

10/1/2008

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question:

What is the name of the contracting entity that the winning bidder will sign with?

Answer:

NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy

Question:

What are the maximum and minimum balancing area load values for NorthWestern Energy?

Answer:

From June 2007 to present the maximum load was 1724 MW and the minimum load was 855 MW.

Question:

How often do path constraints create problems for the delivery of the system balancing energy?

Answer:

NorthWestern does not have the exact figures on this. OASIS queries for hourly ATC values for all paths would result in over 450,000 records, and time does not allow for an intensive review of the information. However, based upon experience, NorthWestern believes there are only an extremely small number of hours (if any) during the year when path congestion might create an issue.

Question:

Please explain the notification timeline described in the RFP. "NWE will notify the supplier via phone of the next hour amount (either receipt or delivery) as soon as possible but no earlier than 10 minutes to the top of the current hour for the next hour's needs and no later than 45 minutes before the beginning of the next hour."

Answer:

NWE will notify the service provider via phone of the next hour MW need no earlier than 10 minutes to the top of the current hour (9:50) for the next hour's needs (HE 12:00) and no later than 45 minutes before the beginning of the next hour (10:15 for HE 12:00).

10/1/2008

Question:

Will you accept multiple bidders?

Answer:

No

Question:

Will you show preference for geographic location?

Answer:

No

Question:

Is there a contractual structure that NorthWestern prefers?

Answer:

There are a few contractual items we expect, but no standard contractual structure.

Question:

Is this RFP for the total balancing requirement on your system?

Answer:

Yes

Question:

Is this an unlimited MW request? Would a bidder be given a lower priority status if they set a limit?

Answer:

Yes, it is an unlimited MW request. A bidder may be given a lower priority status if they set a limit. This would need to be evaluated.

Question:

Does this request represent roughly the same service you have expected in the past?

10/1/2008

Answer:

Yes

Question:

Will there be more pre-bid conference calls?

Answer:

We have no plans to hold more pre-bid calls, but would be willing to schedule them if a need is identified. All questions and answers will be posted on the OASIS site.

Question:

Should questions be directed to NorthWestern or the third party monitor?

Answer:

Please direct all questions to Jon Ogur, NorthWestern's third party monitor.

Question:

You have indicated that the pricing structure should be based on Dow Jones Mid- C index. Is this day ahead or hourly?

Answer:

We assumed that pricing structure is based on an hourly index for the product when purchased, but other pricing structures will be accepted and evaluated.