

Response to Stakeholder Feedback

Charles River Associates' Role as the Independent Third-Party Administrator and RFP Manager

A. What are the specific tasks that Charles River Associates ("CRA") will take on in these RFP processes? What tasks will Duke Energy Indiana ("DEI") be responsible for?

As the Independent Third-Party Administrator, CRA works with DEI to define the RFP process objectives and requirements and to prepare RFP documentation. CRA will facilitate the RFP processes, including managing stakeholder and bidder/respondent communication, marketing the RFPs, reviewing proposals to ensure they conform to all RFP requirements, and independently evaluating bids according to pre-specified criteria. These criteria are developed jointly by DEI and CRA and are similar to the criteria used in the 2022 All-Source RFPs.

DEI is responsible for providing capacity targets by MISO plan year for the RFP processes based on DEI's Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP"). Other requirements and preferred specifications for bids in the RFP are developed jointly by DEI and CRA. DEI will also conduct a portfolio modeling exercise which will guide the selection of an optimal portfolio of assets to be advanced to the final negotiations phase. Inputs to the portfolio modeling will be provided by CRA and will consist of representative "tranches" of resources in the RFP providing market-based cost and performance characteristics by resource type. CRA will also evaluate the economics and other scoring considerations related to each proposal independent of DEI or any DEI affiliates and will provide the utility with a ranked list of projects to consider for advancement to the final negotiations phase. The ranked list of projects will be based on the results of the portfolio modeling. To the extent required, CRA may support additional due diligence conducted prior to final selections and contracting.

B. What communications are permitted between CRA, DEI, and its affiliates up to the issuance of the RFP and during the evaluation period? (For example, Section 2 of Appendix G says that “The RFP Manager will coordinate all communication between DEI and Respondents” but does not contemplate what may happen in the case of self-build options.)

Any and all communications between respondents and the utility regarding this RFP will be submitted through CRA’s RFP Manager Email Address, posted on the RFP Website or communicated through a public bidder information session. Under no circumstance should respondents, including DEI affiliates, attempt to contact DEI employees involved in the evaluation of proposals and/or administration of the RFP directly with any matters related to this RFP.

Until projects are selected for advancement to the final negotiations phase, CRA will monitor all bidder communications with DEI, which will go through CRA’s RFP Manager email account or RFP Website FAQ tool. DEI will not be aware of bidder identities as part of the RFP FAQ process.

A formal separation protocol and confidentiality screen was issued between the DEI Evaluation and DEI Proposal teams on November 10, 2023.

C. How will CRA document the communications between itself and DEI and/or a DEI advisor to “understand certain technical aspects of proposals submitted”?

Communications between CRA and DEI related to the review or evaluation of proposals in the RFPs will be conducted via an appropriate mode of communication, such as email, phone, or teleconference. Email threads and notes on decisions made during conversations, to the extent reasonable, will act as documentation of such communications.