

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Section 41006(a)(2): U.S. Tidal Energy Advancement Webinar – Text Version

Below is the text version of the “[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Section 41006\(a\)\(2\): U.S. Tidal Energy Advancement](#)” webinar, presented by the Water Power Technologies Office of the U.S. Department of Energy in May 2023.

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Yana Shininger:

Presentation cover slide:

All right, thank-you for joining. We are going to be – this is going to be an informational FOA webinar for U.S. Tidal Energy Advancements. Are you able to see my screen? ... Elaine, are you able to confirm? Oh. Thank-you.

Respondent:

We can see it.

Yana Shininger:

Excellent, all right. Well, thank-you, everybody. It's a little bit daunting because I can't see anybody and I'm trying to share my screen and get right to it. So thank-you, everybody, for joining today. We are very excited to be having this informational webinar for our FOA. This is the full webinar for Water Power Technologies Office for this FOA, U.S. Tidal Energy Advancements. And the email that you could see on our screen is the email.com we actually use for all of the questions and answers in our official FOA webinar process. So before we begin and start talking about some of the inner workings of the FOA and what's in it, I just want to draw your attention to this email, as it does represent our official mailbox, and I want to remind you, you know, not to contact EERE individuals including myself with any questions and instead directly email this mailbox. All of the questions that are being received at the mailbox normally get processed within three business days and the official answers get posted in EERE eXCHANGE. And I'll go over that a little bit as well later if you're not familiar with the process. If – just letting you know that we are not going to have a live Q&A session during this webinar. Instead we are going – you know, we welcome you to either email this email box for all the questions and answers to be posted within the next three days on EERE eXCHANGE. Or if you wish to go with the flow and ask questions as you go through this webinar, you are welcome to put your question into the chat box and we will still enter it into our official Q&A process and post the answers on EERE eXCHANGE. So I'll leave that up to you and get started.

First presentation slide:

To clarify, there's going to be no new information other than what is already provided in the FOA discussed during this webinar, so there are technically no particular advantages or disadvantages to the application evaluation process with respect to your participation on this webinar today, and your participation is completely voluntary.

Next slide:

We want to make sure that you read the funding opportunity announcements (FOA) thoroughly and adhere to the data submission requirements. So this presentation is going to summarize some of the contents of the FOA, not all the contents of the FOA. You know already that the FOA are very rewards so we're going to try to cover as much as we can and just point you in the right direction for looking for

that information. If there are any inconsistencies between the FOA and the presentation, or any statements from DOE personnel, myself included, the FOA is the controlling document. So applicants should rely on the FOA language and seek clarification by submitting the question to other email box on the screen.

Next slide:

Here's the quick at-a-glance of key dates for Topic Area 1. The FOA has been issued, so the next key dates to keep in mind is going to be during June; June 5 is when we're expecting concept papers. And of course, full applications in July 25. And replies to review comments on September 15. We're hoping that we will have notifications by November, and we are really looking forward to award negotiations following that.

Next slide:

Please note that Topic Area 2 has a different timeline. This is somewhat unique to this FOA, so I just want to make sure I draw as much of your attention to this as possible. Of course, the issue dates are still the same, but the deadline submissions – you know, submission deadlines are different for concept papers, full applications, for apply to reviewer comments, selections, and award negotiations, as well. And all of these dates are on the first page of the FOA.

Next slide:

During this webinar I'm going to try to go through as much of the FOA description, topic areas. And I have both the technical leads from both topic areas on the call as well, so they'll be able to go over specifics from the topic areas. And then we'll have a little bit more information on award information, statement of substantial movement, cost-share information, timeline, again, how to submit concept papers, how to submit full applications, what does our merit review and selection process look like, and a note about our pre-selection interviews, and finally our registration requirements. And again, all of that information is in the FOA. You should be able to follow along especially if you have a copy of the FOA in front of you. If you do, I highly encourage you to be able to just search in the FOA document for any of the keywords that you see on the screen, or any section numbers that you see on the screen, and if you're having trouble finding, locating, any of that information send us an email.

Next slide:

And with that, the Water Power Technologies Office is issuing the funding opportunity, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: U.S. Tidal Energy Advancements, to significantly advance the state of tidal and/or current technologies in the U.S. Awards made under the FOA will be funded with funds appropriated in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or for short, BIL. Through this FOA we are investing 35 million to fund this first large-scale investment for the development of a pilot tidal and/or current research, development and demonstration site in the U.S. with the aim to position tidal and/or current energy generation as a key clean energy contributor for net-zero emissions policy or while creating good jobs. We are also providing an additional 10 million dollars that will be invested in a community lab tidal and/or current energy project where balancing community energy priority and technology innovation will accelerate tidal and current energy technologies for the generation of power to promote the resilience and economic development of coastal communities.

Next slide:

There are a number of FOA objectives. We would like to fund projects that will develop a pilot tidal and/or current energy site, focus on the technology and supply chain development, system verification

and validation, and work with states, local, tribal, and community partners to solve engineering, regulatory, and innovation challenges associated with advancement of tidal and/or current technologies in the U.S. So through this funding, projects will address time and costs associated with permitting and licensing and other regulatory requirements, pre- and post-deployment environmental characterization, and the monitoring needed to understand and minimize environmental impacts. Additionally, we're offering this FOA for community-scale tidal and/or current device deployment planning and development. And a key programmatic goal here is to develop a pipeline of opportunities for tidal and/or current energy development that will broadly benefit the advancement of those industries while also solving the energy challenges of remote coastal and island communities. So this FOA will advance this objective by demonstrating both process and technology solution to meet community needs and priorities.

Next slide:

This table here provides an overview of the topic areas that are included in this FOA, including in terms of funding, award duration, cost-share and anticipated number of awards. This information can be found in the Section II.A.i and III.B of the FOA document. So in a coming slides – oops, sorry about that – in the coming slides we'll both provide an overview of the technical aspects of each topic area. And with that, for the next couple of slides I'm going to pass the speaker role. Hopefully Elaine and Simon, you are able to just unmute yourself and speak. So I'm going to pass the speaker roles for topic areas, technically, Elaine Buck for the Topic Area 1 and Simon Gore for Topic Area 2. Elaine?

Elaine Buck:

Next slide:

Thank-you, Yana. Hi, everybody. I'm really glad that you're joining us here. Looks like we've got 85 attendees, so that's really fantastic. I'm the technical lead for Topic Area 1. And this project has been divided up into five phases. The first three years cover Phase 1 and 2, and they are the development of the preliminary tidal and/or current site and the detailed site characterization activities. This is to ensure that a FERC application is submitted and the site has been granted a permit in order to be further developed. In Phase 3, the site mobilization activities happen. And these activities are centered around the onshore build-out of the site. That includes any – if it's a grid-connected project, any development of an electrical facility. This also includes significant outreach with the stakeholders that are in the area, including the development of supply chain and attracting supply chain in and around the site. Phase 3, 4, and 5 is the site mobilization and commissioning and integration of the technology. So fundamental and key to this project is that we have a site developer who is working with a technology developer, and the technology is going to be integrated into the site during these last phases. The final phase is a shorter phase. It is around the testing and operations of the technology. And that has about a three-month testing window, and then it goes into operations. The goal is that this project is not decommissioned. This topic area project is not decommissioned at the end of Phase 5. There is a very sustainable business model and commercialization development activity that happens during and after this Phase 5, so that we can actually continue the site into further development towards commercialization. So I'm going to pass it over to Simon, who's going to cover Topic Area 2.

Simon Gore:

Next slide:

Thanks, Elaine, and welcome, everyone. I'm Sam Gore and I'm helping to lead the technical area Topic Area 2, which is the community-led tidal and/or current energy planning and project execution topic. As you can see, what's novel to some degree is that community-led piece, and the one thing just to note is that we expect at some point that the overall project will be led by a community-based organization, a

tribe or tribal government, or a local municipal government entity. One thing to emphasize there is that can affect the overall funding, which is 10 million federal funds. That can affect that zero percent cost-share requirements. So we see that as particularly advantage to developing the R&D topic, but there is an allowable 20 percent cost here as well for for-profit organizations. And then just to follow on what Elaine mentioned, we do have four phases that this project is technically broken up into. The first phase is really focused on preliminary desktop analyzes, team formation, and thinking through, you know, what the community-led tidal or current energy project will look like. Phases 2, 3, and 4 are really on technology development and building towards a technology demonstration. And then that final phase beyond the actual demonstration is thinking about decommissioning and the future of that community energy transition and how either a tidal and/or current energy project will fit within those community priorities. With that, I'll hand it back to you, Yana.

Yana Shininger:

Next slide:

Thank-you, Elaine and Simon. We wanted to draw your attention to applications specifically not of interest, and that's how you can easily find out in the FOA document. Those are the applications that will be considered not responsive under this FOA submission. So please make sure to review that before submitting an application. And those types of publications are listed here. So applications that fall outside of the technical parameters that we set in the Section I.A and I.B of the FOA of specifically for each topic area. Applications that are not based on sound scientific principles. And more specifically for Topic Area 1, applications where the site developer or project management role is assigned to the technology developer. Those roles we see as different roles that need to be before applying. Topic area applications proposing work in federal waters, also for Topic Area 1. And Topic Area 1, single applications proposing multiple geographically different sites. And finally for technology readiness levels, we want to make sure that the applications are at or above TR level 7. So applications proposing work with TR level 6 will not be accepted. For Topic Area 2, applications that are proposing TRL less than 6 and applications where the community represents a project manager role is assigned to the technology developer.

Next slide:

Teaming partner list. This is something that we were, we actually kicked off during the *[inaudible]* and we were happy to see a lot of entries. But we want to make sure that, you know, that up until, you know, you submit the applications, the teaming partner list is still active and you are welcome to – anybody's welcome to – submit their information to the list. So to do that, the teaming partner list is available on EERE eXCHANGE website. And any organization that wants to be included in this list can submit a request within Exchange. It's all electronic, thankfully. And something new from previous years, where you had to send us an email. Now it's all electronic and in EERE eXCHANGE. And you would have to type in your own, you know, information, as far as name or organization, name, organization type, topic areas that you would like to – are you interested in, backgrounds and capabilities of your team, website, contact information, and whatnot. So by submitting this information, you consent to publication of all above reference information. And I want to also note that we facilitate this teaming partner list. We do not endorse or otherwise evaluate the qualifications of entities that self-identify themselves to the placement on the teaming partner list, but it allows those looking for partners to have a list to consult.

Next slide:

EERE expects to make approximately 45 million of federal funding available for new awards into this FOA, subject to availability of appropriated funds. And the average award amount is anticipated to range

anywhere between 500 thousand dollars to 32 million. EERE intends to fund cooperative agreements under this FOA, but it might also, you know – could also be grants, work authorization interagency agreements. Cooperative agreements are different from grants by means of that they include a substantial involvement, which I'm going to discuss next.

Next slide:

So what is substantial involvement, and what are cooperative agreements? So DOE has substantial involvement in work performed under awards made as a result of this FOA, and it does mean that we're not limiting DOE's involvement to administrative requirements of the award. Instead, DOE has substantial involvement in the direction and redirection of the technical aspects of the project as a whole. And substantial involvement includes but is not limited to sharing their responsibility with the recipient for management, control, direction, and performance of their projects. DOE can intervene in the conduct of performance of work under the awards for programmatic reasons, and intervention may be interruption or modification of the conduct of performance of project activity. DOE may also redirect or discontinue funding of the project based on the outcomes of DOE's evaluation of the project at go/no-go decision points. And of course, DOE participates in major project decision-making processes. So as you go through the FOA, pay special attention to down-select criteria, go/no-go criteria. Those are all of the points where substantial involvement really matters.

Next slide:

Cost-sharing requirements. As the tech leads have already mentioned, topic areas here have cost-share of 20 percent, both of them, with exception that Topic Area 2 is actually eligible for a cost-share waiver for domestic institutions of higher education, nonprofit entities, FFRDC, state, local, and tribal government entities.

Next slide:

How can that cost-share be contributed during the project? It must be specified in the project budget, what used to be through application. It must be verifiable from the prime recipient's records, necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project. So if you're selected for award negotiations, every cost-share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the contracting officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures can be incurred. And as a side note, vendors and contractors may not provide cost-share. Any personal donations of goods and services is considered a discount and therefore is not allowable as cost-share.

Next slide:

Allowable cost share must be verifiable in your full application. And on the screen we see some of the applicable federal cost principles that you can research into.

Next slide:

Some of those examples of allowable cost share is for example cash contributions. That cost-share can be provided by prime recipients, subrecipients, or a third party but may not be provided by vendors and contractors. And there's also in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions can include but they're not limited to the donation of volunteer time or the donation of space or use of equipment. There is a lot more information on the subject under the cost-share appendix of the FOA.

Next slide:

These are some examples of unallowable cost-share, as well. You may not use the following sources to meet your cost-share application. And you know, this is not a comprehensive list. But revenues and

royalties from the prospective operation of an activity beyond the project period. Proceeds from the prospective sale of an asset of an activity. Federal funding or property expenditures reimbursed under a separate federal technologies office. Same cash or in-kind contribution for more than one project or program. And of course, as I mentioned before, vendor or contract contributions.

Next slide:

You, as recipients, must provide documentation of all the cost-share contribution incrementally over the life of the award. The cumulative cost-share percentage provided on each invoice must reflect at a minimum the cost-sharing percentage that is negotiated into the award. So in limited circumstances and where it is in the government's interest, the EERE contracting officer may approve a request by the prime recipient to meet the cost-share requirements in a less frequent basis, not on an invoiced basis but on a monthly or quarterly basis. So there is a Section III.B.6 of the FOA where you can find more information on that.

Next slide:

Here's the FOA timeline again, but it's a little bit more visual. And what you'll be able to gauge from here is everything in green is all of the, you know, the information that is applicable to you. These are external processes. And blue up top are our internal processes that are in direct support of this evaluation selection process. So we definitely review concept papers once we receive them, and we post encourage or discourage notifications historically after. And then you're definitely going to be able to use that for your full applications. As a note, technically whether or not you receive encourage or discourage notification from us on the concept paper, it's not going to prevent you from submitting a full application. But sometimes an encourage and discourage application may well encourage you to submit it or discourage you based on the discouraged notification, which we normally give because your concept paper may not have the information that seems obvious to us that your concept fits within the FOA, or perhaps your concept paper tells us that your application will be in that application "not of interest" sphere. So we review them and we provide you with them. Of course, how you use those notifications, this is going to be up to you. For Topic error 2 also of course, different dates but same process.

Next slide:

Concept papers. You – all the applicants must submit the concept paper in order to be able to submit a full application. You can – your concept paper must be limited to a single concept or technology. So you may submit more than one concept paper and full application to the FOA provided that each application describes a unique scientifically distinct project and provided that eligible concept paper was submitted in order to submit an application. You can find a little bit more information in that Section IV.C on the page limits. And I want to draw your attention to the fact that there are content requirements for concept papers. Those are different from full applications, and those are different from replies to reviewer comments. So please pay special attention to form and content requirements of each of your submissions and make sure that it's in line with what the FOA states. Of course, you know, concept papers must be submitted in time, you know, with the key dates posted on the screen. And while we will provide you either encourage or discourage notification, that notification might also include some general comments provided from our reviewers of why we're giving you the notification that you'll be given.

Next slide:

With that, I'm going to turn it back over to Elaine and Simon to go over some of the concept paper review criteria. Thank-you, Elaine.

Elaine Buck:

No problem; thanks, Yana. OK, so this is going to be a discussion on what we're going to be looking at in the concept paper. So we do want to see a very clear description of the proposed site. And if you have already identified the technology that would be integrated into the site, a description of that technology. The overall aim here is to understand the site in terms of its resource and any preliminary permitting that may have been done on the site, or if it is a completely new site and you're not close yet to really submitting a full application into FERG. How the site and technology integration will happen. So we understand that each of the sites are going to be unique and different, and we do want to understand how the technology will be fully integrated into the site. The technology or project will advance the current state of the art is also an important piece of the project. And this could be if it's a technology TRL 7 and then there would be a scaling up, maybe additional devices that would be introduced after the end of the project. That would be part of the commercialization expansion piece. We do want to understand the risks and challenges of the site in terms of regulatory technology and any financial aspects of the proposal. So that includes any of the mitigation strategies that the project developer is going to be looking at. We also want to understand the impact that the EERE funding and the proposed project would have on all the relevant field and applications. So that's really for the site itself. We also want a description of the community and the labor engagement in the project. So it's being – it's a clear description of who your stakeholders are and how the applicant's qualifications, experience, capabilities, and any other resources necessary to complete the proposed project we'll be looking for. If the proposed work if successful, could clearly meet the objectives that has been stated in the FOA and that Yana went on previously. So I'll hand it over to Simon, who'll go over Topic Area 2.

Simon Gore:

Next slide:

Thanks, Elaine. So just to differentiate Topic Area 2, we have two criterion, and criterion 1 is the one that holds more weight. It's 60 percent of the overall concept paper for versus 40 percent for number 2. And the two key things to know there is one, we're really looking at sort of the robustness of the community-led tidal and/or current development process, and thinking about how that's effectively integrated within the community representation, community priorities, with a technology development and testing R&D process. And then also looking at the proposed technology site, process, or project and how that is essentially unique and innovative or how that advances the current state of the art. So those are the two criterion under 1. And similar to the ones that just listed for TA1, we have a criterion looking at risks and challenges, whether that's technical, regulatory, or financial, as well as understanding the impact of EERE funding. We have a description of community and labor engagement in the project. The team qualifications, experience, and capabilities. as well as finally how the proposed work will clearly meet the objections of the FOA and accomplish EERE goals. Thanks. Thanks, everyone, and back to you, Yana.

Yana Shininger:

Next slide:

Full applications. There is a list of everything that we expect to see in full applications. And of course, this list is in the FOA. Keep through your attention to full applications for the most part are the same as far as what their – what that consists of, and that's your technical volume and your application to federal assistance and budget justification and whatnot. The difference here with the maybe community benefits plan for each topic area. There are some slight variations between them due to the nature of the topic areas, the technical work. So as you're going through what is expected from full applications, please take a look at that, as well. And back to Elaine and Simon for technical volume content.

Elaine Buck:

Next slide:

OK, so it's pretty self-explanatory here, but this is the suggested percentage of the technical volume. So 10 percent on the project overview. Site development description impact is 45 percent. The work plan 25 percent. And the technical qualifications and resources 20 percent. And this is for the technical component of the full application for Topic Area 1. Simon, over to you.

Simon Gore:

Next slide:

Yeah, and for Topic Area 2, it follows a similar format. I would recommend folks really look at some of the items of the project development plan, because that is that is different to standard EERE FOAs. But generally it's a cover page, quick description of the project, the components of the project development plan that contain things like the community-led plan, etc., the work plan, as well as the technical qualifications and resources. And back to you, Yana.

Yana Shininger:

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Thank-you. The full application eligibility requirements. So as we previously pointed out, applicants must submit full applications by the right date for both topic areas. And we then conduct the eligibility review. And full applications will be, again, eligible if – here's a list on the screen – if they're an eligible entity that's described in Section III.A of the FOA, if you submit a concept paper, if there's cost-share requirements that is satisfied per Section III of the FOA, and this full application is compliant with the Section IIC of the FOA, and of course if the project is responsive through the FOA technical information for each – for the topic area that it is submitted under. And of course, provided that full application meet any other eligibility requirements listed in the Section III of the FOA.

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So who is eligible to apply? Please note that nonprofit organizations, they are eligible to apply in fact and you know in a Topic Area 2. They're also eligible for a waiver for cost-share. Institutions of higher education, for-profit entities, and state and local government entities, and Indian tribes are also eligible to apply. Our DOE FFRDCs are not eligible to apply as either prime, subrecipient – or some prime recipient or subrecipients. Federal agencies other than DOE are eligible to participate as subrecipients but are not eligible to apply as a prime recipient. Entities that are banned from doing business with the U.S. government such as entities who are suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in federal programs are not eligible. Nonprofit organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that are engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995 are not eligible to apply for funding.

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I mentioned this before, but it's worth drawing your attention to this one more time. If an applicant would like to submit more than one concept paper and full application to the FOA, they're allowed to provided that each application describes a unique, scientifically distinct project and provided that an eligible concept paper was submitted for each of the full applications.

Next slide:

So what does our merit review and selection process look like for full applications? It is very *[inaudible]*. We pride ourselves in our process by which, you know, which consists of multiple phases and includes,

you know, eligibility review and a very thorough technical review. All technical reviews are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the FOA, and ultimately it's the selection official that considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors – I'll go over them in a few minutes – and makes the selection decisions then. Over back to Elaine and Simon for more full application criteria applications.

Elaine Buck:

Next slide:

OK, so for Topic Area 1, the emphasis is going to be on the site implementation and market transformation plans. We want to have a very clear description on the demonstration approach, your work plan, and the statement of objectives for the project. We want – and we stepped it out pretty clearly in the FOA, so you can follow along in terms of the expectations. We do want a clear identification of the technical risks and the mitigations on how you will manage those throughout the project. We have also identified some metrics, initial metrics, for social engagement and economic engagement. We also want to see a site market transformation plan. I believe I called it previously a commercialization plan. But this is actually how you're going to move the site from the pilot for expansion for a commercial site at the end of the Phase 5. And then the industry adoption plan is going to be an important component of this 50 percent. On the technical side, we have 20 percent. It's the technical merit and innovation around the technology that will be integrated into the site. And of course, the project management and how it's being managed overall by the site developer. And 10 percent around the site team and their resources. And then of course, the community benefits plan. And this is 20 percent. It is quite high. These are requirements that are being driven by the BIL funding, and they're around the community and labor engagement; job quality and workforce continuity; diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; and Justice 40 initiatives. So Simon, you're up next.

Simon Gore:

Next slide:

Thanks, Elaine. For Topic Area 2, that first criterion is the main focus for the full applications. I'm looking at the strength or robustness of the community-led tidal and/or current development plan, looking at different mechanisms of community representation, as well as how the project maybe fits within community energy transition priorities, etc. Topic 2 is really focus – criterion 2 is looking at the technical innovation merit. So it's both the risk of the project but also looking at how a project might scale or be replicable, and as well as looking at how that project from the technical baseline might fit or meet the energy transition priorities in communities. Now we also have a standard focus on project management. So looking at the work plan, the overall approach, the statement of project objectives specific to the project risk, not the technical risk but the overall project, as well as the defined baseline metrics and deliverables for the project. And then finally, similar to Topic 1, there is a community benefits plan. It is slightly different towards in the BIL requirements for Topic 1. This is known as the R&D path under the BIL requirements. And so the three major areas are DEIA, looking in energy equity, and then looking at workforce implications. And with that, I'll hand it back to Yana.

Yana Shininger:

Next slide:

Thank-you. Talk about replies to reviewer comments. In our process, once our reviewers have had a chance to review your applications, there is a brief moment of them providing possible – us providing you with their raw comments. And while you are by no means required to submit a reply – it's optional – you could do so. And those replies are considered in the selection evaluation process of ours. And the reasons may be different, something that, you know, application, you know, was – maybe – been made

clear and reviewers might clarify something. And in those, you know, in the comments it is your opportunity to kind of clarify. This is not an opportunity for you to rewrite your application or address some of the weaker points, but it is definitely an opportunity for you to point out if any of the information that was missed, where to find it and whatnot, and if something was somehow misunderstood to provide clarification.

Next slide:

Concept form requirements. Like I mentioned before, they also are different from all the other submissions that, you know, up to this point you will have submitted. So please make sure that you familiarize yourself with – so the page limit and what is allowed to be included in the reply to reviewer comments. Text: You're limited to two pages max, you know, and you can pick and choose which reviewer comments you are responding to or not, or how are you supplementing your full application. And then there is an optional one-page maximum of being able to provide maybe text, graphs, charts, or any other data to provide some of those responses to reviewers.

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Pre-selection interviews. And this is maybe somewhat slightly different from some of the FOAs, that they have – we don't normally have for pre-selection interviews. And in this particular FOA, we may invite one or more applicants to participate in pre-selection interviews. And please know that all of the interviews will be conducted in exactly the same format. EERE will not reimburse applicants for travel or any other expenses related to the pre-selection interviews, nor will those costs be eligible for reimbursement of the pre-work cost. And participation of pre-selection interviews with EERE does not signify that applicants have been selected for the award negotiations.

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Selection factors. Selection official might consider the merit review recommendations from the reviewers, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available when they are – when the selection official is making selections for this FOA.

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Here is a list of program policy factors. And I won't read everything, but there are some program factors that you may be familiar with. So if you will have ever applied for DOE, refer again but please make sure to read them again, because a lot of them have changed and there's definitely some new ones. So I'll leave that up to you.

Next slide:

And registration requirements. To apply for this FOA, there is a lot that you as a, you know, potentially a new applicant must do in order to be able to submit a concept paper or full application. There is a way of submitting applications, you know, through eXCHANGE, but in order to be able to submit your application through eXCHANGE you have to have a lot of other registration requirements met. We do have all this information on the FOA. Some of the registration requirements on the screen you can see have different websites. Please know that each one of those websites has its own help desk, which we encourage you to contact if you have any issues. And please make sure that you start very early, because some of these processes do take quite a bit of time. So don't wait until the time to submit, you know, a concept paper, to make sure that your organization has been registered in all of the places that you need to be registered to submit an application.

Next slide:

So all required submissions must come through EERE eXCHANGE. We will not review or consider applications submitted through any other means. So please follow the submission requirements outlined in the FOA. There is an exchange.eere.gov website on the screen, and also there is a manual that you can read that could help you understand exactly what it takes to submit it to eXCHANGE.

Next slide:

Some of the submission points. You know, make sure that the entry is in eXCHANGE and, you know, then make sure everything is correct. We strongly encourage you to submit a couple of days before the final deadline for a full upload of application documents. You can always change them, you know, maybe beforehand if something changed, but it really can save you quite a bit of time. Make sure you hit the submit button. We wouldn't want to see all the work that you put into this and not be able to submit your application. For your records, please print out the EERE eXCHANGE page at each step. And it contains the application's control number by which you'll be able to track your applications process or evaluation selection process.

Next slide:

Applicants point of contact. You must designate primary and backup points of contact in the EERE eXCHANGE, and those are the contacts that EERE will communicate with to conduct award negotiations. And of course, it's very important that you be responsive during the award negotiation phase and meet negotiation headlines. Otherwise, it may result in cancellation of further award negotiation and decision selection.

Next slide:

Again, going – coming back to how do you have questions answered about the FOA. I am sharing my screen, but I did see quite a few questions in the chat box for which I thank-you very much. If you have any other questions, please email us directly at MarineEnergyFOA@ee.doe.gov. All Q&A related to this FOA will be posted on EERE eXCHANGE within three business days, including the ones that you entered into chat today. Make sure you select a specific FOA number in order to view the Q&As that are relevant to this FOA. If you have any problems logging into EERE eXCHANGE, we want to make sure that you reach out to their own support. And their email for their support help desk is also on the screen right here. And include FOA name and number in subject line, as well.

Thank-you very much. This concludes our webinar. I thank you for your time, and I want to make sure that I say that one more time, send us email with your questions. We will answer them within three business days. And if there is any clarifications that you need, please email us. Thank-you very much. Have a great rest of your day, and we thank-you for the interest in this FOA. We're all very, very excited at the Water Power Technologies Office that this FOA is out on the street and there are interested applicants working through their applications already. Thank-you. Bye.