

**REQUEST
FOR
PROPOSALS**

**PLATTE RIVER POWER AUTHORITY
2019 RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY –
PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR GENERATION**

**FORT COLLINS, CO
SPECIFICATION NUMBER: HQ19-1806**

PLATTE RIVER POWER AUTHORITY
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Table of Contents

ARTICLE I. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS..... 1
ARTICLE II. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS 2
ARTICLE III. PROPOSAL INFORMATION..... 5
ARTICLE IV. PROPOSAL CRITERIA 8
EXHIBIT A – NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL 9
EXHIBIT B – BIDDER PREQUALIFICATION FORM..... 10
EXHIBIT C – SOLAR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS 11

ARTICLE I. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Platte River Power Authority (hereinafter called "Platte River"), will accept proposals for the 2019 Renewable Energy Supply – Solar, Specification Number HQ19-1806 ("Project") until 4:00 p.m., MST, Friday, October 25, 2019.

Bidders should complete the Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal form (attached hereto as **Exhibit A**) prior to submittal of a Proposal. A completed **Exhibit A** must be received by Platte River electronically and should be submitted to PRPA2020Solar@prpa.org no later than 4:00 pm, MST, Friday, September 20, 2019. Although a Notice of Intent is not required to submit a bid, only those entities that have provided this notice to Platte River will be included in communications regarding any bid clarifications or corrections that may occur. A Notice of Intent is also necessary to obtain a draft term sheet from Platte River so Bidder can communicate changes required in key provisions of the draft term sheet that will be required by Bidder to finalize a power purchase agreement with Platte River. Bidders should make their best effort to provide accurate information about their proposal; however, Bidders will not be bound by the information provided in the completed **Exhibit A**. Submitting a Notice of Intent allows Platte River to engage in preliminary evaluations regarding the proposed project.

One (1) electronic copy of the Proposal and a completed Bidder Prequalification Form (attached hereto as **Exhibit B**) with requested financial information will be required and should be submitted to PRPA2020Solar@prpa.org. It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure that the electronic Proposal and **Exhibit B** with requested financial information are received. NOTE: If your organization does not allow submittal of financial information in an electronic format, hard copies may be sent to Platte River Power Authority, Attention: Masood Ahmad, Resource Planning Manager, 2000 East Horsetooth Road, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80525.

The award of a Power Purchase Agreement shall be conditioned upon compliance with all provisions of this request for proposal. Platte River will distribute a detailed draft term sheet to those entities submitting a Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal form. Bidders should submit any proposed changes to the term sheet with each submitted Proposal.

Platte River reserves the right to accept only those Proposal(s) that, in its sole determination, provide the best value at least risk to Platte River. Platte River is not obligated to accept any Proposal and reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, in whole or in part.

Summary	Date and Time
Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal Form (Exhibit A) due	4:00 p.m., Friday, September 20, 2019
Proposal, Bidder Prequalification Form (Exhibit B) and financial information and any proposed changes to term sheet due	4:00 p.m., Friday, October 25, 2019

For additional information, please contact Masood Ahmad, Resource Planning Manager, at (970) 229-4836 or PRPA2020Solar@prpa.org.

PLATTE RIVER POWER AUTHORITY

ARTICLE II. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

1.0 GENERAL

These instructions apply to the preparation of Proposals for Platte River Power Authority (“Platte River”)

2.0 INTERPRETATION. MODIFICATION AND ADDENDA

It shall be the Bidder’s responsibility to advise Platte River prior to the Proposal submittal date of conflicting requirements or missing information which requires clarification. Any interpretation or modification of the Proposal documents will be made only by addendum, emailed, or delivered to each person who submitted a Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal. Platte River is not responsible for any other interpretations or modifications of the Proposal documents.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1 Preparation. Proposals must be in strict accordance with these Instructions to Bidders. Each Bidder must submit an electronic copy of a Proposal.

3.2 Bidder Qualifications. No Proposal will be accepted from, and no Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) will be awarded to, any person, firm, or corporation that is in arrears to Platte River. Bidders shall submit satisfactory evidence that they have practical knowledge and prior experience of providing the particular products and services specified in the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) and that they have the necessary financial resources to provide the services called for as described in this document.

Bidders shall provide up to three project references that best represent the Bidder’s past performance in utility-scale solar project development, financing and operation each with a minimum capacity of 5MW interconnected to a transmission or distribution system. Such projects may include those with the federal government, state or local governments, investor owned utilities, municipal utilities or private commercial customers. Bidders should also provide any performance recognition documents received within the last three years.

3.3 Confidential Information. Pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. §§ 24-72-200.1 *et seq.* (“CORA”), all information contained in any bid or proposal is subject to public disclosure unless it meets one of the exceptions set forth in CORA. To avoid disclosure of trade secrets, privileged information, or confidential commercial, financial, geological, or geophysical data (“Confidential Information”), the Bidder must clearly mark all Confidential Information as such and provide a written, detailed justification with its bid or proposal of the protected nature of the Confidential Information under Colorado law. This justification must address, at a minimum, the specific competitive harm that may result from any disclosure, the intrinsic value of the Confidential Information to the Bidder, and any safeguards the Bidder uses to protect the Confidential Information from disclosure.

By submitting a Proposal, the Bidder agrees to hold Platte River harmless from any claim arising from the release of Confidential Information not clearly marked as such by the Bidder or lacking written, detailed justification supported by Colorado law. **NOTE: prices, volumes and some other commercial terms contained in a Proposal may be subject to disclosure.**

3.4 Taxes and Licenses. Platte River is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado and a municipally-owned utility; as such it is exempt from taxes and no taxes can be lawfully assessed against Platte River. It shall be the responsibility of the successful Bidder to obtain and pay for all licenses, permits, typical business taxes and inspections required for the delivery of the Project.

3.5 Signatures and Submittal. All Proposals shall be submitted electronically and signed by the Bidder or its authorized agent and must include the Bidder's address, name of an authorized representative and telephone number. Each Bidder shall sign the Proposal with the Bidder's usual signature.

Proposals by general or limited partnerships shall be signed with the partnership name followed by the signature and designation of at least one of the general partners or other authorized representatives. A complete list of general partners shall be included with the Proposal.

Proposals by a corporation shall be signed in the official corporate name of the corporation, followed by the signature and designation of the president, secretary, or other person authorized to bind the corporation, and shall display the corporate seal. The names of all persons signing should also be typed or printed below the signature. Bidding corporations shall designate the state in which they are incorporated, the address of their principal office, and the name and address of their agent for service of process.

Proposals by a limited liability company shall be signed by the managing member or a representative expressly authorized to bind the company.

A Proposal signed by any person on behalf of an undisclosed principal shall be rejected.

The Bidder's name stated on the Proposal shall be the exact legal name of the company.

Faxed Proposals are not acceptable. Proposals shall be submitted electronically to PRPA2020Solar@prpa.org and should identify the Bidder's Name, Project Name, and the Specification Number.

A single proprietary interest shall not submit multiple proposals for the same work even though the individual proposals are submitted under different names. Platte River reserves the right to reject all proposals so submitted, or for any reason.

3.6 Withdrawal/Amendments. Proposals may be withdrawn, altered, and resubmitted at any time before the submittal deadline upon written notification of withdrawal to PRPA2020Solar@prpa.org and inform Masood Ahmad at (970) 229-4836.

4.0 PROPOSAL OPENING

4.1 Receipt by Platte River. Platte River will date and time-stamp all Proposals received in paper format, but strongly prefers Proposals be submitted electronically. Platte River is not responsible for delays of delivery employed by the Bidder. It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure that Proposals are received prior to the deadline set forth herein. It is suggested that a test email and attachment be sent prior to submitting an electronic proposal to ensure that spam filters can be circumvented successfully.

4.2 Proposal Opening. Proposals received by Platte River will be opened and considered at 4:00 p.m., MST, Friday, October 25, 2019; provided, however, that this deadline may be extended by Platte River at its sole discretion.

5.0 AWARD

5.1 Basis of Award. Platte River may, in its sole discretion, award a contract to the most responsive and responsible Bidder meeting the Technical Specifications. The following is a partial list of the criteria that may be used to evaluate Proposals:

Cost: Platte River will evaluate the cost of each proposal, considering (1) the

price under the proposed PPA to deliver all output to Platte River, (2) the estimated value of energy and capacity from the project, based on the project's energy production profile and projected value of the energy at the Delivery Point, and (3) the cost of transmission and losses to deliver output to Platte River's load.

Location: Platte River will accept bids for projects to be located near the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in northern Colorado with preference for those projects that deliver all output directly to the Platte River system.

Project Viability: Platte River will consider the probability that the Bidder will be able to successfully complete development, financing and construction and bring the project into operation on schedule. Factors considered in assessing project viability will include technical specifications, level of project development, as well as Bidder experience and financial capacity.

Risk Management: Platte River will place priority on generation opportunities providing operational flexibility including curtailment rights and projects that do not increase flows on critical transmission assets.

Performance Guarantee: Platt River will require firm performance guarantees for the life of the project as specified in the term sheet.

Other criteria that may be used to evaluate Proposals may be set forth in the Proposal Information section.

5.2 Acceptance and Rejection of Proposals. Platte River reserves the right to accept any and all Proposals or parts thereof; to reject any and all Proposals; and to waive irregularities and informalities.

Platte River reserves the right to negotiate optional items with the successful Bidder(s).

5.3 Contract Award. Depending on the number and complexity of the proposals, Platte River anticipates 8-10 weeks to evaluate the proposals and notify the winning Bidder(s), if any. The Bidders selected to negotiate a PPA will be notified by phone and email. It is anticipated that a PPA in a form acceptable to Platte River will be executed by the parties within seventy-five (75) days of contract award or as soon as practical thereafter.

ARTICLE III. PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Background

Platte River Power Authority (“Platte River”) provides reliable, low-cost, environmentally responsible electricity to the communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont, and Loveland, Colorado. These four owner municipalities (“Municipalities”) established Platte River in 1975 as an independent joint action agency in order to finance, build, and operate electric generation resources and transmission assets to serve the Municipalities’ wholesale electric needs. The Municipalities have contracted with Platte River for the supply of essentially all their electric power and energy needs through 2060. Platte River also sells surplus energy and transmission services, as available, in wholesale markets to other entities. Platte River places a high priority on maintaining a high credit rating as demonstrated by its current Fitch bond rating of AA, S&P rating of AA and Moody’s rating of Aa2.

The area served by Platte River and the Municipalities is situated along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, north of Denver. Each of the Municipalities owns a retail electric utility that provides retail electrical distribution and other services to all residents and businesses within the Municipality as well as some customers outside municipal limits. Platte River is governed by an eight-member Board of Directors, composed of the mayor of each Municipality and an appointed director (typically the utility director) from each Municipality.

Platte River’s 2018 municipal peak demand was approximately 690 megawatts. The current generation portfolio consists of coal-fired baseload units, natural gas peaking units, hydropower purchases through long term contracts with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), wind generation facilities, and solar generation facilities. Platte River owns and operates approximately 770 miles of transmission lines (individually or jointly) and 26 substations, which support delivery of generation from its facilities in northern Colorado.

Purpose of this Request for Proposals for Additional Renewable Resources

Platte River is interested in seeking additional solar energy in a timeframe that will allow the Bidder to take advantage of the current renewable energy tax credits. Platte River is not seeking renewable energy credits without energy generated from the associated renewable generation facility. Demonstration projects will not be evaluated under this RFP process—only commercially proven technologies will be considered.

Proposal Requirements

The characteristics of the solar that Platte River is seeking are summarized as follows:

- Amount: Platte River is seeking 110,000 MWh to 330,000 MWh of solar renewable energy deliveries per year, which is roughly equivalent to the output of 50 to 150 MW of nameplate photovoltaic solar generation assuming an annual capacity factor of 25%. Platte River will consider projects that interconnect with one or more of Platte River’s four Municipalities’ distribution systems (Estes Park Power & Communications, Fort Collins Utilities, Longmont Power & Communications or Loveland Water & Power) and are competitive with a larger project interconnected at the transmission system.
- Product: All energy, capacity, ancillary service and environmental attributes on an as-delivered basis from the new solar renewable energy facilities.
- Start Date: Platte River will consider projects with initial energy delivery dates between June 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. Platte River will consider an initial delivery date earlier than June 1, 2023 if the pricing is more attractive.

- Term:** Platte River will accept PPAs with a minimum term of fifteen (15) years and a maximum term of twenty-five (25) years that result in the lowest per unit fixed price over the entire term.
- Delivery Point:** Platte River will consider project proposals located on the Front Range in northern Colorado where the output is delivered into the Platte River transmission system or one of its four Municipalities' distribution systems (Estes Park Power & Communications, Fort Collins Utilities, Longmont Power & Communications or Loveland Water & Power).
- Transmission:** Proposals shall include the cost of delivering the Product on firm point-to-point transmission service from the Project bus bar to the Platte River transmission system, such as the Ault Substation which is located east of Fort Collins or Longs Peak Substation which is located northeast of Longmont.
- Land and Site Control:** Proposals must provide documentation that the Bidder will be able to achieve necessary site control within sixty (60) days after being notified of its selection by Platte River. The Bidder will also be responsible for any necessary permitting and approvals, as applicable.
- System Design:** Proposals shall include a technical description of the proposed system including conceptual design drawings, layout of the solar facility, and electrical drawings up to the point of interconnection.
- Implementation Plan:** Proposals shall include a schedule and phasing of the project including engineering, materials procurement, construction, installation, interconnection, commissioning and testing prior to the date of commercial operation.
- Risk Mitigation Plan:** Proposals shall include a mitigation plan for weather contingencies, mechanical failures, operational failures, equipment life failures, and contract underperformance over the life of the contract.
- Technical Specs:** Proposals shall address the Bidder Provided Specifications identified in **Exhibit C**.

Platte River prefers delivery of Product to delivery points contiguous to Platte River's service area. Platte River will consider deliveries to the Ault Substation or Long Peak Substation subject to Bidder obtaining the necessary generation interconnection, transmission service and other approvals, the cost of which shall be included in the bid prices. Platte River receives regulation, energy imbalance and reserve services from Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo). Platte River performs wholesale market related functions for its four Municipalities and is a member of the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) and the Western Systems Power Pool (WSPP).

Transmission constraints may require generation curtailment, among other actions, to preserve the safe and reliable operation of the transmission grid as well as compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and WECC Reliability Standards. Developers have the obligation to operate the renewable generation facility in a manner that preserves grid reliability and safety, and are solely responsible for any costs associated with such curtailment of their generating plant. Such restrictions may be mitigated or eliminated by network upgrades as identified by the transmission provider during the interconnection process for projects located in transmission-constrained areas.

Generators will be responsible for meeting transmission provider requirements for interconnection, voltage regulation, and associated reactive power capability, voltage ride-through, power quality, and other criteria as required by the transmission provider's posted Generator Interconnection Procedures. Generator

owners and operators will be required to register as appropriate with WECC and NERC. Developers are encouraged to consult each transmission provider's OASIS sites for information on generator interconnection requirements and other applicable requirements.

Information submitted to demonstrate operational capability must include identification of the proposed transmission path and identification of proposed interconnection points with any and all transmission provider(s) required to provide delivery of power and energy from the proposed resource(s) to Platte River's system. **Any resulting purchase of a renewable project will be contingent on Platte River obtaining firm transmission service from the Project bus bar to the Platte River transmission system¹. As such, the developer should have a high level of confidence that its proposed project is deliverable to Platte River on available firm transmission service.**

Dispatchability

The proposed project shall include appropriate communication and control equipment such that the project can receive and respond to automatic generation control (AGC) dispatch signals provided by Platte River's Power System Operations or a NERC approved balancing authority operator.

Other Requirements

Each proposed project must comply with all applicable federal and state laws. All permits, licenses, fees, emissions allowances, and environmental requirements are the responsibility of the Bidder for the entire term of each Proposal. If a resource is not in service as of the date the Proposal is submitted, a detailed milestone schedule describing major project activities, including a permitting schedule, leading up to the commencement date for commercial operation must be provided.

Bidders shall provide all currently defined and future environmental attributes associated with proposed energy supply, including but not limited to renewable energy credits, greenhouse gas or carbon credits and any other current or future emissions attributes associated with solar power generation. Bidder shall register the project and track renewable attributes with the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS), or any successor organization.

Performance Assurance

Platte River will require the successful Bidder(s) to provide security or other performance assurances acceptable to Platte River to minimize Platte River's exposure to direct or consequential damages due to failure of the Bidder to fulfill the terms and conditions of any PPA entered into with Platte River. Platte River is open to discussion of the form of such security or performance assurances as part of PPA negotiations.

¹ Ault Substation located east of Fort Collins or Longs Peak Substation northeast of Longmont are good proxies for points of delivery to the Platte River Transmission System.

ARTICLE IV. PROPOSAL CRITERIA

Platte River will provide a detailed term sheet to each entity that returns a Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal (**Exhibit A**) to Platte River. Given that this term sheet will be the basis for the final PPA executed by Platte River and the successful Bidder, we ask each Bidder to make any required changes to the term sheet that they would require in any executed PPA at the time they submit their final Proposal prior to October 25th.

Financial Information

To determine if the Bidder has adequate financial status to meet the obligations for the project, each Bidder must complete and provide a Bidder Prequalification Form (attached hereto as **Exhibit B**), together with the following details as part of its proposal:

- Latest available audited financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and, if available, statement of cash flows) for the immediate last two (2) years and the current year-to-date or the latest quarterly report; or
- Latest available unaudited financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and, if available, statement of cash flows) for the immediate last two (2) years and the current year-to-date or the latest quarterly report.
- If Bidder is a subsidiary of a parent entity, please provide the above financial data for the entity responsible for the bid. (Parent financial data and/or support may be requested for insufficient subsidiary financials.)

Notes:

- *Companies that consolidate the results of foreign operations denominated in local currencies must translate the foreign financial statement into U.S. Dollars (USD).*
- *All financial information will be promptly destroyed or returned to unsuccessful Bidders. Financial information of the successful Bidder will be destroyed or returned following contract execution. Financial information submitted to Platte River may not be protected from public disclosure pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, (C.R.S. §§24-72-200.1 et seq.). In order to avoid disclosure of privileged, confidential commercial or financial information ("Confidential Information"), Bidders must clearly mark all Confidential Information as such, although Bidders are cautioned that a mere claim of confidentiality may not be sufficient to protect information under CORA. Bidders that are concerned about disclosure of sensitive information should consult counsel. By submitting a Proposal, the Bidder agrees to hold Platte River harmless from any claim rising from the release of Confidential Information.*
- *All information requested herein must be provided. Failure to submit the requested information will result in rejection of the Bidder's Proposal.*

EXHIBIT A – Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal

2019 Renewable Energy Supply – Solar RFP
Platte River Power Authority

The undersigned intends to submit one or more proposals, as described in the Platte River Power Authority Request for Proposals for 2019 Renewable Energy Supply – Solar, Specification Number HQ-1806.

Name of Proposing Organization: _____

Address of Proposing Organization: _____

Name/Title of Contact: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

As part of this notice, please provide a brief description of the proposal that is planned, including generation resource technology and size, as well as location and other general information regarding the project.

EXHIBIT B – Bidder Prequalification Form



Project: 2019 RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY - PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR GENERATION RFP	Specification Number: HQ19-1806
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Project Description:

Platte River Power Authority ("Platte River") provides reliable, low-cost, environmentally-responsible electricity to the communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colorado. The current generation portfolio consists of coal-fired baseload units, natural gas peaking units, hydropower purchases through long-term contracts with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), wind generation facilities, and solar generation facilities. Platte River is interested in seeking additional solar energy in a timeframe that will allow the Bidder to take advantage of current renewable energy tax credits. Platte River is not seeking renewable energy credits without energy generated from the associated renewable generation facility. Demonstration projects will not be evaluated under this RFP process - only commercially-proven technologies will be considered.

Bidder Information: The following information is supplied by the undersigned individual, organization, or corporation as prequalification for bidding. Permission is granted to Platte River to make additional investigations as may be deemed necessary to obtain information on this potential Bidder with relation to qualifications, past performance, financial data, and related items.

Return this completed form and attachments immediately to: PRPA2020Solar@prpa.org or send a hard copy to:

Platte River Power Authority
2000 East Horsetooth Road
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525
Attention: Masood Ahmad, Resource Planning Manager

Firm Name: _____	Address: _____
Email Address: _____	City: _____
Phone: _____	State: _____
Submitted by: _____	Zip: _____

- 1) Bidder has adequate labor force to do the work properly and expeditiously within the time period specified.
- 2) Bidder has adequate financial resources and must provide the following. **Failure to submit the requested information will result in denial of the Bidder Prequalification Form.**
 - Financial statements consisting of the balance sheet, income statement, and if available, the statement of cash flows
 - Latest annual two-year comparison
 - Current year to date or quarterly statements
 - Provide audited financial statements, if available.
 - If the bidder is a subsidiary of a parent entity, please provide the required financial data for the entity responsible for the bid. (Parent financial data and/or support may be requested for insufficient subsidiary financials.)

Note:

- Companies that consolidate the results of foreign operations denominated in local currencies must translate foreign financial statements into U.S. Dollars (USD). Provide audited financial statements, if available.
- All financial information will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Financial information submitted to Platte River may be protected from public disclosure pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, (C.R.S. §§24-72-200.1 et seq.). To avoid disclosure of privileged, confidential commercial or financial information ("Confidential Information"), bidders must clearly mark all Confidential Information as such. By submitting a Bidder Prequalification Form, the bidder agrees to hold Platte River harmless from any claim rising from the release of Confidential Information.

- 3) How many years has your organization been in business? _____ Years.
- 4) How many years has your organization been in business under its present business name? _____ Years.
- 5) Bidder has met the quality control standards (i.e., ISO, "R" Stamp, "VR" Stamp, etc.) required by the (i.e., ASME, ASTM, AWWA, NFPA, IEEE, ISO, and/or Internal QA/QC policy) as evidenced by the attached certificate.

Yes No N/A

- 6) If a corporation, answer the following:

Date of incorporation: _____ Vice President's Name: _____

State of incorporation: _____ Secretary's Name: _____

President's Name: _____ Treasurer's Name: _____

- 7) If an individual or a partnership, answer the following:

Date of organization: _____

Name and address of all partners (state whether general or limited partnerships):

- 8) We normally perform the following work with our own forces:

- 9) Have you ever failed to complete any work awarded to you? Yes No
If so, note when, when, and why on a separate sheet.

- 10) Within the last five years, has any officer or partner of your organization ever been an officer or partner of another organization when it failed to complete a contract? Yes No
If so, note when, when, and why on a separate sheet.

- 11) *On a separate sheet*, list major contracts your organization has completed in the past five years, giving description of contract, owner, contract amount, and date of completion.

- 12) *On a separate sheet*, list the experience of the key individuals of your organization. Identify the person(s) that will most likely be assigned as your representative and in charge of operations for this contract.

- 13) Bidder has just or proper claims pending against him/her or his/her work as follows:

- 14) Trade references (list 3 companies):

- 15) Bank references:

EXHIBIT C – Solar Technical Specifications

Bidder Provided Specifications

- Specify assumptions used in modeled energy production (methodology, weather data used, soiling loss, albedo, etc.).
- Module – Proposed manufacturer, model number, and warranty including degradation rate over time for module and references to any projects that use this technology.
- Inverter – Proposed manufacturer, model number, and warranty term for inverters and reference to any projects that use this technology.
- Racking system or single-axis tracker – Proposed manufacturer, model number, and warranty term for racking system or single-axis tracker.
- Balance of System – Provide a description of other balance system components.
- Design Drawings – Include conceptual layout and single line drawing up to the point of interconnection.