when to remain silent. Outside of meetings, the essential ingredient will be effective communication so that the OCA is aware of all relevant developments, but the RFP deliberately does not specify whether these communications should be written or oral.</p>
6.	<p>The RFP is requesting a not-to-exceed budget amount, but it does not specify a maximum amount of hours, work, and/or deliverables for the respondents to price their not-to-exceed budget amount. Can the OCA estimate this information?</p>	<p>The OCA has deliberately crafted the RFP to be imprecise with respect to hours of work. In these circumstances, the contractor's hourly rate(s) will be the most important financial consideration in evaluating the proposals received. The amount of work actually performed under the contract will be a function of how many hours of the contractor's work the OCA can afford in relation to the importance of the issues under consideration before the applicable regional forums.</p>
7.	<p>It is our understanding that NH OCA has a consultant in the past to provide these or very similar services. Can the</p>	<p>Yes. The OCA currently has a contract with Synapse Energy Economics of Cambridge, Massachusetts for this purpose. The contract expires on June 30, 2019.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>OCA verify whether this is true?</p> <p>Is OCA looking to duplicate that scope of work or is OCA looking to expand, contract or otherwise revise the scope of services provided? If OCA is looking to revise the scope in any way, could you please explain how the new scope would differ?</p>	<p>We expect the scope of work under the new contract to be substantially similar to the scope of work undertaken pursuant to the existing contract with Synapse Energy Economics.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Are past consultants eligible to bid on this RFP?</p>	<p>No potential bidders have been disqualified.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>The proposed Scope of Work (Section 3) includes: "Participation on behalf of the OCA in meetings and other events convened by the FERC, ISO New England, NEPOOL, or one or more stakeholders in New England electric markets." Given the wide variety and significant number of such meetings, can NH OCA provide any additional guidance as to how bidders should approach pricing such participation?</p>	<p>Please see answer to Question Nos. 4 and 6 above.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Specifically, NEPOOL and ISO-NE together have a variety of committees and working groups which collectively have more than 100 meeting days per year. Can OCA identify the committees &</p>	<p>Please see answer to Question Nos. 4 and 6 above.</p>

	<p>working groups the Consultant should plan and budget to attend? Or would the OCA like the consultant to prioritize participation?</p>	
12.	<p>Alternatively, would OCA identify a specific number of NEPOOL meeting days bidders should budget for (NH OCA and selected consultant could then together prioritize those meetings to cover)?</p>	<p>Please see answer to Question No. 4 above.</p>
13.	<p>Should bidders assume and budget in any meetings (e.g., Technical Conferences) at FERC (i.e., in Washington, DC) along with necessary travel? If so, how many?</p>	<p>The OCA does not anticipate relying on any consultants hired via this RFP to participate in technical conferences at the FERC, but we do not rule out this possibility. As to budgeting, please see answer to Question No. 6 above.</p>
14.	<p>In what format would NH OCA wish to see reporting? Narrative summaries? Powerpoint? Meeting notes? Does the OCA's expectations of reporting format on FERC filings/orders differ from stakeholder meetings?</p>	<p>Please see answer to Question No. 5 above.</p>
15.	<p>We presume that periodic calls/meetings with NH OCA Staff should be expected. How often? Should bidders anticipate and budget for in-person meetings with OCA staff in NH? If so, how many such meetings?</p>	<p>The OCA expects that each time the consultant or consultants attends a meeting on behalf of the OCA, the consultant(s) will review the agenda prior to the meeting and seek guidance from the OCA with respect to matters on the agenda, and will report back to the OCA following the meeting. As to the method of reporting, please see answer to Question No. 5 above.</p>