



***Appendix F
Process for
Protection of Proposal Information***

for

2024 Request for Proposals

for

***Energy and Capacity from Existing
Generation Resources***

for

Entergy Texas, Inc

Entergy Services, LLC
April 1, 2024

APPENDIX F

PROCESS FOR PROTECTION OF PROPOSAL INFORMATION

This Appendix F describes the process ESL will follow to ensure that confidential information Bidders provide in the RFP is kept confidential and not improperly disclosed to or used by any employee, agent, consultant, or contractor of ESL or any other Affiliate of ESL. Additionally, this Appendix F outlines ESL's process for evaluating proposals submitted in response to the RFP in a manner that affords objective and impartial treatment to all Bidders and complies with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements, including applicable Affiliate Rules.¹

OVERVIEW

This Appendix F details various mechanisms ESL has developed and implemented to protect the confidentiality of Bidder's information in the RFP process and to achieve the additional objectives identified in the opening paragraph above, including:

- (1) Use of an Independent Monitor (IM);
- (2) Reliance upon a Bid Event Coordinator;
- (3) Reliance upon an RFP Administration Team;
- (4) Adherence to protocols for receipt of Bidder registration information;
- (5) Adherence to procedures for receipt of proposal information and protection of confidentiality;
- (6) Adherence to protocols for protection of market-sensitive proposal information; and
- (7) Compliance with applicable Affiliate Rules.

1. Use of Independent Monitor

ESL has retained, on behalf of ETI, the IM in order to (i) oversee the design and implementation of the RFP's solicitation, evaluation, selection, and contract negotiation process to ensure that the process is impartial and objective, (ii) help ensure that all proposals are treated in a consistent fashion and without undue preference given to any Bidder, and (iii) otherwise assist ESL in its efforts to ensure that the RFP is conducted in a fair and impartial manner. The IM's role is described in the Scope of Work Activities, which is posted on the 2024 ETI Existing Resource Energy and Capacity RFP Website.

¹ As specified in Section 1.7 of the Main Body, Entergy Competitive Affiliates are ineligible to participate in the RFP. Safeguards to ensure that confidential RFP information is not shared with Entergy Competitive Affiliates are discussed later in this Appendix F.

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During each of the following phases in the RFP process, the IM will perform specific roles, as generally described below:

1.1. RFP Process Design and Implementation. The RFP process has been developed with the advice and oversight of the IM in an attempt to ensure that the RFP process is designed and implemented in a fair and impartial manner and is consistent with principles associated with a market-based procurement process.

1.2. Proposal Review. All proposals submitted by Bidders will be reviewed and screened by the IM. For each proposal, the RFP Administration Team will redact information prior to the proposal's distribution to the Economic Evaluation Team and the pricing terms prior to the proposal's distribution to the Viability Assessment Team and the Transmission Evaluation Team. The redactions are part of a process designed to protect Bidder confidentiality and to ensure that the evaluation of all proposals by the Evaluation Teams is impartial and that information that is or may be needed for review of the proposals is provided to the Evaluation Teams (and any consultants, agents, and contractors assisting the Evaluation Teams or ETI or ESL with the RFP) without the disclosure of proposal information to persons who do not need such information to perform their evaluation obligations. The IM will also oversee the segregation of information from Bidder's Proposal Package. After segregation, each Evaluation Team will receive and have access to only the information it needs to perform its portion of the proposal evaluation. The information segregation process is designed to protect Bidder confidentiality and ensure impartial evaluation of all proposals by the Evaluation Teams. While no process can ensure that a Bidder's identity remains completely anonymous, the review and redaction process was developed with the intent of providing to Bidders a reasonable assurance of anonymity in the proposal selection process.

1.3. Proposal Submission Process. The IM, the Bid Event Coordinator, and, as necessary, other members of the RFP Administration Team will oversee receipt of all proposals during the Proposal Submission Period. The IM, authorized members of the RFP Administration Team, and evaluation teams (as needed) will review information submitted by Bidders to determine whether the proposals meet the Threshold Requirements specified in Section 2.5 of the Main Body and whether additional information is needed or appropriate.

1.4. Proposal Evaluation and Selection Process. The IM will monitor the proposal evaluation and selection processes to ensure that the RFP process is objective and impartial and to ensure that all proposals are treated in a consistent manner and that no undue preference is provided to any Bidder. In addition, the IM will review the measures taken to restrict access to proposal information to only those members of the Evaluation Teams who need such information for evaluation purposes.

1.5. Oversight of Communications with Bidder. During the period prior to the creation of the Primary Selection List and/or the Secondary Selection List, the IM will obtain and review in advance copies of all written communications from the Bid Event Coordinator to Bidders. To the extent any Bidder is contacted pursuant to Section 2.2 of this Appendix F, the Bid Event Coordinator

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will consult with the IM before initiating contact to minimize the dissemination of information that explicitly identifies Bidders to Evaluation Team members who do not need such information.

1.6. Contract Negotiation and Due Diligence Phase. After any Bidder has been notified of its proposal's inclusion on the Primary Selection List or the Secondary Selection List, the IM will monitor the status of developments relating to such proposals. The IM may also participate in negotiations with Bidders as necessary.

2. Role of Bid Event Coordinator

ESL has designated an individual to serve as the "Bid Event Coordinator." The Bid Event Coordinator will serve, under the IM's supervision, in a multi-purpose role that includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities:

2.1. Responsibility as Liaison. The Bid Event Coordinator will serve as a liaison between all Bidders or potential Bidders and ESL regarding RFP-related matters.

2.2. Processing of Questions. In the event that ESL needs to contact a Bidder to clarify its proposal or to request additional information, the Bid Event Coordinator will perform those functions and communicate directly with Bidders. The IM will obtain and review in advance copies of all written communications from ESL to Bidders. Bidders will be required to submit any written response to such communications to the Bid Event Coordinator, who will engage the IM in accordance with Section 1.5 above before transmitting the information to the appropriate Evaluation Team.

2.3. Responsibility for RFP Files. The Bid Event Coordinator will ensure that all RFP-related files and information are properly organized, stored, and secured to protect adequately the confidentiality of information in accordance with the processes and procedures described herein.

3. Role of RFP Administration Team

For the RFP, ESL has established an RFP Administration Team, which consists of (i) the Bid Event Coordinator, (ii) the Manager, SPO Advanced Economic Analysis, (iii) the Manager, SPO Project Management, and (iv) the SPO Project Management Team, none of whom are members of any Evaluation Team. The role of the RFP Administration Team includes, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities:

3.1. Responses to Bidder Questions. The RFP Administration Team will ensure that Bidder questions received by the Bid Event Coordinator are addressed, with questions and answers posted on the 2024 ETI Existing Resource Energy and Capacity RFP Website, subject to Section 5.2 of the Main Body.

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3.2. Distribution of Proposal Information. The RFP Administration Team will ensure that proposal information is distributed to appropriate members of the RFP Evaluation Teams after review and approval by the IM.

3.3. Provision of Assistance to IM. The RFP Administration Team will work directly with the IM on all questions associated with a specific proposal and will assist the IM in an administrative capacity in support of the IM's efforts to ensure compliance with the processes and procedures contemplated by the RFP.

4. Protocols for Receipt of Bidder Registration Information

Bidders will be required to register for the RFP in accordance with the instructions provided in Section 3.2 of the Main Body. Information submitted to ESL through the Bidder Registration Process will be submitted to the Bid Event Coordinator. Only the IM, the Bid Event Coordinator, and, if necessary, members of the RFP Administration Team will have access to and review the information received from Bidders in the Bidder Registration Process.

5. Procedures for Receipt of Proposal Information and Protection of Confidentiality

Bidders will be required to submit proposals in response to the RFP in accordance with Section 3.4 of the Main Body. A key objective of the RFP process is to ensure that information provided by Bidders in response to the RFP is kept confidential. ESL has designed procedures, described in the Main Body, that its employees, agents, consultants, and contractors are required to follow in the proposal review and the proposal evaluation process of this RFP. These procedures are designed to preserve, to the extent practicable, the confidentiality of any confidential information contained in Bidders' proposals (including, but not limited to, proposal pricing, and other terms and conditions of their proposals). Procedural protections include requiring the submission, via PowerAdvocate, of Bidder's Proposal Packages to the Bid Event Coordinator and the redaction of Bidder Proposal Packages so that different members of the Evaluation Teams receive only the limited information needed to carry out their evaluations. These procedures are intended to provide reasonable assurance to Bidders that, except as noted below with respect to legal or regulatory requirements, information contained in their proposals will be disclosed (i) only to the appropriate members of the Evaluation Teams, and only to the extent necessary for the sole purpose of resource evaluation, and (ii) only to select agents and consultants utilized by ESL/the Evaluation Teams, and only to the extent necessary for them to perform their respective functions in connection with the RFP.

5.1. Basic Preliminary Protective Measures. Immediately after the end of the Proposal Submission Period, each Proposal Package will be reviewed by the IM, who will work with members of the RFP Administration Team to redact certain information from the Proposal Package before any information from the proposals is given to any member of any Evaluation Team. Following redaction, proposal information will be provided only to those members of the Evaluation Teams who need the information to perform their evaluation responsibilities in the RFP.

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For example, the member of the VAT responsible for fuel evaluation will receive only information on fuel-related issues, but no non-fuel pricing information. The IM will review proposal information before its distribution to the Evaluation Teams.

Preliminary Executive Report

After completion of the Proposal Submission Process, the RFP Administration Team, in conjunction with the IM, may prepare an Executive Report (the “**Preliminary Executive Report**”), which will communicate the following: (1) the total number of Bidders submitting proposals in this RFP; (2) the total number of resources for which proposals have been submitted in the RFP; (3) the total number of proposals and the total amount of Capacity offered in the RFP; and (4) any additional information that the recipients of the Executive Report may request and that the IM concurs is appropriate to provide. Distribution of the Preliminary Executive Report will be limited to the ETI Operating Committee, the Chief Executive Officer of Entergy Corporation, the Chief Executive Officer of ETI, the Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer of Entergy Corporation, the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Entergy Corporation, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Entergy Corporation, the Group President of Utility Operations of Entergy Corporation, and, as needed and with the IM’s concurrence, other senior executives of Entergy Corporation or any direct or indirect subsidiary thereof (“**Authorized Executive Report Recipients**”).

Supplemental Executive Reports

After reviewing proposals for compliance with the Threshold Requirements or in connection with a decision to eliminate a proposal from the RFP, the RFP Administration Team, in conjunction with the IM, may prepare an Executive Report (each a “**Supplemental Executive Report**”) that will communicate the following with respect to the proposals remaining in the RFP or the proposal(s) that have been or may be eliminated: (1) Proposal IDs; (2) capacity amount; (3) resource location; (4) if applicable, the generic basis for elimination of the proposal(s); and (5) any additional information that the recipients of the Supplemental Executive Report may request and that the IM concurs is appropriate to provide. Distribution of the Supplemental Executive Report will be limited to Authorized Executive Report Recipients.

5.2. Proposal Data. Proposal information will be segregated and distributed to the Evaluation Teams as follows:

- a) operational and economic information will be provided to members of the EET;
- b) fuel supply and transportation information will be provided to members of the VAT responsible for the fuel evaluation;
- c) technical, environmental, operational, commercial, and other information related to the viability of the proposal will be provided to members of the VAT;

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- d) reliability, production cost input, resource location, electric interconnection, and network deliverability information will be provided to members of the TET;
- e) information relevant to assessing accounting treatment and effects of the proposal will be provided to members of the AET; and
- f) credit information will be provided to members of the CET.

The proposal information described above will be provided only as needed for the Evaluation Team to perform the specified evaluation functions for which it is responsible. The IM will work with members of the RFP Administration Team to redact Bidder's proposal information prior to providing it to the appropriate Evaluation Teams. As described above, the IM will review all proposal information prior to distribution to members of the Evaluation Teams. During proposal evaluation, each proposal will be identified by its unique Bidder ID, Proposal ID and/or Resource ID.

5.3. Evaluation Team Reports. The Evaluation Teams will prepare reports informed by results of their analysis of the proposals; each proposal will be identified by its unique Bidder ID, Proposal ID and/or Resource ID. The Evaluation Team reports will be reviewed by the RFP Administration Team, the IM, and by senior advisors and other decision-makers of ESL and ETI. Once a proposal has been selected for either the Primary Selection List or the Secondary Selection List, all information relating to such proposal may be made available to the team tasked with negotiating the Definitive Agreement, to appropriate executives and other decision-makers of ESL and ETI, and, with the IM's concurrence, to the Economic Evaluation Team. ESL reserves the right to disclose, with the IM's concurrence, proposal information to additional ESL personnel as necessary to address unforeseen circumstances that may materialize and materially affect the evaluation of proposals. All Entergy personnel and other agents, consultants, and contractors having access to confidential information in the RFP will be contractually and/or professionally bound to protect the confidentiality of confidential Bidder information and to use it for no purpose other than activities related to the RFP process and resource evaluation processes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and without limiting Appendix D, ESL and ETI expressly disclaim and have no liability to any Bidder, any affiliate thereof, or any of their respective representatives for any losses or damages of any kind resulting from any disclosure of any Bidder or proposal information.

5.4. Post-RFP Treatment of Proposals and Related Information. Proposals and any correspondence or other material (including electronic material) provided to ESL in connection with the RFP will not be returned to Bidders. At the conclusion of the RFP process (including regulatory review of any transaction entered into as a result of the RFP), all proposals will be either destroyed or archived by ESL in accordance with internal policies governing the storage and retention of records and subject to the procedures described in this section providing for the treatment of such proposals as confidential and subject to any applicable Affiliate Rules.

5.5. Certain Permitted Disclosures of Proposal Information. All information contained in a proposal or otherwise provided by Bidder to ESL in connection with the RFP may be:

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(i) required to be disclosed by ESL or ETI pursuant to any applicable law, rule, or regulation or in any proceeding or investigation involving ESL or ETI and (ii) subject to review by one or more of the regulatory bodies, including their staffs, having jurisdiction over ESL or ETI in connection with any proceeding, audit, or investigation involving ESL or ETI, or by any other Governmental Authority with jurisdiction over ESL or ETI over any matter related, directly or indirectly, to the RFP, and may be subject to legal discovery or disclosure. By submitting a proposal in the RFP, and subject to any less restrictive terms included in any confidentiality agreement entered into by ESL or ETI and Bidder (or party on whose behalf Bidder submitted its proposal), Bidder agrees to (a) allow ESL and ETI to use any of the information contained in any of its proposals or otherwise submitted to ESL in connection with the RFP in filings, pleadings, responses to information requests, testimony, or evidence in any proceeding before or investigation involving any such regulatory body or other Governmental Authority and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, (b) disclose any of such information when required to do so as described above. In the event such information is to be so disclosed, ESL will use good faith efforts to attempt to obtain from such Governmental Authority (or other Person to whom such disclosure is being made), prior to the disclosure of such information, a confidentiality agreement or protective order or other mechanism to protect the confidentiality of such information and limit its dissemination. ESL makes no assurance of the outcome of any such attempt. ESL advises Bidders that intervenors have sought access to confidential Bidder information about potential resource acquisitions in prior regulatory proceedings relating to previous ESL requests for proposals or in which one or more of the Entergy Operating Companies have been involved, and similar requests for access could be made in proceedings relating to the RFP.

6. Protocols for Protection of Market-Sensitive Proposal Information

Because numerous departments and personnel in the ESL organization are involved in the resource planning, asset management/supply procurement, and operations functions, ESL has implemented specific protocols for the protection of proposal information to limit access to specific market-sensitive proposal information provided by Bidders in the RFP, including the protocols listed below:

- (i) No proposal information shall ever be disclosed to any Entergy Competitive Affiliate, except to the extent that such information is made public.
- (ii) Subject to Sections 5.1 and 5.2 above, prior to the selection of proposals to the Primary Selection List and Secondary Selection List, no proposal information shall be provided to any person within ESL who is not a member of an RFP Evaluation Team (or a consultant, agent, or contractor assisting an Evaluation Team or ESL with the RFP at the Evaluation Team's or ESL's request) or the RFP Administration Team, other than the information that may be provided to counsel for confidential legal analysis involving such information and to senior advisors and decision-makers of ESL and ETI as provided in Section 5.1 above.

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- (iii) No proposal information shall be provided to any member of an Evaluation Team prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline or before review and approval by the IM and RFP Administration Team.
- (iv) All proposal information files created by the Bid Event Coordinator in connection with the RFP process shall be available only to approved personnel. Approved personnel will include only the IM, the RFP Administration Team, and those members of the Evaluation Teams with designated access to specific information.
- (v) ESL management is responsible for communicating to the members of the Evaluation Teams the importance of compliance with these protocols, both at the outset of the RFP process and on a continuing basis.
- (vi) ESL personnel involved with the RFP process shall sign a confidentiality acknowledgement that governs access to and uses of information contained in proposals and proposal documents or shall be professionally bound to protect the confidentiality of confidential Bidder information and to use it for no purpose other than activities related to the RFP process and resource evaluation processes.

For the avoidance of doubt, the foregoing protocols will be subject to Section 5.5 above.

7. Affiliate Rules

All employees of ESL, ETI, or any Entergy Competitive Affiliate must adhere to the following Affiliate Rules, as applicable:

- i. FERC Transmission Standards of Conduct, codified at 18 CFR § 358;
- ii. FERC Market-Based Rate Affiliate Restrictions, codified at 18 CFR § 35.39;
- iii. FERC Cross-Subsidization Restrictions on Affiliate Transactions, codified at 18 CFR §§ 35.43-44;
- iv. Arkansas Affiliate Transaction Rules, as applicable;
- v. Texas Affiliate Transaction Rules, as applicable;
- vi. Council for the City of New Orleans Code of Conduct for Entergy New Orleans, Inc.
- vii. October, 1992 Settlement Agreement between Entergy and the Arkansas Public Service Commission;

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- viii. Appendix 3 to the Louisiana Public Service Commission's May 3, 1993 Order No. U-19904;
- ix. March 26, 1998 Settlement Agreement between Entergy and the Council for the City of New Orleans;
- x. April 10, 1998 Settlement Agreement between Entergy and the Mississippi Public Service Commission;
- xi. October 19, 2000 Gas Settlement Agreement between the Council for the City of New Orleans and Entergy New Orleans, Inc.; and
- xii. Entergy Corporation Standards of Conduct regarding the relationship between Entergy Corporation's regulated and unregulated subsidiaries.

A link to these Affiliate Rules is posted on the 2024 ETI Existing Resource Energy and Capacity RFP Website.

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