

DE-FOA-0003220: Request for Information: Transmission System Interconnection Roadmap Draft

DATE: November 21, 2023
SUBJECT: Request for Information (RFI)

Description

This request for information (RFI) solicits feedback on a draft Transmission System Interconnection Roadmap prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy's Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X) program. This roadmap covers interconnection solutions for the transmission system/bulk power system only. Feedback from interconnection stakeholders regarding the Roadmap's content (e.g., challenges, solution sets and key actions) will ensure the final version provides a comprehensive set of strategies to improve the interconnection process. Interconnection stakeholders include, but are not limited to, utilities, grid operators, grid reliability organizations, Tribal governments and utilities, Federal and state regulators, state and local governments, clean energy developers, energy justice groups, nonprofits, and trade associations. [Read the draft i2X Transmission System Interconnection Roadmap.](#)

Background

The electric grid is transforming rapidly, with an increasing number of interconnection requests for clean energy resources straining the existing processes and paradigms for grid interconnection. Throughout the United States, queue times to interconnect clean energy projects have been rising, delaying the deployment of new resources to the transmission grid.¹ To address these challenges, the U.S. Department of Energy launched the [Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange \(i2X\)](#) program in June 2022 to enable simpler, faster, and fairer interconnection of clean energy resources while enhancing the reliability, resilience, and security of the electric grid. One of the core activities of i2X is to formulate a practical roadmap for interconnection based on stakeholder input. i2X convened diverse interconnection stakeholders through a [series of virtual public meetings](#) that covered key issues, including cost allocation, queue management, data transparency, equity and energy justice, workforce, grid engineering practices, and EV charging. During these meetings, the i2X team facilitated open discussions to identify challenges, knowledge gaps, practical short-term solutions, and potential paradigm-shifting ideas to improve U.S. interconnection processes. This roadmap is, in part, informed by these meetings, and is a guide for interconnection innovation for the full range of interconnection stakeholders.

¹ Queued Up: Characteristics of Power Plants Seeking Transmission Interconnection: <https://emp.lbl.gov/queues>

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. EERE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. EERE may or may not issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.

Purpose

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from interconnection stakeholders on the challenges and solutions outlined in the draft Transmission System Interconnection Roadmap. It is intended to serve as a practical guide for bulk power system interconnection stakeholders to evaluate and implement readily available solutions for today's generator interconnection challenges, and to continue innovation in the coming years. This will also help the U.S. electricity system meet decarbonization goals. The i2X team is especially interested in feedback on the feasibility of implementing these solutions in the proposed timelines and in any important challenges, solutions, or topic areas that are not identified.

Disclaimer and Important Notes

This RFI is not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA); therefore, EERE is not accepting applications at this time. EERE may issue a FOA in the future based on or related to the content and responses to this RFI; however, EERE may also elect not to issue a FOA. There is no guarantee that a FOA will be issued as a result of this RFI. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to potential applicants if EERE chooses to issue a FOA regarding the subject matter. Final details, including the anticipated award size, quantity, and timing of EERE funded awards, will be subject to Congressional appropriations and direction.

Any information obtained as a result of this RFI is intended to be used by the Government on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. EERE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies for the identified materials of interest that are the subject of this request. EERE will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that EERE is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind EERE to any further actions related to this topic.

Confidential Business Information

Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email, postal mail, or hand delivery two well-marked copies: one copy of the document marked "confidential" including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked "non-confidential" with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email or on a CD, if feasible. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. EERE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. EERE may or may not issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.

Evaluation and Administration by Federal and Non-Federal Personnel

Federal employees are subject to the non-disclosure requirements of a criminal statute, the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC 1905. The Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative activities. The respondents, by submitting their response, consent to EERE providing their response to non-Federal parties. Non-Federal parties given access to responses must be subject to an appropriate obligation of confidentiality prior to being given the access. Submissions may be reviewed by support contractors and private consultants.

Request for Information Categories and Questions

Part 1: Respondent Type

1. What type of entity do you represent (e.g., utility, grid operator, energy project developer, state or local government, energy justice advocacy group, trade association, regulator, etc.)?
2. What is your organization's involvement and interest in interconnection to the electricity distribution systems, transmission system, or both?

Part 2: Feedback on the Draft Interconnection Roadmap

1. Please provide feedback on the purpose of the roadmap. Is it missing any concepts?
2. Please provide feedback on the objectives and goals of the roadmap. Are there missing elements? Are the most urgent interconnection needs and potential solutions addressed? What additional recommendations should be considered?
3. Does the roadmap adequately address the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) aspects of interconnection? Please share which aspects of DEI are not adequately highlighted.
4. What are the most important solutions and key activities identified in the roadmap? Which solutions and key activities should be prioritized (e.g., short-term, medium-term)? What, if anything, is missing in the proposed solutions or key actions?
5. What potential barriers do you foresee in executing the solutions, and how significant are they?
6. Please address whether stakeholders' activities, roles, and challenges are sufficiently represented.
7. As a visioning exercise for 2035, please suggest desired qualities of future interconnection services using quantitative measures and their values of success (e.g., Time from interconnection request to agreement is less than four months in 2035).
8. Does the roadmap introduce sufficient out-of-the-box ideas may inspire fundamental changes to current interconnection services or replace interconnection queues? If not, what suggestions do you have for additional ideas for DOE to consider?

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. EERE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. EERE may or may not issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.

Request for Information Response Guidelines

Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to i2x@ee.doe.gov no later than 5:00pm (ET) on **December 1, 2023**. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) attachment to the email, and no more than 15 pages in length, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Only electronic responses will be accepted.

Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic if applicable. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

EERE will not respond to individual submissions or publish publicly a compendium of responses. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their response to this RFI:

- Company / institution name;
- Company / institution contact;
- Contact's address, phone number, and e-mail address.

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. EERE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. EERE may or may not issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.