



## **INTRODUCTION**

The following questions were submitted by attendees during the January 8, 2026, Applicant Webinar, or submitted by interested parties through email (delivered to [MDPSC-NGEA-Storage@poweradvisoryllc.com](mailto:MDPSC-NGEA-Storage@poweradvisoryllc.com)) on or before January 16, 2026. The answers provided within this Q&A document supersede any responses offered by the RFA Administrator or Commission Advisors during the Applicant Webinar. Some questions have been slightly modified for clarity.

## **Q&A**

**Q1. Will a copy of the presentation be made available to attendees?**

Yes, a copy of the presentation has been posted to the MD PSC NGEA Energy Storage website. See [MD PSC NGEA Energy Storage Round 1 Applicant Webinar](#).

**Q2. Which party assumes responsibility for financial penalties assessed during PAI events?**

Project owners assume responsibility for any financial penalties assessed against them during Performance Assessment Interval (PAI) events, up to the storage duration of the project. The intent is to incentivize the energy projects selected to deliver their optimal resource adequacy value without placing undue risks of financial penalties beyond reasonable control of project owners.

For a project with 4-hour duration, the project owner is responsible for any financial penalties assessed during the first 4 hours, cumulatively, of PAIs that occur during each calendar day, with exceptions for PAI events that span multiple calendar days.

Please see Section 4.2.5 of the RFA for a detailed description of how financial penalties during PAI events are treated.

**Q3. Will the BCA consider project characteristics on a nodal level?**

Yes. The RFA Administrator will use a nodal forecast to account for wholesale energy market price impacts.

**Q4. With regard to the bid sheet only having one column for the 20-year price: For Option 3, can applicants submit "3A" and "3B" for both fixed and escalating prices for the 20-year term?**

Yes. The RFA Administrator has posted revised Energy Storage Capacity Credit (ESCC) Price Schedule forms which allow applicants to submit both fixed and escalating prices for the optional 20-year term. The revised Attachments C1 and C2 are available on the [Documents webpage](#) of the NGEA RFA website.

**Q5. How long is the cure period for application deficiencies?**



The cure period for application deficiencies will be indicated in the cover email notifying the Applicant that its Application is not Administratively Complete. The RFA Administrator expects that the cure period typically will be five business days, recognizing that the Application Evaluation schedule provides only two months from the Application Submission Deadline to the issuance of a notice of Administrative Completeness.

- Q6. Would the Applicants Webinar presentation be emailed or just available on the website?**

Please refer to Question & Answer #1.

- Q7. On slide 13, can you elaborate on the use of NERC studies for assessing a project's improvement to reliability? What studies will be used, and how are they conducted?**

The RFA Administrator will not itself conduct any specific studies to assess a project's contribution to improved reliability. The BCA analysis will assign values for improved reliability using the latest PJM studies – e.g., ELCC studies estimating impact on Expected Unserved Energy (EUE) - and sources like NERC and other similar authorities (PJM, IMM) to assign a Value of Lost Load (VOLL) to incorporate improvements in reliability into the BCA.

In addition, the RFA Administrator will account for any additional reliability benefits for projects that are able to demonstrate their ability to mitigate specific reliability issues identified by PJM or Transmission Owners with appropriate documentation.

- Q8. Are Applicants allowed to submit multiple offers for the same project (e.g. alternate project size, alternate durations, etc.)?**

Yes, Applicants are allowed to submit multiple offers for the same project that specify alternate sizes (up to three size alternatives) and durations. Alternate ESCC Price Schedule terms are specifically allowed as indicated in Section 4.2.2 of the RFA.

- Q9. What's the minimum project maturity level for projects to be eligible for submission? W/r/t site control, interconnection, and permitting maturity.**

Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have secured Site Control for the Project Footprint for the ESCC Price Schedule term and must be in one of the following PJM Generation Interconnection Agreement processes: Fast Lane, Transition Cycle 1, and Transition Cycle 2 or have received or be in the process of attaining surplus interconnection service from PJM. The permitting requirements require Applicants to identify required permits, licenses or required approvals and associated timelines.

- Q10. What is the Commission's expected timing for projects to apply for construction approval under RM85?**



There is no prescribed timing for Projects to apply for construction approval under the RM85 requirements. At the very least, a Project owner must apply for construction approval and demonstrate a timeline that enables the Project to meet its proposed Commercial Operation Date. The Commission may conditionally approve an Application in its Order with a requirement related to construction approval under RM85 regulations.

**Q11. What is the Commission's expected timing for projects to enter into Community Benefit Agreements?**

There is no prescribed timing for projects to enter into Community Benefit Agreements. However, applicants shall notify the Commission within 30 days of executing the Community Benefit Agreement that it has been signed. Applicants should consider Section 5.7 Economic Benefits to Local Communities and Maryland with respect to the non-price evaluation and scoring of an Application. The Commission may conditionally approve an Application in its Order with a requirement related to entering a Community Benefit Agreement.

**Q12. What are you defining as a transmission-connected project?**

To be considered a transmission-connected project, the energy storage device must be: "directly connected to the Bulk Electric System as defined in the Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards, updated October 1, 2025". (Project Eligibility in Section 2.2.1) Please see the linked NERC Glossary of Terms document provided in the RFA for the full definition, inclusions and exclusions.

**Q13. Will Applicants be required to augment the project and maintain a minimum capacity level through the contract tenor?**

Applicants will be responsible for ensuring deliverability of the Contracted Storage Capacity (CSC) for each ESCC Delivery Year. The Commission and the RFA Administrator anticipate that the CSC will not decline over the 15- or 20-year term unless there are special circumstances, which exclude cell degradation.

The RFA Administrator anticipates that projects would also participate in energy and ancillary services markets, thus requiring cell augmentation to maintain the CSC offered.

In submitting a CSC, Applicants should note their obligations with respect to PJM capacity verification tests as well as the following condition included with the definition of CSC under Section 4.2.3 of the RFA: "If a Project fails to commit capacity for the entire unforced capacity equivalent of its Nameplate Capacity during any Delivery Year via the capacity market auctions, CSC for that Delivery Year shall be proportionately reduced."

**Q14. Do you have the expectation that projects will have already been accepted into PJM's interconnection queue? Or could a project prior to interconnection application submit an application here?**



Yes, a Project must currently be in one of the following PJM Generation Interconnection Agreement processes: Fast Lane, Transition Cycle 1, Transition Cycle 2; or have received or be in the process of attaining surplus interconnection service. (Section 2.2.7 Interconnection Status) Applications that do not meet this eligibility requirement will not be evaluated. A Project must have submitted either a new service or surplus interconnection service request and be able to provide the new service request Project ID or SIS Request Number. (Section 5.1.2 Interconnection Queue Status & Generator Interconnection Rights).

- Q15. To confirm, there is no application fee or security requirement to submit an application to the RFA, correct?**

Correct, there is no application fee or security requirement for submitting an Application. However, Applicants should be aware of the requirement in Section 7.4 Surety Bonds: "Within 5 business days from Application approval for an ESCC award, the Applicant must provide a surety bond of \$25,000 per MW of nameplate capacity to the Commission."

- Q16. Are applicants allowed to vary project sizes for projects that will be built in phases?**

Yes, applicants are allowed to increase over time the CSC in the ESCC Price Schedule form for projects that will be built in phases, with the following caveats:

- i. The CSC can only be ramped up over the first two ESCC Delivery Years;
- ii. The CSC1 – the capacity offered in the first ELCC Delivery Year - must be at least 33% of the full and final capacity offered; and
- iii. The full and final capacity offered must already be in development at the time of application. Subsequent phases that are not already in the interconnection queue shall not be considered.

- Q17. Will applications not meeting the ITX criteria of 'Fast Lane, Transition Cycle 1, Transition Cycle 2; or have received or is in the process of attaining surplus interconnection service (SIS) with PJM' be deemed not administratively complete and not be evaluated?**

Yes, please refer to Question & Answer #14.

- Q18. Under Section 2.2.5 Required Commercial Operation Date, could you clarify the maximum time a project may request to extend the COD?**

Where the Applicant is able to demonstrate that achieving commercial operation within 24 months after a Project is approved by the Commission (i.e., October 1, 2028) is not possible for Good Cause Shown, an Application may offer a proposed Commercial Operation Date no later than 36 months after Commission approval of the Application.

After an Application is approved and if the Project Owner submits a request for a schedule extension, the Commission may extend the proposed Commercial Operation



Date for an additional 24 months for Good Cause Shown Conditions when events or circumstances have occurred that are beyond the reasonable control of the Project developer. All such extensions are capped at 24 months cumulative (30 months with Force Majeure overlap), with monthly progress reports and third-party verification for claims over 6 months.

**Q19. What are the "other benefits" that will be considered in the BCA analysis?**

Any benefits that are currently envisioned as part of non-price evaluation criteria may be considered for the BCA analysis if projects can demonstrate that project-specific benefits can be reasonably quantified. Examples may include, but are not limited to, system benefits from avoided or deferred transmission upgrades, or colocation benefits not currently captured by other defined benefits.

**Q20. What is the weighting that will be applied to non-price criteria during evaluation [and will those final score weightings be applied consistently across projects]? The RFP currently states that this will be shared at a later date - is there an approximate ETA?**

All non-price criteria will receive a separate numeric score tentatively considered to be between 20% -40% of the total points used in the evaluation process by the RFA Administrator. There are a number of factors that need to be considered by the Commission in determining the final score weightings, some of which may not surface until the public and evidentiary hearings. Once determined, the final score weightings of the price and non-price evaluation criteria will be applied consistently. The Commission's rationale for its final selection is expected to be disclosed in the Commission's Order approving, conditionally approving, or denying the Applications.

**Q21. What information will be made public during the public hearings for approval of applications?**

While developers can protect commercially sensitive data, the overarching guideline is to make as much project-related information public as possible through the PSC docket system in PC75 to ensure accountability and public awareness. The Commission used several dockets for its offshore wind proceedings that are illustrative for the types of information to be made public, while there may be some differences due to technology and other differences between this solicitation and the offshore wind solicitation. Applicants should expect the amount of Energy Storage Capacity Credits, price schedule, and economic development commitments will be made public in a Commission approval Order.

**Q22. Would it be possible to execute an NDA for the RFP response materials?**

The Commission is evaluating the optimal Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) structure and protocols for applicants and stakeholders. The Commission will provide further guidance on these arrangements closer to the submission deadline.



- Q23.** To clarify, applications proposing surplus interconnect service to PJM will not be allowed in Round 2?

Incorrect, while the interconnection status eligibility requirement for the Round 2 RFA has not been finalized, it is expected that Projects utilizing surplus interconnection service will be eligible in Round 2.

- Q24.** Will projects in Cycle 1 of PJM be eligible for Round 2?

Yes.

- Q25.** Follow up question on the RM85 requirement: For projects that are granted approval that is conditional on meeting RM85 requirements, will there be a time limit on meeting the RM85 requirements?

There is no currently prescribed time limit to begin the construction approval process specified in Rulemaking No. 85 (RM85). The Commission in its Order may determine a date or timeline by when Projects of conditionally approved Applications must meet the RM85 requirements.

- Q26.** Will those final score weightings be released after selections and be applied consistently across projects?

Please refer to Question & Answer #20.

- Q27.** Under Section 2.2.5 Required Commercial Operation Date, could you clarify the maximum time a project may request to extend the COD?

Please refer to Question & Answer #19.

- Q28.** Are Applicants required to consult with the Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) to provide an overview of the proposed energy storage device prior to the RFA deadline on March 2<sup>nd</sup>?

No, Applicants are not required to consult with the Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) prior to the RFA Application Submission deadline on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. As stated in Section 7.1 Commission Approval for Construction "An Applicant must attest that, upon Commission selection of Application, that it has already filed or is prepared to file an application with the Commission for construction approval of its energy storage Project pursuant to the requirements and process prescribed in the RM85 regulations, as published in the Maryland Register on December 1, 2025." The PPRP review is undertaken as part of the preparation of the application to the Commission for construction approval, not as part of the Application review in the RFA.

- Q29.** Section 2.6 of Attachment F states that "An Applicant shall provide attestation that it understands the following conditions related to Schedule Extension and Good Cause Shown Conditions", however, the document concludes immediately after this sentence and does not list the referenced conditions. Could you please clarify and provide the



specific conditions related to Schedule Extension and Good Cause Shown Conditions that Applicants are required to attest to? This will help ensure our submission is complete and fully aligned with the RFA requirements.

Yes, the specific conditions (and limitations) related to Schedule Extension and Good Cause Shown Conditions referenced were mistakenly not included. Please refer to the revised Attachment F. Permitting & Development Milestones, available on the [Documents webpage](#) of the NGEA RFA website.

- Q30.** Does the Commission have an NDA form available for our review, or would they be open to reviewing and executing our version instead? We are happy to proceed in whichever way is most convenient for the Commission.

The Commission is evaluating the optimal NDA structure and protocols for applicants and stakeholders. The Commission will provide further guidance on these arrangements closer to the submission deadline.

- Q31.** What discount rate will be used in the benefit-cost analysis (BCA) of Applications?

The RFA Administrator expects to use a range of discount rates in the BCA to assess the sensitivity of the BCA to different discount rates. The RFA Administrator expects that the Commission will seek input from parties in the hearings that it will conduct on the most appropriate discount rate to use for the BCA.