



## ADDENDUM TO SOLAR FARM 2.0 RFP ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 25, 2019

807 S. Wright St. Suite 340 MC 399  
Champaign, IL 61820

217-244-3678

Includes 74 questions on 14 pages

- 1 Regarding this statement on page 16: "The Proposer shall provide software for a remote computer system that is capable of monitoring and controlling the Solar Farm through the University's Delta V control system connected via fiber optic network system." What type of operational control does PEI/the University expect to have over the system's output?

During the Proposal Pre-Proposal Conference Meeting, PEI indicated they would be issuing an amendment regarding an "artifact" in the RFP about monitoring. When will this amendment be issued?

There is no requirement for "control" or interface with "the University's Delta V control system". The first sentence after the colon: should read..."The Proposer shall provide a system with a data connection that will transmit operational information from the Solar Farm to the University for informational purposes."

- 2 Another question we had was if blue tinted modules is a 'must have' for this project?

Blue panels are preferred, but not required. The winning bid will go to the best all-around project, with a primary focus on cost per MWh. If you have multiple options to propose, you are welcome to submit more than one proposal.

- 3 Is it expected that a Special Use Permit is required and will that be included in the Proposer's scope?

As the Authority Having Jurisdiction, the University of Illinois does not require a Special Use Permit. The University has already approved this site, and the Proposer will not need to submit a SUP to the County or a local municipality. State and Federal requirements will still apply.

4 Explain or Review and include financial credit and market cap requirements from derivatives use report.

A company can meet the credit requirements with a credit rating of A- (Standard & Poor's) or A3 (Moody's) and a market capitalization of the greater of \$100 million or five times the notional value of the proposed transaction. Or a company needs to have a minimum credit rating of BBB- (Standard & Poor's) or Baa3 (Moody's) and a market capitalization of \$500 million. The Company can meet this requirement by providing a Parental Company Guaranty from a parent that meets either of the two previous combinations of bond rating and market capitalization qualifications. Or a company with a bond rating of BB+ / Ba1 with a letter of credit from an A-/A3 rated bank with a market capitalization of the greater of \$100 million or five times the notional value of the proposed transaction may also qualify. An unrated company will also be considered if they can provide a letter of credit from an A-/A3 rated bank with a market capitalization of the greater of \$100 million or five times the notional value of the proposed transaction. Provide the company's annual report and audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year, including Balance Sheet and Income Statement. Also, provide the information are any parental guarantor or letter of credit provider.

5 Will the University/PEI consider applicants who are private companies but are willing and able to obtain a letter of credit or similar surety from an investment grade entity? If so, what would you like the applicant to provide with their submittal that will satisfy Part 1.8 "CREDIT RATING AND FINANCIAL CONDITION"? Otherwise, how would the University/PEI advise potential private company applicants to comply with Part 1.8 "CREDIT RATING AND FINANCIAL CONDITION"? We will be able to provide audited financials.

Yes. See credit qualifications under 4.

6 Credit - "Company needs to have a minimum credit rating of BBB- (Standard & Poor's) or Baa3 (Moody's) and a market capitalization of \$500 million. The Company can meet this requirement by providing a Parental Company Guaranty from a parent that has a minimum credit rating of BBB- (Standard & Poor's) or Baa3 (Moody's) and a market capitalization of \$500 million. Provide the company's annual report and audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year, including Balance Sheet and Income Statement."

Would it be possible to meet this requirement by providing the following?

The long-term owner and operator of the project (i.e. the long-term holder of the power purchase agreement) meets the credit requirements stated above

Regarding the "Credit Rating and Financial Condition" requirement in section 1.8 of the RFP, would PEI consider a Parental Company Guaranty from an entity that does not have a credit rating (because it has not issued public debt), if that guarantor can provide audited financials showing significant assets and income?

We are a privately-owned company and cannot provide an official credit rating. What options do we have in order to qualify for the RFP? Will PEI accept a confirmation letter from a major bank that we will be able to post a letter of credit for a certain amount? If yes, what letter of credit amount would PEI require?

If the long-term owner and operator of the project is the counterparty to our contract, then Yes, otherwise No.

No, but we would consider a letter of credit. See credit qualifications under 4.

We would consider a letter of credit. See credit qualifications under 4.

7 Regarding the "Credit Rating and Financial Condition" requirement in section 1.8 of the RFP, would PEI consider a Parental Company Guaranty from an entity that does not have a credit rating (because it has not issued public debt), if that guarantor can provide audited financials showing significant assets and income?

No. The Parent has to be rated, but a letter of credit may be an option. See credit qualifications under 4.

8 Prior to assignment of the power purchase agreement, the developer obtains a performance bond to ensure it meets its obligations during the construction period  
Regarding the same section, in lieu of a Parental Company Guaranty, would PEI consider accepting a performance bond, or an insurance product designed to guarantee a certain production level from the solar facility?  
A performance bond would not meet our credit requirements.

9 Would it be possible to have the University of Illinois provide a financial guarantee on the Power Purchase obligations of Prairieland Energy, Inc.?  
What credit support will PEI be offering to provide assurance that it will meet its obligations over the term of the PPA? Also, will PEI be providing its own audited financials? These are important considerations for securing financing for the project.  
Who is going to be the guarantor for the contract? Will the backstop be PEI or University of Illinois? Is there a parental guarantee and are you able to share the credit rating?  
Please provide current, audited financial statements for the Board of Trustees.  
Yes, a guaranty will be provided at the time the parties execute a contract. We will provide both PEI and University F/S. The University Credit rating is Baa1/A-

10 Are there any interconnection costs the University's Electrical Distribution System requires for interconnection?  
No additional interconnection fee

11 Who is responsible for completing the interconnection? Is the contractor responsible for tying in the system or will PEI take on the scope? Are there any other costs associated with the interconnection of the solar facility?  
The Vendor / Proposer is responsible for all work up to and including the terminations to the owner supplied switch and/or breaker. They shall perform all inspections and testing and notify F & S Quality Assurance in writing when they are ready for confirmation the work is adequately complete. University will review and if in agreement will coordinate a time that UI High Voltage Electricians will close the switch/breaker.

12 Is the 150 ft. x 342 ft. Research Plot shown in Appendix C intended to be a keep-out where the solar array may not be located?  
No. This is a research plot that is expected to be harvested in mid October. After harvest the land will be used in the development of Solar Farm 2.0. Proposer to coordinate work schedule with Allen Parrish, as noted in the RFP.

13 What is the expected height of the vegetation the University is hoping to plant in the buffer on the south side of the project? And can you confirm who will be responsible for maintaining that vegetation?  
Design of this buffer is still preliminary but is intended to screen the facility from the residences to the south. Medium to large shrubs, grasses and perennials are intended to be planted no closer than approximately 18' from the southern fence line. These plants will vary in height, typically from 3'-12' tall. Plantings will be in a staggered row. Ornamental trees will be planted no closer than 40' to the southern fence line. These trees will be 20' to 30' height at maturity. Trees will be staggered in a double row, with a second row at 60' from the fence line. As this is outside of the project boundaries, all installation and maintenance of the buffer plantings will be performed by the university.

14 Is an interconnection agreement required with The University's Electrical Distribution System? If so, can you please provide the requirements and details on the application and study process including costs?

No interconnection agreement. Interconnection must conform to University specifications and be coordinated with the University High Voltage Distribution Group. This will be done through submittal and review of proposed design and shop drawing approval process.

15 Will a behind the meter interconnection agreement with Ameren be required? If so, can you please provide details on the Ameren meter and switchgear in which the solar would be interconnected? Please provide the location, meter number, service account, and service voltage.

No

16 Do you have a preferred location for the site access driveway?

Access needs to come from First Street and not Curtis. It should be located at a safe distance away from the intersection, with a minimum of at least 250' from the stop sign. Possibly the best location would be to match the entrance to the adjacent Swine Farm on the east side of First Street. However, that is merely a suggestion and the Proposers are responsible for the final layout and design.

17 Is there a grid connection to the local utility distribution system?

No, this is behind the meter generation (BTMG) on the University distribution system, this will not be connected to the local utility distribution system.

18 Does PEI have a preferred supplier or source identified for the pollinator-friendly seed mix that it could use for purchasing at a discounted price?

No

19 Will PEI use a scorecard to evaluate proposals similar to the one used for the Solar 1.0 project?

The evaluation process includes a scoring matrix, which will score each submitted proposal based on the evaluation criteria listed in the RFP.

20 Please provide more explanation of "donation" in the following:

"Indicate availability of donation options for years 6, 10, 15, and 20. "

Buyout and/or Donation – Does PEI want to see contractor submit values for years 6, 10, 15, or just that the contractor is willing to discuss a donation/buyout option for the solar facility?

What led to the interest in the University requesting an offer to have the system donated at Y6 and Y10?

The donation and buyout options are yes/no questions, seeking to determine if the vendor is willing to offer a buy-out or consider a donation of the solar farm (at the end of a year specified by the solar developer). The donation option may not be economically feasible for vendors. The donation option was included because certain vendors have utilized PPAs with a donation structure when the PPA counter-party is non-profit entity. PEI would like to know if any vendors are open to donating the solar farm at the end of a specified year. If the vendor determines that having the University of Illinois as the power purchaser (rather than PEI) would enable the vendor to donate the system to the University during the PPA term, please so indicate. We will then examine the feasibility of the University as the power purchaser. As with all RFP responses, vendors are solely responsible for compliance with all federal, state and local laws in their RFP responses and solar farm documentation as well as in the construction, operation and any future conveyance of the solar farm.

21 Instead of a donation, would PEI be willing to partner with the contractor on the project by sharing ownership?

This is not one of the options in the RFP.

22 It is our tax counsel's opinion that a pre-determined donation would invalidate the Investment Tax Credit for the solar system owner. Does PEI have a different tax opinion? If yes, will PEI provide that tax opinion?

PEI is not making any recommendations with regards to legal interpretations of regulations; we are simply looking to buy power. The donation option is included in case a vendor wants to use that option. Vendors need to use your own legal counsel.

23 Please provide how you anticipate receiving the following information from within the bidder's PPA Pro Forma:

"Submission must include details of how the price per MWh was arrived at, including projected Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) costs, depreciation, investment tax credits, sale of RECs, operating revenue and costs, and projected profit."

We would expect the following at a minimum. Additional line items may be added for clarification and show the costs as a % of the total project cost. Refer to example below:

Construction

Labor

Material

Engineering

Project Management

Contingency

Overhead

Profit

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Total Project Costs

Total Project Expected Output: \_\_\_\_\_ Mwh

Proposed cost per Mwh: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total costs divided by total output.)

24 Does PEI expect to purchase the power at the busbar of the project?

On the drawing it calls out new switch provided by "owner" is the owner the proposer or is the owner the university? Does the University of Illinois provide the switch?

PEI will purchase the power at the agreed to rate and metered through the custody transfer meter provided by the solar farm project and associated Utility Program Statement.

The point of delivery will be at the termination points outlined in the RFP (the University-supplied switch on the east side of first street and (potentially) the circuit breaker in DC-10.

25 We understand that interconnection is on the University owned distribution system.  
Are there any upgrade costs anticipated on the distribution side of the meter?

If the switch is provided by the University does the University terminate in the switch (break the existing circuit) or does the proposer?

If the switch is provided by the University does the proposer tie in the feed from the Solar Field or does the owner at the switch?

See #11 and #24 response above. Vendor / Proposer provides the cabling and miscellaneous items to terminate the cabling as outlined.

Are there Ameren Behind the Meter interconnection requirements?

No

26 What other site information is available?

Skeletal Survey (perhaps included in DWG plat of survey)

Topographical (received in DWGS)

We were wondering if we would be able to get an Etransmitted DWG version of your site plans, including boundary and topo.

Yes, emailed DWG file to respondents that indicated participation in RFP or conference.

ALTA (information available using Topographical & Plat provided)

Wetlands Delineation

The university is not aware of any existing wetlands at the proposed Solar Farm 2.0 site. Any historic wetlands in the area would have been previously converted to farmland via field tiling. Should the Proposer choose to further investigate the presence of any localized wetlands, the university will review this document as the local AHJ.

Geotechnical report (no)

EcoCAT (endangered species) (Emailed on 3/26/2019)

The university has provided the preliminary EcoCAT consultation report. Franklin ground squirrels are in the region, but may or may not be within the project boundaries. As this has been historically farmed, the university would predict that the final comment from IDNR will not require any remediation. A final IDNR consultation report will be shared as it is available.

Lidar (Emailed on 3/19/2019)

Title Report (Will be provided to proposer)

Archeological Interest Phase 1 Survey (Emailed on 3/19/2019)

Archaeological Level I Reconnaissance Surveys were done for the proposed Solar Farm 2.0 site in the late 1990's. The sites covered in survey reports 95-19H, 95-19J and 98-005A include all of the proposed Solar Farm 2.0 site. While the surveys identified several unrecorded archaeological sites on the proposed Solar Farm 2.0 site, none of the archaeological sites were deemed significant nor were any of the sites deemed to require further investigation.

ESA Phase 1 Survey

The university is not aware of any conflicts or contaminants at the proposed Solar Farm 2.0 site which would require a Phase 1 Environmental Site

Drain tile survey (noted in previous Q&A listed below that this is not available)

Provided a potential drain tile map on March 20, 2019 Attached is a potential drain tile map. It is to be used as a reference only, as the locations are obviously not GIS accurate. The Proposers will need to field verify existing conditions and repair any damage to existing field tiles at their expense.

- 27 What Authority has Jurisdiction over permitting?  
Non-Ministerial  
Special Use Permit (if required)  
Ministerial  
Building & Electrical  
University is sole AHJ and provides our own approvals for this project.
- 28 Are you able to supply a permitting matrix for Solar 1.0 project, outlining the expected permits and who is responsible for attaining the permits?  
No
- 29 Shall we use the local ordinance setbacks from the tract perimeter or does the school have jurisdiction over setbacks? If the school, what are the setbacks?  
The university has jurisdiction over setbacks in this area. As all improvement will be low, and there will be no buildings present, we do not have a setback for the panels/infrastructure that needs to be adhered to. Fencing may go to the provided property lines with layout of the panels occurring immediately behind them, per the layout design by the respondent.
- 30 Please confirm that the definition of " Shop Drawings" is not a Permit set but a drawing set for Customer Review.  
There is no "Permit set" - The project will be required to submit construction drawings, shop drawings, and related product information for review by PEI/University of Illinois staff.  
  
Approval of related documents is required and will be documented to the vendor / proposer when determined in compliance with requirements.
- 31 Can you please indicate the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) of the site property? It is understood that Champaign Township owns First Street and the Village of Savoy owns Curtis Road, but the AHJ for the site is not clear.  
The site is owned by the University of Illinois who also has AHJ
- 32 Is there any current available conduit or vault from the solar site area to the existing 500 MCM circuit 600 Amp switch on the east side of First Street? Or, is it expected that the Proposer/Vendor is responsible for this?  
  
There is no conduit on the East side of the First Street, the vendor will be responsible for providing conduit, cabling, and components to make the connection. There will be a electrical vault underground (provided by owner) over the existing circuit with the switch above that will be utilized by the Vendor / Proposer to terminate the conduit and extend the cabling to the switch. Also reference #24 & #25 above
- 33 Is there a current available easement that will be made available for the 15kV cable through 1<sup>st</sup> Street from the site area to the point of interconnection?  
  
The University owns the property along the path of the cable with only the exception of the crossing of first street which is under the jurisdiction of Champaign Township. Please coordinate with their Highway Commissioner on schedule and location. His acceptance in writing is adequate for our review and approval (no permit is required).
- 34 Have any activities to secure the IL Adjustable Block Program been taken which Proposers should consider? If not, is there any expectation on what assumption Proposers should use for state incentive values (ABP Block REC rate and project applicable MW capacity) in determining economics?  
  
No, not by PEI or the U of I, we are requesting the developers provide the best options available.

- 35 What is the approximate cost of the Universities avoided cost?  
Is the electricity rate on the web of Electric (per MWh) \$ 0.0790 considered your avoided cost of energy? Meaning you have other capacity, MISO ICAP, and other Ameren charges?  
can you provide a breakdown of your bills so we can determine your savings as well as how a battery may be added to reduce your costs?  
I am curious if you can send us your utility account and meter numbers, or interval data, if available, for the campus distribution system. We would like this data to better understand and present a savings analysis for the University with our response.  
Will UIUC please provider utility bills so developers may understand the charge structure?  
How active is Uofl in terms of participation in the wholesale market and ancillary services  
What is the energy management software platform used to manually control assets on campus from the central energy control room, and what is the preferred industrial communication protocol  
N/A
- 36 Will there be any property tax assessed on the project during the lifetime of the project or will it be exempted?  
Does the University pay property taxes? If not, should we assume no property taxes?  
Who is responsible for paying for the property tax for the project?  
The developer will be responsible for determining and paying property taxes for Solar Farm 2.0
- 37 Would the University consider a PPA term that is longer than 20 years as an option?  
Would the University be open to a land lease with the bidder that is longer than the term of the PPA?  
Would PEI consider a longer PPA option other than 10 or 20 years? (25yr, 30yr, 35yr)  
20 year PPA is the maximum term for this proposal
- 38 We calculate the capacity of the interconnection line as follows:  $435 \text{ amps} \times 13.8 \text{ kV} \times \sqrt{3} = 10.397 \text{ MW}$ .  
Can you please confirm the capacity of the electrical line that we are contemplating connecting such that everyone is using the same information?  
To confirm, if additional amperage is generated in excess than is available on the existing 500 mcm 15kv CU conductors, the Project is able to use existing conductor and supplement with an additional conductor in parallel?  
10.397 MW is the approximate capacity of the existing circuit ( utilizing a Unity Power Factor). The 435 Amps is the maximum continuous rating.
- 39 Can we consider this the maximum continuous rating or just a short peak rating?  
See #28 above
- 40 Does the university want to apply a safety factor (or a buffer) to ensure safe reliable operation?  
PEI / The University does not directly apply a safety factor. The Vendor / Proposer shall calculate and design to stay within the maximum circuit ampacity.

- 41 Please provide a spec sheet of the new equipment we will be interconnecting with.  
Please confirm that the tie-in to the 13.8kV circuit will be at a new medium-voltage sectionalizing cabinet.  
The switch being provided by the owner in the existing 500 MCM circuit will be a G & W "RPF132" and a standard drawing will be provided. Emailed drawing on 3/21/19
- 42 If possible, please provide the utility circuit load profile.  
Will not be provided.
- 43 The minimum amount of energy produced in the first year is 18,000 MWhs. Is there a maximum amount of energy that University could take from the project?  
Is PEI able to provide a maximum target for Year 1 energy production (MWh), given the RFP requests a minimum of 18,000MWh Year 1 production? This information is critical in order to size the system appropriately, as well as to ensure that the equipment and the distribution system are able to accommodate the Solar Farm 2.0 generation.  
Is PEI able to provide more detail on its plan to direct any generation above the 18,000MWh Year 1 production target on the distribution system interconnected to the Solar Farm 2.0?  
Are we able to design a system that produces above 18,000MWh? Will the University accept any systems below 18,000MWh if project economics are better than a project at 18,000MWh?  
Will the University accept any systems below 18,000MWh if project economics are better than a project at 18,000MWh?  
The acceptable range of energy production (based on the first year) is from 18,000 MWh to 22,000 MWh with the amperage and circuiting requirements remaining the same as outlined in the Utility Program Statement.
- 44 It was stated that if we didn't need all the area to produce 18,000 MWh that we should try to keep the array as far south as possible...  
Can the University clarify if the objective is to maximize the MWh production of the 55 acres or achieve 18,000 MWh annually using as little space as possible?  
Will you assign greater value to system designs that produce more than 18,000 MWh of production per year. If so, how will you value a larger system size versus lower cost per MWh?  
Yes, the design should be as efficient as possible and the array should be consolidated to the south leaving the northern edge available to the University for their use if not required by the design.
- 45 What is more valuable to the University?  
Does PEI value a solar system that maximizes use of available land more than a system that minimizes the use of available land while meeting the minimum production requirement?  
Keeping farm research area or using all the land and producing more MWhs at a lower cost?  
On page 11, you state "a preference for summer/late afternoon power." What does this mean? Does this "preference" take precedence over greater total power produced or lower cost per MWh?  
The primary goal is to meet the minimum of 18,000 MWh / yr at the lowest unit cost / MWh possible. The generous range of acceptable annual production is primarily to give the proposers flexibility in configuring the system in an efficient layout to get the best unit cost possible. As an example, it is allowable to have more than one orientation of fixed tilt panels (as long as it is aesthetically acceptable) if required to adjust peak vs. annual production. (e.g. additional production can be provided late afternoon with some westerly facing panels without increasing system peak output.) There is also a value for efficient use of land but the primary variable is to minimize the PPA cost per MWh. Provide the best cost per MWh.

46 Can you please provide your electricity usage and costs such that we can perform an analysis of battery & storage?

Are you receptive to hearing about a Solar + Battery Storage Options? If so, can PEI supply the current load profile and the time of use rate (On-Peak/Off-Peak Percentages)? Do you have demand type charges?

Batteries: There was mention at the site visit that batteries could 'solve some problems' for UofI. We read through the iCAP and realize there are multiple generation sources onsite where energy storage could add value to stabilize and make better energy management decisions. We also realize that UofI has a robust energy management center, where the team actively participates in the wholesale market as well as ancillary services. That said, batteries were not part of the original RFP, and the IL market does not yet have lucrative incentives for battery storage paired with solar (beyond the federal ITC credits). We also do not currently have enough information to accurately size a full-scale battery system, or run the economic value for a battery system with accuracy on campus without more info and dialog. We would like to gauge the interest level of the UofI team in terms of exploration of battery storage on the project though, and put forth the appropriate effort in return based upon responses. The following questions pertain to the possibility of adding batteries to the overall solution package:

UofI team mentioned that battery storage could 'solve problems' during the site visit. Can you please advise what problems battery storage, and fast acting storage solutions in general could solve on campus ?

How much interest is there in battery storage for academic purposes (non-economic drivers)

With review of all of the battery/storage questions PEI has determined that this RFP is not structured for these options.

47 It was stated that noise is an issue. Can you provide a DB level that all the developers can be held accountable to?

The applicable Illinois Pollution Control Board requirements are referenced in the RFP. Proposers should review the details of Subtitle H, available online at <https://pcb.illinois.gov/SLR/IPCBandIEPAEnvironmentalRegulationsTitle35>. The residential spaces across Curtis Road are considered Class A land, and the solar farm will be Class C land. The decibel levels are limited at various frequencies, as measured in accordance with Subtitle H requirements. Please refer to the nighttime noise level restrictions in section Section 901.102 (b), in the column labeled "Class C Land."

48 Is an FAA glare study required?

The vendor is required to submit to the FAA, for them to determine if a glare study is required. Proposer is to meet all FAA requirements.

49 Drain tile survey: We are keenly aware of how important drain tile and water management is.

Provided a potential drain tile map on March 20, 2019 Attached is a potential drain tile map. It is to be used as a reference only, as the locations are obviously not GIS accurate. The Proposers will need to field verify existing conditions and repair any damage to existing field tiles at their expense.

50 We have a company that will go out and locates all the major drain tiles but it must be done well ahead of design so you know where to avoid or how much relocation will be required. They use a backhoe and locater rods to do this work.

Regarding the timing of site discovery work: If we are not allowed to start construction until after 10/1/2019, how does the University feel about the onsite discovery work that is required well before mobilization (pre-Engineering & Design). For example,

Once a vendor is selected, PEI and the University will coordinate with vendor and the college of ACES for any requests for potential site access that does not interfere with ongoing farming or crop research.

51 Are there any relevant geotechnical reports available for this site?

Geotech report, to ensure the piles or screw designs are correct we would need to do geotech work. Geotech consists of 4-8 areas where they use a backhoe to dig about 12 feet deep and 10 feet long to get all the samples and exploratory work done.

I wanted to send a quick follow up on this email as your email below may be related to my previous RFI about the geotechnical report for Phase 1 solar project. In your transaction with Rockland Capital for the Phase 1 project, has the university been provided a copy of the geotechnical report that was used for the design development of the fixed tilt racking system?

My hope is asking is that the geotechnical report might have been provided to Prairieland Energy as part of the due diligence for the University to acquire the Phase 1 solar project, and therefore could be provided to participants of the phase 2 proposal to better understand the geotechnical composition of the soils? This will help the EPC contractors better understand the depth of pile required for the soil conditions to address (a) frost upheaval and (b) stability for the structural design to meet wind and snow loading.

Please let me know if it might help to clarify further, but our hope in posing the question is that a geotechnical report from the phase 1 project will further clarify the specifications for Phase 2 project.

Is there a Geotech or foundation report available from Solar 1.0 as a reference?

Is there a soils report for the proposed location?

There are no Geotechnical reports available to the best of our knowledge

52 Who currently owns and operates Solar Farm 1?

Phoenix Solar South Farms, LLC, a subsidiary of RC Energy Group

53 Who is providing the O&M services for this solar farm?

Phoenix Solar South Farms, LLC, a subsidiary of RC Energy Group is the operator for solar farm 1, but per the RFP the developer is required to provide O&M to Solar Farm 2.0

54 If PEI anticipates providing responses to bidder questions on 3/28, is PEI willing to consider a RFP deadline extension beyond 4/3? We believe the current timeline would not provide bidders with adequate time to adjust system designs to accommodate changes in production guidelines.

Lastly, just a thought: some of these items (and questions from others) can drastically change the design and price of a project. If the responses to the questions don't get published until a week prior to the bid due date, this will not give developers a lot of time to provide thorough responses.

Distribution of Q & A is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th. Proposals are due Wednesday, April 3rd at 2pm, less than a week later. PEI answers may affect system design and key response items. Will PEI extend the Proposal Due Date to allow additional time for bidders to incorporate the answers into their proposals?

The deadline for the RFP has been extended from 2:00 PM Wednesday, April 3, 2019 to 2:00 PM Wednesday, April 10, 2019

55 Can you clarify what RECs qualify for a "Swap" in the PPA options you've asked for? For example, Texas Wind RECs are a completely different product (and cost) as an SREC anywhere else. Does it need to be Green-e certified?

Is the revised RFP going to be up sometime next week? (I believe at the meeting, it was mentioned that a revision was coming out that would clarify the REC swapping option)?

The replacement RECs need to be compliant with the EPA's Green Power Partnership program, described online at <https://www.epa.gov/greenpower/requirements-green-power-partnership>.

56 Mowing: "Pollinator Habitat is expected to be mowed during the growing season a minimum of every 4 weeks and a maximum of every 2 weeks...Mowing height should be set at no less than 4 inches."

Rather than specifying a mowing frequency, would it be acceptable to specify a minimum mowing height and a maximum grass height relative to the lowest edge of the modules? This would allow for a contractor to choose a higher racking height rather than including a specified number of mows each year.

The intent of the mowing is to reduce aggressive weeds under the solar panels while simultaneously allowing for a reduction of the use of chemical herbicides. Both mowing and chemical use can be environmentally detrimental, but given the two, we would prefer a reduction in chemical use. Given that this will be located on farmland, just like the Solar Farm to the north, we would expect plant growth to be robust during the growing season. The Proposer needs to submit a detailed establishment and management plan to illustrate how the landscape will be installed and maintained. In general, if the plant material is kept between 4" to 12", much of the more aggressive weeds and woody plant saplings should be reduced and kept in check. This will also assist in reducing potential weed pressure on the adjacent farm/research plots as well. Aesthetics also play a role as we are adjacent to residences in the Village of Savoy. I would say that design height of the modules has more to do with how you plan on maintaining the landscape. I would assume a higher racking height would make for an easier to maintain landscape.

57 Will PEI set up an FTP site to accommodate bidder proposal files? What is the file size limit PEI can accept via email?  
F&S will setup an FTP site

58 Please confirm that, while the project has a Prevailing Wage requirement, it is not subject to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA).  
Solar Farm 2.0 is subject to prevailing wage and a project labor agreement.

59 PEI sent a number of emails containing additional RFP files. Are these files amendments? As Bidder's are required to verify receipt of all amendments, will PEI provide a list of amendments and a Bidder Amendment Acknowledgement Form for bidders to sign?

The questions and answers will be provided as an addendum to the RFP, all files that have been or will be distributed are referenced in this addendum. Verification of this addendum is required and will be considered complete for all items listed in the addendum, (including files; DWG, Eco Cat, Lidar files, RPF132 Proposed switch) when confirmation and acceptance is received via email by Kevin Chalmers.

60 Will all PEI emailed RFP documents be posted on the PEI website along with the RFP and Presentation?  
The RFP, pre-conference presentation and the RFP Addendum (Q & A) will be posted on PEI's website.

61 Please confirm that the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign will be the off-taker of the energy, and that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois will sign the Power Purchase Agreement.

PEI would be the off-taker (buyer) of the energy. PEI will sign the Power Purchase Agreement. Reference background on page 3 of the RFP.

62 The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) indicates that the project outlined in the PEI RFP would not qualify for RECs offered through the Adjustable Block Program and that there is no current availability for the Utility Scale Program. Please confirm that this is PEI's understanding on both paths as well. If PEI believes that a proposed project could qualify for the Adjustable Block Program, please explain how a project could qualify.

Could you please elaborate on the particular SREC program PEI/the University expects the proposer to secure for Bid 2?

This is left to the vendors to determine applicability.

63 Regarding Bid 3 -- Delivered Energy produced On-Site (Solar Farm 2.0) with alternative renewable attributes (RECs): Is providing alternative RECs an optional bid or a required bid?

All three bid prices are required.

64 On page 12 you state "unacceptable conditions include:" "Clauses requiring PEI to indemnify and hold harmless the successful respondent." Is this intended to exclude the University's indemnity for "the University's gross negligence or willful misconduct?"

No, this is to hold the responsible party accountable and to not shift responsibility to PEI or the university

65 Who will be responsible for conducting the electrical safety checks / inspections for the solar facility? Who will have final authority over the electrical compliance of the solar facility?

The vendor has first line responsibility that all electrical safety checks are completed and to notify the university quality assurance group at F&S to confirm those requirements have been completed. Any code related items will require final review and approval by the code officer and AHJ.

66 What is PEI planning on doing with the project at year 10 or year 20? Is the contractor responsible for decommissioning the project or is the expectation that the project will be handed over to PEI at a fair market value?

The expectation is that the project will remain on University property at the end of the term, not be decommissioned. This may be detailed further in the PPA.

67 How does PEI want to define fair market value of the solar facility?

Described on page 4 of the RFP

68 What happens in the event that the project is terminated early?

Details of early termination will be documented in the Terms and Conditions of the PPA

69 Fully designed shop drawings will take longer than 30 days to be completed. Is PEI able to push this timeframe out, or provide additional information than can help speed up the system engineering? (ie. Geotech)

Within 15 days of the award of contract the vendor shall submit a detailed schedule of work, indicating timelines for all project milestones for review and acceptance. This would include pre-engineering, shop drawing submittals, installation for infrastructure / panels / landscape, and commissioning and inspections timeframes.

- 70 Will PEI compensate if duration of outage is more than 4 hours per year?  
This was only for misc. (incidental) trips. Details of outages will be documented in the Terms and Conditions of the PPA
- 71 Please describe University's meter gear and physical connection at DC-10 Building? Will this be in an existing cabinet in the building, existing breaker, etc.)?  
The termination by the Vendor in DC 10 (if needed) will be in our GE 15 KV Powervac Switchgear. The connection would be a standard Buss Stab with a two hole lug.
- 72 Please confirm which version of NEC the University would like the project to be engineered (2014, 2017)?  
Facility standards link on page 14 of the RFP ([www.FS.illinois.edu](http://www.FS.illinois.edu)) and use version NEC 2017
- 73 Will UIUC consider any additional proposals outside of the solar farm acreage outlined in the RFP?  
No. The only available space is the area within the site layout in the RFP.
- 74 Confidentiality of Submissions: Please confirm that the proposals/submissions that are put forth by bidders for this portion (pre-contract signing) of the RFP process will NOT become public and will not be shared outside of the review team. Can you please confirm that submissions will be kept confidential?  
Confidentiality listed on page 9 of the RFP - From the date of issuance of the RFP until the Proposal Due Date, the Proposer must not make available or discuss its Proposal, or any part thereof, with any employee or agent of PEI. The Proposer is hereby advised that PEI shall strive to keep confidential any part of its Proposal or any material marked as confidential, proprietary, or trade secret, unless PEI is required to disclose such material in accordance with law or court order.