

Q: The National Grid RFI lists different feeders than the current RFP. Which feeders are correct?

A: The feeders included in the original Request-for-Information (RFI) launched in March differs compared to the feeders included in the Request-for-Proposal (RFP) due to the threshold at which National Grid evaluates thermal constraints. Please refer to the RFP for the most up to date list of feeders.

Q: What programs can we value stack National Grid NWAs with? Can we also participate in coincident peak programs?

A: So long as the DER project's ability to respond to dispatches from National Grid and provide the flexibility services as determined by the NWA agreement is not inhibited, the DER may stack with other programs such as MA SMART, Clean Peak Standard, other programs and markets. Please refer to Section 8.1.5 and Section 3.6 of Appendix B in the Standard Agreement for more information.

Q: Can BTM export-limited storage can move on an expedited interconnection path?

A: National Grid does not currently offer an expedited interconnection path for NWAs for summer 2025.

Q: Can developers bid a multi-year fixed contract price prior to ISA?

A: The MA summer 2025 RFP is only accepting bids for existing assets for the summer 2025 season. National Grid may release future RFPs that will allow for multi-year bids prior to a completed ISA.

Q: Why are many of the feeders in the RFP not Clean Peak DCM eligible?

A: The Distribution Circuit Multiplier list is set based on DOER's analysis of our public annual service quality reports, attempting to identify our most heavily loaded feeders (see guidelines). National Grid does not directly establish or update the DCM values, only the annual reports they are based on.

Q: Please clarify whether you seek a turnkey program, including operation of the flexibility resource or whether you would accept responses that offer system and program design, but not operations.

A: National Grid is only interested in procuring flexible capacity and not advisory services.

Q: Is National Grid interested in accepting duty cycles and runtime data as permissible metering data?

A: Different metering techniques may be considered as long as National Grid is able to validate the performance. Supporting documentation for the metering techniques must be provided in your bid submission for National Grid to review.

Q: What DERs other than energy storage qualify?

A: The types of assets eligible to participate in the summer 2025 competitions are dependent on the location. Please refer to Section 1.2 of the RFP for details.

Q: What are National Grids plans to expand to new geographies in 2026?

A: National Grid may continue to offer NWA opportunities in these and additional locations in the coming years for multi-year purposes.

Q: Would NG consider shorter duration resource dispatches?

A: Yes, National Grid will consider assets that can meet partial solutions of the need statements. Assets must be able to offer hourly services with a minimum dispatch service time of one hour.

Q: Will mobile BESS be able to participate in the MA RFP? Would National Grid provide a location like a substation that our assets could park at and be connected to the grid through a transformer that will step up the local voltage from the mobile BESS?

A: Mobile BESS would require an interconnection study to explore the system impacts of the new connection. Due to the timeline of the required study and the limited timeframe of the RFP, mobile BESS may not be considered fully operational at the time of need for the summer 2025 competitions.

Q: What is the reasoning for not allowing EVs to participate in the MA RFP? Will EVs be allowed to participate with future opportunities or will it remain closed off? Are V2X, bidirectional charger, and NEM assets with or without battery storage eligible for submission?

A: EVs are excluded from the current RFP due to several challenges regarding conflicts with other already existing offerings. National Grid will consider their inclusion in future NWA RFPs.

Q: On the 6/17 call, we understood that the National Grid team would be amenable to accepting device telemetry (i.e., HVAC runtime) data in lieu of AMI metering to facilitate greater residential participation. Does National Grid have an average kW demand rating per central HVAC system to use in combination with runtime data?

A: For the statewide Connected Solutions program, National Grid estimates a connected load for the average residential central air conditioner or central heat pump of 3.5kW/thermostat from the [2017 MA residential baseline study](#), [2017 National Grid MA Field Study](#), and [Technical Resource Manual](#) on page 66.

Q: The RFP references the MA Flexibility Services Standard Form to specify communication protocol, but that document references many different methods. Does National Grid have a specific communication protocol in mind for dispatch of resources for this particular RFP, text messages, email, or an API in the future?

A: At this time, National Grid does not have a preferred communication methodology in place and are actively seeking to understand industry preferences to determine what would enable the most effective and reliable dispatch. National Grid does not require a specific communication protocol for Summer 2025 and is open to negotiating in good faith with service providers. Looking ahead to future years and subsequent RFPs, the company is currently evaluating a range of communication protocols—including DNP, OpenADR, and email-based dispatch from either a centralized Grid DERMS or a Grid Edge DERMS application—to identify the most suitable long-term solution.

Q: The National Grid team indicated on the webinar that premises enrolled in other flexibility programs, such as ConnectedSolutions, CPS, or MA Smart program, are still eligible to participate in resources in this RFP. Can you confirm if an aggregator has another bespoke DSM program (i.e., not just the ones highlighted above) being managed by National Grid, those resources would also be eligible to participate in this NWA RFP?

A: So long as the DER project's ability to respond to dispatches from National Grid and provide the flexibility services as determined by the NWA agreement is not inhibited, the DER may stack with other programs such as MA SMART, Clean Peak Standard, other programs and markets. Please refer to Section 8.1.5 and Section 3.6 of Appendix B in the Standard Agreement for more information.

Q: Which geographic/network topology resolution is the 200kW minimum bid threshold relevant for: feeder, substation, total aggregator bid?

A: The 200kW minimum bid threshold refers to the total aggregator bid.

Q: Our understanding from Piclo's platform is that National Grid is requiring us to share customer addresses for each participant. Due to privacy restrictions and considerations, we cannot share address information with off takers. Would National Grid be open to an aggregator providing a device identifier mapped to zip code and/or feeder?

A: Companies that are contracted to provide flexibility through the NWA programs must sign National Grid's corresponding NDA, which includes methodology regarding customer PII data.

Q: Does National Grid have an API support for this [tool](#) that matches feeder to address? If not, does National Grid have a simple list of addresses with associated feeder/substation?

No, National Grid is unable to provide a list of addresses due to privacy concerns of our customers without the vendor executing our NDA which includes clear requirements regarding the handling of customer personal identifiable information (PII) data.

Q: We cannot aggregate or dispatch customers in groups of less than 50, due to privacy considerations. Is the National Grid team open to aggregating feeders with <50 participants with other adjacent feeders to create a combined resource with greater than 50 participants? If one feeder receives a dispatch instruction, all feeders associated with that combined resource would dispatch as well.

This would be acceptable so long as dispatching customers on other feeders does not cause a new constraint. The flexible provider must bear all risk on awarding customers on adjacent feeders for services provided.

Q: In the event that a ConnectedSolutions dispatch and an NWA dispatch occur simultaneously, I understand that NGrid will prioritize the battery for NWA dispatch. However, ConnectedSolutions is compensated based on the average curtailment amount across all events of the dispatch season. In the case of a coincident ConnectedSolutions and NWA event, will the coincident event be omitted from the ConnectedSolutions average performance calculation? If it is not omitted and instead recorded as “zero kW” that will negatively impact the seasonal average and penalize the device.

National Grid will omit any NWA performance days from the ConnectedSolutions performance calculation.

Q: How will NGrid keep track of which programs a specific asset is enrolled in (for example, ConnectedSolutions and NWA)? Will NGrid utilize a Grid Edge DERMS platform for the NWA (NGrid uses EnergyHub for ConnectedSolutions)?.

Yes, all dispatches for Connected Solutions and NWA needs will come from the same Grid Edge DERMS application and will be used to track which dispatch was for which program.

Q: What is the Non Performance Liquidated Damages on Section 4.5 (page 14) of the RFP? Why there would be liquidated damages if we elect a pay for performance model (Section 4.5 Option 3)

This is legacy language from a standard RFP National Grid has issued in the past and is not applicable to this RFP. For context: this is for entities that wish to have their performance measured after the season and wish to only have an availability (fixed price) contract with National Grid. If a contracted flexibility service provider delivers less than the contracted MW than their contracted performance at the end of the season, their compensation will be adjusted in accordance with the liquidated damages terms. Furthermore, not delivering the MW requested by the utility could be considered an event of default with the buyer as described in Section 8 of the standard agreement or as a service failure as described in Section 12 of the standard agreement.

