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Non-Wires Alternatives RFP 7 Locations

Supplier Clarification Questions

New Supplier Clarification Questions:

Q1: Does the Total Approximate Value reflect only National Grid's own contract payments to the developer, exclusive of any value-stacking revenue (e.g., wholesale market, VDER) the developer may separately earn from the same asset? Or does it incorporate an assumption about value-stacking benefits when calculating the reliability value?

A1: The Total Approximate Value represents National Grid's estimate of the overall value of the NWA opportunity and is provided to assist bidders in determining whether a proposal may be cost-competitive. The value reflects the benefits considered in National Grid's Benefit-Cost Analysis and does not represent a projected contract payment. Bidders may account for revenues from other programs or markets in their proposal pricing, where permitted.

Q2: Does National Grid have a capped or budgeted total procurement amount for this NWA solicitation (either per location or in aggregate across all seven locations), or is the Total Approximate Value the only constraint governing how much National Grid is willing to pay?

A2: The Total Approximate Value is an estimate of the value of the NWA opportunity and is provided to assist bidders in determining whether a proposal may be cost-competitive. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria identified in

the RFP, including cost effectiveness, benefit-cost analysis, feasibility, and other evaluation factors.

Q3: Is there a contact to discuss interconnection applications?

A3: Questions regarding this solicitation should be directed to NonWiresAlternativeSolutions@nationalgrid.com. Projects requiring interconnection must follow the applicable interconnection process and requirements.

Q4: Confirming that you said that BTM assets are not eligible for real time service if they are co-located with load - so whole home battery eligible?

A4: For Real-Time Service, Generation Facility Assets, Energy Storage Facility Assets, and Coupled Generation and Storage Facility Assets should not have any co-located retail load. Resources with co-located retail load may participate through Scheduled Service if they otherwise satisfy the applicable requirements.

Q5: With reference to Appendix E, the RFP states that National Grid will provide and install a utility owned DER Gateway at each participating facility or at a centralized aggregator dispatch location. To enable respondents to optimize their solutions and ensure seamless integration with National Grid's operational systems, could you please clarify:

- **Will National Grid publish hardware specifications, interface requirements, communication profiles, or an Approved Vendor List (AVL) for utility-provided DER Gateways?**
- **Is there a formal process by which third-party DER Gateway suppliers can pre-certify their hardware and software directly with National Grid's SCADA, DERMS, cybersecurity, or operations teams?**
- **If a respondent proposes a DER Gateway that natively supports both secure DNP3 telemetry/control and IEEE 2030.5 interoperability, would National**

Grid consider allowing the developer to deploy such a pre-integrated gateway rather than the utility supplying separate hardware?

A5: If one is needed, National Grid will source and install the utility-owned DER Gateway. General interface requirements expected of an interconnecting customer can be found in National Grid's Electric Service Bulletin (ESB) 756B under Section 7.7. Further details of interface requirements for the DER Gateway can be discussed between the selected bidder and National Grid. National Grid does not currently have a formal process to certify third-party suppliers of DER Gateways. Currently National Grid requires that if a DER Gateway is required to interface between a customer's site and the Company's SCADA network, it must be a utility-sourced and owned device.

Q6: Appendix E indicates that DER aggregations are expected to interface through a centralized utility-owned gateway connected to the aggregator's dispatch environment. To better understand the expected integration model, we would appreciate clarification on the following:

- **What communication protocol or software interface is expected between an aggregator's central dispatch platform and the utility-owned gateway?**
- **As the RFP notes that readiness for IEEE 2030.5 is viewed favorably, if an aggregator platform natively supports secure IEEE 2030.5 client/server communications, would National Grid consider direct integration between the utility DERMS/SCADA environment and the aggregator platform as an alternative architecture?**
- **How will National Grid evaluate cybersecurity controls, operational resiliency, authentication mechanisms, audit capabilities, and dispatch reliability of proposed aggregation platforms during the bid evaluation process?**

A6: Specifically for Real-Time Service proposals (Appendix E), National Grid will require that the bidder must be able to support DNP3 communication protocol at minimum but also would view the ability for the bidder to also use IEEE 2030.5 as favorable. At this time National Grid would not allow direct integration between utility DERMS/SCADA environment with a third-party aggregator platform, however the Company may consider this option in the future.

Q7: As National Grid develops a flexible resource portfolio across multiple NWA locations, we would also appreciate insight into the utility's longer-term strategy regarding DER integration technologies. Is National Grid open to establishing direct technology partnerships, framework agreements, or qualification programs with DER Gateway suppliers and DER Aggregator platform providers to standardize the integration layer across future flexibility programs?

A7: This question is outside the scope of the current solicitation. National Grid is not responding to questions regarding potential future programs, partnerships, qualification programs, or procurement opportunities through this Q&A process. Questions regarding future Non-Wires Alternative opportunities may be directed to NonWiresAlternativeSolutions@nationalgrid.com outside of this solicitation.

Q8: Can you confirm how the allowable charge window for standalone storage should be treated relative to the West Adams NWA need windows, specifically 19:00–02:00 in summer and 23:00–24:00 in winter? Since the allowable charge window (stated as 10pm-8am in RFP) overlaps the NWA need period, is charging limited to the non-overlapping hours (ie Summer 2:00-8:00)? It's our understanding that National Grid's standard charging restrictions for standalone storage are:

- **Max Charge = 50% of Nameplate power (ie 2.5 MW for a 5 MW BESS)**
- **Charge window: 10pm-8am (10 hours)**

Assuming that a West Adams contracted standalone storage system would only be allowed to charge during the 2-8am window in the summer to avoid charging during an NWA event, would National Grid allow for a max charge rate higher than the standard of 50% of nameplate power in order to allow the BESS to reach 100% SOC?

A8: National Grid has identified a data error in the RFP. For West Adams, the allowable charging window for standalone storage is **00:00 to 08:00** and the summer Value Service Window is **15:00 to 23:00**. Therefore, the charging window does not overlap with the summer Value Service Window, and charging is not limited to **02:00 to 08:00** as suggested in the question. Respondents should base their proposals on the corrected charging and service windows. Any charging configuration must remain consistent with the project's interconnection requirements and National Grid operational requirements. National Grid has updated the posted solicitation materials to reflect this correction.

Q9: Can we submit consolidated financials that are private and unaudited?

A9: Bidders should provide the financial information requested in the RFP. National Grid may request additional information during proposal evaluation to assess bidder qualifications and financial capability.

Q10: Can the BESS charge during the RFP window in between capacity needs? (If the answer to the previous is yes, can it be charged during the window if being controlled by National Grid?)

A10: Seller may operate the Asset for other purposes during the Delivery Season and within the Service Window, provided the Asset remains capable of meeting all contractual service requirements and responding to National Grid dispatch instructions.

Q11: Are we able to enter into a 15- or 20-year agreement with National Grid for an NWA? (i.e., Starting in 2030, DSUN and National Grid enter into a fixed capacity agreement for 20 years at $XX/kW-mo for a 10MW project.)

A11: Respondents may propose contract terms consistent with the identified NWA need period. Any agreement term and potential renewal would be subject to mutual agreement of the Parties. National Grid currently identifies the West Adams need period through 2033.

Q12: Why does the NWA end in 2033 for West Adams? Is there an upgrade at West Adams that is expected in 2034?

A12: The identified NWA need period for West Adams extends through 2033 based on current planning assumptions and forecasted system needs.

Q13: Can National Grid work with a developer with an IA to increase that developer's charge capacity to accommodate charging during a shortened window? (i.e., RFP impedes charge window from 22:00-02:00. Can National Grid increase the project's charge capacity so that it can full charge between 00:00-08:00)?

A13: As noted above in Q8, National Grid has identified an error in the RFP. For West Adams, the allowable charging window for standalone storage is **00:00 to 08:00**. Therefore, respondents should base their proposals on the corrected charging window rather than the shortened window described in the question. Any project-specific charging capability remains subject to the project's interconnection requirements and associated approvals.

Q14: Is National Grid going to use the BESS to participate in NYISO programs (DER-PM, etc.) during the 6-hour call window (in reference to West Adams)?

A14: National Grid does not prescribe participation in any specific NYISO market for these locations. Sellers may pursue other market opportunities, provided they

continue to satisfy all contractual NWA obligations and applicable program requirements.

Q15: Can a project submit a bid that can adjust downward once new DRV values are set? (i.e., pricing will move favorably for National Grid)

A15: Respondents should submit pricing based on assumptions available at the time of proposal submission and clearly identify any assumptions incorporated into their pricing.

Q16: The "East Pulaski Summer Need Overview" (Table 6b) shows a 4-hour Duration per Call, but the annual need breakdown (Table 6c) indicates a maximum need of 0.91 MW and 1.24 MWh in 2031. Since 0.91 MW for 4 hours would equate to 3.64 MWh, can National Grid clarify how these values relate?

A16: The Duration per Call, MW Need, and MWh Need represent different aspects of the forecasted need and are not intended to be directly multiplied together.
The 4-hour duration reflects the maximum length of a dispatch event for which resources should be available.

The MW value represents the forecasted peak load relief requirement during an event, while the MWh value represents the total energy associated with the expected load relief profile.

Because load relief requirements are expected to vary throughout an event rather than remain at the peak MW level for the full duration, the MWh value may be less than the product of the MW value and event duration.
For example, the Summer 2031 forecast of 0.91 MW and 1.24 MWh reflects a variable load relief profile that could last up to four hours but would not require 0.91 MW continuously throughout the event.

Q17: For each identified site, please expand on the driver of load growth, specifically for the residential segment.

- **Are the drivers attributable to new residential development, HVAC electrification, EV adoption, etc.?**
- **What is the per-year forecasted load growth, and what share of peak load at each substation per year is residential?**

A17: Site-specific forecasts and load growth assumptions are based on National Grid distribution planning analyses. National Grid is not providing additional customer- or class-specific load forecast data as part of this solicitation.

Q18: Does a load-limiting resource qualify as an eligible technology? Section 2.3 lists DG, storage, DR, and "other resources that can meet the identified reliability needs." Please confirm that a load-limiting power control system, which caps a home's peak demand and prevents future load growth at the home, qualifies, and under which category it would be evaluated.

A18: National Grid will consider any resource that can satisfy the applicable performance, operational, and measurement and verification requirements and address the identified reliability need. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria identified in the RFP.

Q19: Section 3.4 says "DERs co-located with load (i.e., BTM) are ineligible to provide [Real Time] service" and also "Load curtailing resources (including co-located resources) may only participate in NWA Real Time Dispatch Service under limited conditions.".

- **Is co-location for BTM resources permitted in NWA Real Time Dispatch Service?**
- **If it is not permitted, what is the reason for that (e.g. communication protocol requirements, regulatory requirements, etc.)?**

A19: For Real-Time Service, Generation Facility Assets, Energy Storage Facility Assets, and Coupled Generation and Storage Facility Assets should not have any co-located retail load. Resources with co-located retail load may

participate through Scheduled Service if they otherwise satisfy the applicable requirements.

Q20: For an aggregation of hundreds of residential sites, please confirm that a single National Grid gateway at a centralized location, connected to the aggregator's cloud dispatch system, satisfies Real Time requirements without a gateway at each premise. Is IEEE 2030.5 or OpenADR acceptable from the outset, rather than DNP3?

A20: National Grid requires that if a DER Gateway is required to interface between a customer's site and the Company's SCADA network, it must be a utility-sourced and owned device. National Grid will require that the bidder must be able to support DNP3 communication protocol at minimum but also would view the ability for the bidder to also use IEEE 2030.5 as favorable.

Q21: I have reviewed Appendix E of the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement for details on the CBL methodology.

- **How does it apply to residential participants whose peak is capped continuously rather than only during events?**
- **Will National Grid consider an alternative M&V approach for such resources, such as a comparison group, a pre-enrollment baseline, or device-level data?**

A21: Customer Baseline Load (CBL) methodologies applicable to NWA services are described in Appendix E of the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement. Under the current methodology, performance is measured relative to an established baseline, and a resource that continuously limits customer load may not demonstrate measurable event-based load reduction. National Grid is not proposing alternative M&V methodologies for this solicitation. Performance must be measured using National Grid-approved interval metering.

Q22: If RFP responses include deploying BTM technology that provides telemetry and revenue-quality meter data, will that satisfy the M&V requirements and avoid the need

to install a new standalone meter? Can revenue-grade device metering substitute for utility interval meters?

A22: All performance will be measured using National Grid-approved metering in accordance with the requirements set forth in the RFP and **Flexibility Services Agreement**. Additional metering and telemetry requirements will be reviewed with selected bidders during contracting and onboarding.

Q23: How is the 95% guarantee measured for aggregations? Is it measured per event across the whole aggregation, or per site? Are individual customer opt-outs during an event permitted if the aggregate commitment is met? How are liquidated damages calculated?

A23: Performance requirements, performance calculations, and associated Non-Performance Liquidated Damages are defined in the **Flexibility Services Agreement.** Performance is evaluated at the contracted resource level in accordance with the applicable service requirements.

Q24: Is utility-ownership of DERs available as an option? Appendix C references a Construction Service Agreement (CSA) fee alongside the ESA. Is a CSA structure available, under which National Grid would own customer-sited load-management equipment the bidder deploys? If so, how is it evaluated against an ESA?

A24: Respondents may propose structures consistent with the options identified in the RFP, including applicable ESA or CSA pricing. National Grid will evaluate proposals in accordance with the criteria identified in the RFP.

Q25: How will National Grid support customer recruitment and enrollment? Will it (*answers italicized***):**

- **provide addresses or premise counts by target feeder;** *National Grid does not share data of individual customers, and National Grid cannot provide anonymized load profiles for individual customers.*

- **co-brand or endorse bidder outreach;** National Grid will legitimize bidder outreach so customers understand this effort is coming from a vetted partner.
- **coordinate enrollment with existing National Grid customer programs in these areas;** *Any coordination requirements would be discussed with selected bidders during contract negotiations and program implementation planning.*
- **allow bidder-led enrollment to begin before contract execution?** *Respondents should assume that proposal evaluation and contract execution must be completed prior to implementation of any contracted NWA services.*

Q26: Are fuel cells which consume natural gas eligible for the RFP?

A26: Fuel cells may be proposed provided they can satisfy the applicable performance, operational, interconnection, and measurement and verification requirements and address the identified reliability need. Respondents should identify any required third-party infrastructure, fuel supply, or permitting dependencies as part of their proposal. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria identified in the RFP.

Q27: For West Adams:

a) **Can you provide an indication of how much of the $8.056M NPV benefit would remain applicable to a Summer 2030 start?**
b) **Can you also confirm the discount rate used for the published benefit NPV, so we can best evaluate proposed annual contract payments?**
c) **Published DER hosting capacity appears constrained, how will interconnection studies assess exports outside NWA dispatch periods, including exports to capture VDER (DRV and Capacity Alternative 3, specifically)?**

d) **Can bidders expect such exports to be allowed within the $500,000 we have been asked to budget, or should we assume export may be restricted to National Grid's NWA dispatch periods?**

e) **West Adams lists a 6-hour duration per call and a 20.9 MWh maximum daily need against a 10.7 MW peak. For a storage resource, will National Grid accredit the MW level the resource can hold for the full 6-hour call (energy divided by 6), or will a resource that delivers a higher MW level for 2 to 4 hours inside the 19:00–02:00 window receive partial credit?**

f) **Is the 6-hour duration a maximum, with typical calls shorter? Any projected distribution of call lengths would help with sizing.**

A27: National Grid is not providing additional details regarding the calculation assumptions underlying the published benefit NPV, including alternative NPV values for different in-service dates or the discount rate used in the calculation. Respondents should utilize the annual values and identified need information provided in the solicitation materials when developing their proposals. Bids addressing either the full need or a portion of the required hours will be considered and evaluated against the forecasted requirements and anticipated dispatch needs.

Based on bids received, exports for other services such VDER or similar revenue programs shall be evaluated during the SIR process; additional interconnection costs for bids to participate within the NWA or other revenue programs such as VDER will need to be further evaluated after submitted to the interconnection queue. Bids that address either full or partial need of the hours required will be considered. Bid responses will be evaluated against the forecasted requirements and identify the benefit provided in comparison to the bid sizing and dispatch hours anticipated to be required. Bids and dispatching shall be determined based on bids received, however, dispatches are anticipated to be a maximum of 6 hours and lower duration dispatches are anticipated.

Q28: The West Adams need grows from 4.89 MW (2028) to 10.77 MW (2033). Can a single bid propose capacity that steps up by year under one contract (for example, about 5 MW in 2028–2029 rising to about 10 MW from 2030), or should each phase be a separate bid?

A28: Yes, one proposal can show the step-up capacity over the years. This is similar to what was asked in the New Krumkill NWA from 2024 as a reference: https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/bus-partners/non-wires-alternatives/new-krumkill-rfp.pdf

Q29: Will National Grid accept a portfolio of two or more separately interconnected projects (each 5 MW or less) on different West Adams feeders as one proposal? Does the $500,000 preliminary interconnection estimate apply per point of interconnection?

A29: Respondents may propose solutions consisting of multiple Assets under one bid. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria identified in the RFP. Interconnection requirements and costs remain subject to the applicable interconnection review process.

Q30: What evidence of site control is sufficient at proposal stage (for example, an executed option or letter of intent with a landowner)?

A30: National Grid does not require a specific form of site control at the proposal stage. Respondents should provide any available information regarding site control, site acquisition plans, candidate locations, and associated assumptions and timelines as part of their proposal. Proposal maturity, including the status of site control and project development activities, may be considered during proposal evaluation.

Q31: How is bidder experience weighed for a newly formed project company whose EPC contractor and equipment supplier have deployment experience? Can team-member experience be counted?

A31: We assess experience levels of all parties involved in a proposal to aggregate an experience level to score against.

Q32: For FTM storage, will NWA Real Time Service be valued above Scheduled Service? Who bears the cost of the utility-owned DER gateway and SCADA/DNP3 integration?

A32: National Grid will evaluate proposals based on their ability to satisfy the identified reliability need and the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. The solicitation does not prescribe a preference for Real-Time Service or Scheduled Service, provided the proposed solution satisfies the applicable service requirements.

Q33: Are there known hosting-capacity limits or queued projects on feeders 36_13_87551 through 87555 that would rule out a 3–5 MW FTM interconnection?

A33: National Grid is not providing feeder-specific hosting capacity or queue assessments as part of this solicitation. Interconnection impacts, including hosting capacity, queue position, and any associated system upgrades, will be evaluated through the applicable Standardized Interconnection Requirements (SIR) process. Respondents should not assume that current system conditions or queue activity will remain unchanged throughout the solicitation and interconnection processes.

Q34: Site not yet identified: Section 3.5.4 allows a plan to obtain site control. If a proposal identifies the target location and eligible feeder(s) but not yet a specific parcel, what minimum information should be submitted in place of the site-specific Appendix B materials (site layout, maps, property interest), and by what milestone must the real-estate/land and point of interconnection be confirmed?

A34: National Grid does not require a specific project site or form of site control at the proposal stage. Respondents should provide any available information regarding candidate locations, site selection criteria, site acquisition plans, and associated assumptions and timelines as part of their proposal. Proposal maturity, including the status of site control and project development activities, may be considered during proposal evaluation.

Q35: Service after the identified need ends: For a new-build storage project serving a short need period (such as two years), is there any contractual pathway for continued compensated service after the final identified need year, such as an extension, or would continued service require a new competitive procurement? This determines whether the initial term must recover all upfront interconnection and site-development costs.

A35: National Grid currently identifies NWA needs through the need periods specified in the RFP. Any agreement term and potential renewal beyond the identified need period would be subject to mutual agreement of the Parties and applicable procurement requirements.

Q36: Evaluation of payment structures: Section 3.6 allows either a fixed yearly contract cost or an Availability Payment plus Dispatch Payment. When evaluating Availability + Dispatch bids against fixed-price bids and the Total Approximate Value, what annual number of dispatch events (or MWh) will National Grid assume: the "up to" call counts in Section 3.3, or a lower expected value?

A36: National Grid is not providing additional details regarding the evaluation assumptions used for proposal assessment. Respondents should develop proposals using the information provided in the solicitation materials. Proposals will be evaluated against the forecasted requirements and the benefit provided relative to the proposed resource sizing and dispatch capability. Bids that address either the full need or a portion of the required hours will be considered.

Q37: Does a non-exporting plug-in battery without UL 9540 listing, carrying the load of a window AC, qualify for Scheduled Service measured on the home's interval meter against its baseline?

A37: Scheduled Service resources must satisfy the applicable performance, operational, interconnection, and measurement and verification requirements identified in the solicitation materials. Performance is measured using National Grid-approved interval metering in accordance with the applicable Customer Baseline Load methodology. Eligibility of a specific technology will depend on its ability to satisfy all applicable requirements.

Q38: Do Utica's AMI meters count as "National Grid interval metering"?

A38: National Grid-owned AMI meters that provide interval usage data satisfy the National Grid interval metering requirement.

Q39: How will National Grid derate a four-hour Scheduled resource against Pleasant's 3-11pm ET window?

Bids that address either the full need or a portion of the required hours will be considered. Proposals will be evaluated against the forecasted requirements and the benefit provided relative to the proposed resource sizing and dispatch capability.

Q40: Can an NWA battery also enroll in ConnectedSolutions BYOB?

Resources may participate in other programs provided they continue to satisfy all contractual NWA obligations and applicable program requirements. Participation in other programs remains subject to the applicable program rules and eligibility requirements.

Q41: When does National Grid estimate they will select a response for award and how quickly after that do they expect a contract to be executed?

A41: Based on current estimates, National Grid would aim to award around February 2027 with contracting beginning after that.

Q42: Can National Grid provide a list of service addresses or property parcels connected to the six Pleasant feeders, or alternatively, verify whether a list of addresses we provide is served by those feeders?

A42: National Grid does not provide individual customer information, customer addresses, parcel information, or feeder-specific customer lists as part of this solicitation.

Q43: May we bid the summer need only (2028–2033) and not the 2032–2033 winter need?

A43: Respondents may propose solutions addressing all or a portion of the identified need. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria identified in the RFP.

Q44: Section 3.3 states that the maximum term would be "the contract term detailed" and the sentence appears incomplete. What is the maximum contract term for West Adams — the 6-year need period (May 2028 to October 2033)?

A44: Now using the updated West Adams information, the identified summer need extends from May 2028 through October 2033. Respondents may propose contract terms consistent with the identified need period and the requirements of the RFP and Flexibility Services Agreement: https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/bus-partners/non-wires-alternatives/nwa_flexibility_services_standard_agreement_final.pdf

Q45: If the commercial operation date is May 2029 rather than May 2028, how will the BCA value and evaluation be adjusted? Is a later start disqualifying or only lower-value?

A45: National Grid is looking for either one bid or multiple projects (including aggregations of resources) to build a portfolio to fulfill the need. A single bid must fulfill a portion of the need for at least one year but may start at any year in the term. Bids addressing either the full need or a portion of the required hours will be considered and evaluated against the forecasted requirements and anticipated dispatch needs at a lower BCA value.

Q46: Is bid security required with the proposal, and what performance security or credit support is required at contract execution under the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement?

A46: Security requirements for new-build facilities are described in the Flexibility Services Agreement, including Development Period Security and Operating Period Security requirements. Additional details are provided in Appendix F and Appendix I of the Flexibility Services Agreement.

Q47: Availability Payments are paid at the end of each calendar year. Is monthly or quarterly payment available? How are penalties applied below the 95% availability requirement?

A47: Availability Payments are made in accordance with the Flexibility Services Agreement. Performance requirements and Non-Performance Liquidated Damages are described in Appendix H of the Flexibility Services Agreement.

Q48: Please confirm that a West Adams NWA resource may also receive the VDER Value Stack (excluding LSRV), participate in NYISO DER-PM, and receive the NYSERDA Retail Energy Storage Incentive.

A48: Sellers may pursue other market opportunities provided they continue to satisfy all contractual NWA obligations and applicable program requirements. Participation in other programs remains subject to eligibility requirements and applicable tariffs. Refer to NY Program Value Stacking Matrix for additional details: https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/bus-partners/non-wires-alternatives/national-grid-ny-program-value-stacking-matrix.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions from prior NWA RFPS:

PQ1: Is it acceptable to propose an energy storage system that is larger than the identified need (e.g., a 5 MW / 20 MWh project)? If so, would the contracted NWA capacity be capped at the required need, while the remaining capacity is available for other value streams?

PA1: Yes, it is acceptable to propose an energy storage system that is larger than the identified NWA need . Yes, the contracted NWA capacity would be capped at the required need, while the remaining capacity would be available for other value streams provided this activity does not interfere with NWA obligations and complies with the project's NY-SIR interconnection agreement. Please see the NY Program Value Stacking Matrix for more information about which National Grid programs can be participated in simultaneously.

PQ2: Would National Grid consider proposals from projects that will not be operational until approximately 2028, provided they can reliably meet the need for the remaining years of the NWA period and/or under a longer contract term?

PA2: Yes, National Grid is looking for either one bid or multiple projects (including aggregations of resources) to build a portfolio to fulfill the need. A single bid must fulfill a portion of the need for at least one year but may start at any year in the term.

PQ3: After the NWA contract period ends, will the project retain standard NY-SIR interconnection rights to continue operating under VDER?

PA3: Yes. After the NWA contract ends, the project will retain its NY-SIR interconnection rights as long as it continues to comply with its NY-SIR interconnection agreement. Participation in any value stream program available at that time, such as VDER or other programs, would be subject to the program rules and eligibility requirements in effect at the time of participation.

PQ4: Is National Grid aware of whether participation in this NWA program would make a project ineligible for NYSERDA Retail Energy Storage incentives due to duplicative-compensation restrictions?

PA4: A project participating in the NWA program remains eligible for NYSERDA Retail Energy Storage incentives. Please refer to the NYSERDA Retail Storage Incentives website for more information program requirements and availability.

PQ5: Does National Grid intend to provide any support to awarded NWA projects in navigating local permitting and zoning processes (e.g., coordination with municipalities or state agencies), or should bidders assume all permitting and local jurisdictional issues must be handled solely by the developer?

PA5: It is the developers' roles and responsibility to acquire all needed permits and adhere to local jurisdictional requirements. The developer would make the determination along with any applicable town boards if/when National Grid should be involved in meetings with the community.

PQ6: What is the minimum call length?

PA6: The minimum call length or minimum run time is 2 hours.

PQ7: Could you please confirm if EV chargers are eligible to participate? I noticed that demand response aggregators are permitted, but I wanted to verify the specific asset type.

PA7: Any asset that can meet the performance and M&V requirements is eligible for these opportunities.

PQ8: Can residential addresses be shared with the vendor so we can better estimate our capacities at the feeder level?

PA8: National Grid does not share data of individual customers.

PQ9: We deploy permanent and re-deployable BESS systems, controls and switch gear for utility and commercial customers. We support FTM or BTM programs. For this particular RFP and substation, we do not yet have site control(s) established. In lieu of a Piclo / asset with costs proposal, confirming the best channel to share information on our approach.

PA9: Site control is not required to submit a bid for this RFP. However, bidders must provide a description of their planned approach for securing site control, including any assumptions, timelines, and the candidate locations they will use to identify and acquire a viable site. All bids must include cost information and must be submitted through the Piclo platform in order to be considered. For more information, please reach out to the National Grid NWA Team at Non-WiresAlternativeSolutions@nationalgrid.com.

PQ10: If a bidder proposes mobile energy storage where batteries are charged off-site and physically transported to a dedicated POI for event discharge, will the CESIR process allow for temporary, frequent connect/disconnect operations, or is permanent stationary interconnection required?

PA10: The NY-SIR/CESIR process is designed to evaluate permanent, stationary interconnections at a defined Point of Interconnection (POI). The RFP does not

contemplate temporary or frequent connect/disconnect operations associated with mobile energy storage charged off-site. Any proposed energy storage solution must have a fixed POI and comply with standard interconnection, metering, and operational requirements as determined through the CESIR process.

PQ11: If a bidder proposes "new DG paired with energy storage" where the storage is charged exclusively by an off-grid DG source and never draws utility power, does this 15:00-21:00 charging prohibition still apply?

PA11: The charging restrictions referenced in the RFP apply to energy storage systems that charge from National Grid's system. For storage proposed to be charged exclusively by on-site or off-grid distributed generation and not draw utility power, the applicability of charging restrictions will be evaluated through the standard NY-SIR/CESIR interconnection review based on the final project design and controls (any exemption from grid-charging restrictions is subject to verification through the interconnection process, and applicable operating conditions will be specified as part of that review). Bidders should clearly describe how non-grid charging will be ensured in their proposals.

PQ12: Appendix C states energy drawn from National Grid's system to charge a BESS is subject to retail electric delivery rates. If a solution never draws utility energy for charging (e.g., it is charged off-site or via off-grid DG), can National Grid confirm these delivery/demand charges do not need to be included in the proposal pricing?

PA12: If a proposed solution does not draw energy from National Grid's system for charging (e.g., it is charged off-site or exclusively via off-grid distributed generation), retail electric delivery and demand charges associated with grid charging do not need to be included in the proposal pricing. Bidders must clearly describe and support any such charging assumptions in their proposals.

PQ13: For an FTM energy storage solution that uses on-site DG exclusively for charging (drawing 0 kW from the grid) and acts strictly as an exporting facility, will the preliminary interconnection cost estimate reflect this significantly reduced grid impact compared to a traditional bi-directional BESS?

PA13: Interconnection costs and requirements will be determined through the standard NY-SIR/CESIR process based on the full technical characteristics of the proposed project. While an FTM energy storage system charged exclusively by on-site or off-grid distributed generation may reduce grid impacts associated with charging load, net export from the site may still drive interconnection upgrades or costs depending on system conditions, project size, and operating profile. Proposals that are willing and able to limit export during certain seasonal or hourly constraints may reduce system impacts and would be considered beneficial; however, any such limitations must be evaluated and approved through the CESIR and reflected in the final interconnection requirements.

PQ14: How will National Grid evaluate the environmental impact or assign Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) scoring to a solution that relies on alternative-fuel generators (e.g., HVO, propane) to charge energy storage assets on-site?

PA14: National Grid would evaluate the environmental impacts and associated BCA treatment of any solution relying on alternative-fuel generators to charge on-site energy storage assets in accordance with the New York National Grid Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Handbook[1]. There may be incremental environmental benefits and impacts that may be assessed based on the specific characteristics of the proposed solution, including the energy source used to charge storage (like solar) and its operating profile, consistent with BCA Handbook guidance.

[1] National Grid's most recent BCA handbook, version 5.0, can be found on the NY System Data Portal under the Company Reports tab. National Grid UNY (Niagara Mohawk) – BCA Handbook.pdf

PQ15: For assets with only a summer need, can National Grid guarantee that NWA dispatch events will be restricted exclusively to specific summer months (e.g., June through September), allowing mobile assets to be deployed elsewhere during the off-season?

PA15: Yes, for the locations with only a summer dispatch events are expected to occur only during the summer Delivery Season as defined in the executed Flexibility Service Form under the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement. The specific Delivery Season, Service Window, and availability requirements will be memorialized in the applicable Real-Time Service Form (Appendix C, page 51) or Scheduled Service Form (Appendix D, page 58). Assets must remain available and meet all contractual obligations for the full Delivery Season specified in the executed contract.

PQ16: To facilitate a Behind-the-Meter (BTM) load curtailment or aggregation solution on the identified feeders, can National Grid provide anonymized load profiles for the highest-capacity commercial users, or is there a utility-facilitated "opt-in" mechanism to introduce bidders to interested local commercial hosts?

PA16: National Grid cannot provide anonymized load profiles for individual commercial customers and does not offer a utility-facilitated opt-in or matchmaking mechanism. Customer identification and enrollment are the responsibility of the bidder or aggregator, subject to customer consent and privacy requirements. Bidders may use publicly available feeder-level information on the National Grid New York System Data Portal to support market analysis.

PQ17: The RFP outlines a 95% guaranteed performance availability requirement and references "Non Performance Liquidated Damages per event". Can National Grid provide the specific formula, fee schedule, or penalty cap used to calculate these damages if a Scheduled Service resource cannot fully dispatch its committed MW capacity during an event?

PA17: Yes, the performance methodology and associated Non-Performance Liquidated Damages (LDs) applicable to Scheduled Service resources are defined in the NY Flexibility Services Standard Agreement. The performance calculation framework is set forth in Appendix B – Service Terms (Article 13: Performance), which describes how Scheduled Service performance factors are calculated and adjusted (see pages 45–47). The applicable LD structure, including how under-performance is monetized and any limits or caps, is detailed in Appendix H – Non-Performance Liquidated Damages (see page 90). Bidders should refer to these sections of the Agreement for the full formula and terms governing performance and damages.

PQ18: How does National Grid's rate structure allow a battery to earn revenue when it is not being called for a demand event (e.g. overnight charging, profiting off day-time discharge)?

PA18: If an asset is contracted for a National Grid Non-Wires Alternative (NWA), batteries will receive compensation for any flexibility services they provide. The compensation amount may vary based on location, dispatch frequency, capacity (MW), and associated value. When the asset is not actively serving a National Grid NWA requirement, it will not receive payment from National Grid. Assets can still participate in markets outside of NWA commitments, provided this does not interfere with their NWA performance. See NY Program Value Stacking Matrix for more details. Assets are still required to operate in full compliance with the terms and conditions outlined in their Interconnection Services Agreement (ISA).

PQ19: Has there been any further discussion at National Grid about fast-tracking ESS interconnection applications on the circuits identified in the RFP?

PA19: Any NWA projects will need to adhere to the DG Interconnection Process, and therefore no special treatment or "fast tracking" is possible. Bidders proposing energy storage solutions should account for interconnection-study operating

constraints, as charging and discharging may be limited by requirements noted in the project's SIR Appendix K. At this time, there is no ARI in New York.