

STATE OF ILLINOIS
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

ILLINOIS POWER AGENCY

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES—UTILITY INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN PRE-QUALIFIED LIST

Reference Number 27-RFI-01

The Illinois Power Agency (“Agency” or “IPA”), an independent state agency, is tasked with developing and issuing this Request for Information (“RFI”) per Section 1-30 of the Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act (220 ILCS 31/ *et seq.*). **The Agency is issuing this RFI seeking responses from Consulting Firms (“Firms”) that meet the provisions of Section 1-30(a) to support the development of a list of pre-qualified Consulting Firms for the purposes of developing integrated resource plans (“IRP”) on behalf of applicable municipal power agencies, municipalities, or electric cooperatives, including generation and transmission electric cooperatives that provide wholesale electricity to one or more distribution electric cooperatives (referred to hereinafter as “Utilities”).¹**

The purpose of this RFI is to establish and maintain a list of prequalified consulting firms that have the experience, technical expertise, market knowledge, and staffing resources necessary to develop integrated resource plans and support related stakeholder processes. This RFI is intended to determine whether responding Firms satisfy the minimum prequalification criteria described below. It is not a request for qualifications, request for proposals, and does not itself award any contract.

The Agency welcomes responses from qualified Firms able and willing to meet the statutorily defined requirements outlined herein. More information concerning the RFI and the processes governing utility IRP development, see Article 1 of Public Act 104-0458. All materials and information will be posted for public access on the Agency’s Muni and Co-Op IRP Support webpage found at <https://ipa.illinois.gov/electricity-procurement/muni-and-co-op-irp-support.html>

BACKGROUND: Section 1-30 of the Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act was adopted through Public Act 104-0458 (Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act), which was enacted on January 08, 2026 and became effective on June 1, 2026. Section 1-30 obligates the Agency to issue an RFI to develop a list of pre-qualified consulting firms to support Utilities in the development of IRPs (see 220 ILCS 31/1-30).

The Illinois Power Agency is required to maintain a list of pre-qualified consulting firms for the purpose of developing integrated resource plans on behalf of Utilities. Utilities required to submit an integrated resource plan may select a consulting firm from the Agency’s pre-qualified list to develop the plan and support associated stakeholder processes. Upon request, the Agency may also provide a pre-qualified consulting firm’s RFI response to an affected Utility; however, such RFI response materials will not be posted on the Agency’s website or otherwise be made publicly available.

¹ Utilities, as defined in Section 1-10 of the Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act and used herein, are a “municipal power agency, municipality, or electric cooperative, including a generation and transmission electric cooperative that provides wholesale electricity to one or more distribution electric cooperatives.”

INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of clarity, the Agency is solely supporting the issuance of this RFI and a future evergreen RFI to solicit and maintain a list of pre-qualified Consulting Firms. The Agency does not and will not have governance over the development of these integrated resource plans by the Utilities, the selection of a Firm, or the work of any selected Firms. The Agency will update its list of pre-qualified Consulting Firms from time to time, subject to the provisions of Section 1-30 and its internal process governing the acceptance and review of submissions by prospective Firms.

TIMELINE: Responses to this RFI by Firms that seek to be included on the Agency's pre-qualified list are due on July 15, 2026 (45 days after issuance of the RFI). The Agency will review submissions relative to the pre-qualification provisions defined in Section 1-30(a) of the Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act. The Agency will post a list of pre-qualified Firms on or by August 31, 2026 (45 days after the closing of the RFI response window). Following this initial RFI, the Agency will develop and implement an evergreen RFI process for future Firms seeking to be added to the list of pre-qualified Firms to support Utility IRPs.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Section 1-30(a) provides a list of pre-qualifications that Firms must meet, as evaluated by the Agency, to be added to the list of pre-qualified consulting firms posted on the Agency's website. These pre-qualification provisions are as follows:

- A. Prior IRP or Power Supply Planning Experience.** The firm must have direct previous experience preparing integrated resource plans for utilities, assembling power supply plans for utilities, or assembling power supply portfolios for utilities.
- B. Advanced Technical Expertise.** The firm must have one or more employees with an advanced degree in economics, mathematics, engineering, risk management, or a related field of study.
- C. Electricity Sector Experience.** The firm must have at least 10 years of experience in the electricity sector.
- D. Wholesale Market, Planning, and Modeling Expertise.** The firm must have expertise in wholesale electricity market rules, market planning, market development, and market modeling. This expertise should include, but is not limited to, current and ongoing implementation of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission orders into regional transmission organization ("RTO") markets; RTO governing documents; transmission planning processes; and resource planning.
- E. FERC and RTO Market Rules Expertise.** The firm must have expertise in wholesale electricity market rules, including rules established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and regional transmission organizations.
- F. Adequate Resources.** The firm must have adequate personnel, technical capabilities, tools, and organizational resources to perform and fulfill the required IRP support functions and responsibilities.

Please read the entire solicitation package and submit a Submittal of Information in accordance with the instructions. All forms and signature areas contained in the submittal package must be completed in full and submitted with the technical proposal, ~~and indicative price quotes~~, which combined will constitute the Submittal. Do not submit the instructions pages with offers. Firms should retain the instructions and a copy of the submitted information for future reference.

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SECTION 1 - SUBMITTAL CHECK LIST

INSTRUCTIONS

- I.1 SUBMISSION PACKAGE:** Firms are instructed to develop a single page of information that contains the following components: (1) Submittal Check List (see Section 1), (2) Firm Qualifications (see Section 2.3 of this RFI), and (3) Firm Statement of Qualifications (see Section 2.4 of this RFI). The Submittal Check List must be fully completed (check box 'yes' or 'no') and signed by the Authorized Representative. The Firm Qualifications matrix must be completed (enter 'yes' or 'no' to each section). The Firm Statement of Qualifications must contain responses to all six (6) qualification provisions (A-F) and include a Signature of the Authorized Representative (see Section 2.5 of this RFI).
- I.2 PUBLISHED RFI INFORMATION:** The Agency will post this RFI's information and related documents and announcements to its [website](#). Information will not be available in any other form or location through the Agency. Firms are responsible for monitoring the Agency's website for new or updated information.
- I.3 SOLICITATION CONTACT:** The individual listed below shall be the single point of contact for this solicitation. Unless otherwise directed, Firms should only communicate with the Solicitation Contact. The Agency shall not be held responsible for information provided to or from any other person.

Contact: Devan Fischer	Email: IPA.MuniCoopIRP@illinois.gov
Agency: Illinois Power Agency	Phone: 312.814.4143
Street Address: 180 N. Wabash Ave. Suite 500	Fax: 312-814-0926
City, State Zip: Chicago, IL 60601	TDD: 866-846-5276

Any questions or comments regarding this RFI should be directed in writing to the Contact identified above. Communications shall be sent electronically at the e-mail address identified above with the subject header as follows: **[Firm Name] – Utility IRP Pre-qualified List RFI [Question/Comment]**.

Phone calls and hard-copy submission of materials are strongly discouraged.

- I.4 FIRM QUESTIONS AND AGENCY RESPONSE:** All questions that pertain to this RFI must be submitted electronically to the Contact e-mail no later than June 15, 2026. Questions can be provided in the body of the e-mail or as a PDF or Word document attachment to an e-mail submission. Questions received and Agency responses may be posted on the Agency website supplementing this RFI. Questions and responses will be anonymized. The Agency will not be held responsible if a Firm fails to identify and respond to any e-mail correspondence subject to their response to this RFI.
- I.5 DUE DATE, TIME, AND ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION:** Submittal of information shall be directed to the e-mail address provided below and shall be received no later than the Submittal Due Date & Time

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specified below. The e-mail subject header shall be as follows: **[Firm Name] – Submission – Utility IRP Pre-qualified List RFI.**

Submittal due Date & Time:

Date: July 15, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm CPT

Submit/Deliver Submittals To:

Agency: Illinois Power Agency
Subject: [Firm Name] – Submission – Utility IRP Pre-qualified List RFI
E-mail: IPA.MuniCoopIRP@illinois.gov

- I.6 INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATION MATERIALS:** Responses to this RFI must be submitted by e-mail sent to the e-mail address listed above. The e-mail shall have a subject line as provided in I.5. The e-mail should contain the following as individual attachments or a single package (in PDF or Word format): (1) Submittal Check List (see Section 1), (2) Firm Qualifications (see Section 2.3), and (3) Firm Statement of Qualifications (see Section 2.4). The Submittal Check List and Firm Statement of Qualifications shall also include the required signatures from the Authorized Representative (see Section 2.5).

Any challenges experienced while submitting materials electronically shall be promptly communicated per the contact information provided in I.3 above, whereby the Agency will investigate and, if necessary, identify alternative methods to submit materials.

- I.7 GOVERNING LAW AND FORUM:** Illinois law and rule govern this RFI. A Firm must bring any action relating to this RFI in the appropriate court in Illinois.

- I.8 PUBLIC RECORDS AND REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT:** Submittals under this RFI become the property of the Agency. Submitted information, including late submissions, will not be returned. All submittals will be open to the public under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") (5 ILCS 140) and other applicable laws and rules, unless Firm requests in its submittal that the Agency treat certain information as confidential. A request for confidential treatment will not supersede the State's legal obligations under FOIA. The Agency will not honor requests to keep entire submittals confidential. Firms must show the specific grounds in FOIA or other law or rule that support confidential treatment. If Firm requests confidential treatment, Firm must submit one additional copy of the Submittal of Qualifications with proposed confidential information redacted. This redacted copy must describe the general nature of the material removed and shall retain as much of the Submittal of Qualifications as possible. In a separate attachment, Firm shall supply a listing of the provisions identified by section number for which it seeks confidential treatment and identify the statutory basis under Illinois law and include a detailed justification for exempting the information from public disclosure. Firm will hold harmless and indemnify the Agency for all costs or damages associated with the Agency defending

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Firm's request for confidential treatment. Firm agrees the Agency may copy the Submittal to facilitate evaluation, or to respond to requests for public records. Firm warrants that such copying will not violate the rights of any third party.

I.9 RESERVATIONS: Firm must read and understand the RFI and tailor the Submittal and all activities to ensure compliance. The Agency reserves the right to amend the solicitation, reject any or all submittals subject to failure to meet designated qualification terms, and waive minor defects. The Agency may request a clarification or otherwise verify the contents of the submittal. This process may require that the Firm provide additional information and otherwise cooperate with the Agency. If a Firm does not comply with requests for information and cooperate, the Agency may reject the Submittal as non-responsive. This RFI is solely to develop a list of pre-qualified consulting firms and does not entitle the Firm to an award or a contract with any Utility. The Agency is not responsible for and will not pay any costs associated with the preparation and submission of any Submittal materials.

I.10 EVALUATION PROCESS: The Agency determines how satisfactorily submittals meet the Responsiveness and Responsibility requirements. Submittals that fail to meet minimum Responsiveness and Responsibility requirements will not be added to the prospective list of pre-qualified consulting firms. The Agency considers the information provided when evaluating submittals. If the Agency finds a failure or deficiency, the Agency may reject the submittal or reflect the failure or deficiency in the evaluation. Subject to Section 1-30(b), any firm determined not to meet the requirements may request to submit additional information to the Agency for reconsideration.

RESPONSIVENESS: A responsive Firm is one whose submittal conforms in all material respects to this RFI and includes all required information. The Agency will determine whether the submittal conforms in all material respects to this RFI. Minor differences or deviations that have negligible impact on the suitability of the Firm to meet the minimum qualifications may be accepted or corrections to Submissions may be allowed. The Agency will determine whether a Firm's Submittal complies with the instructions for submitting qualifications. The Agency may require that an Firm correct any deficiencies as a condition of further evaluation. If submissions are received late relative to the timeline defined in I.12 of this RFI or any subsequent materials including a schedule or deadlines, the submission may be pushed to a later review period.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF RESPONSIBILITY: The table below shows the minimum elements of expertise, skills, experience and qualifications.

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Expertise, Skills, Experience and Qualifications Requirements:	
A.	Prior IRP or Power Supply Planning Experience. The firm must have direct previous experience preparing integrated resource plans for utilities, assembling power supply plans for utilities, or assembling power supply portfolios for utilities.
B.	Advanced Technical Expertise. The firm must have one or more employees with an advanced degree in economics, mathematics, engineering, risk management, or a related field of study.
C.	Electricity Sector Experience. The firm must have at least 10 years of experience in the electricity sector.
D.	Wholesale Market, Planning, and Modeling Expertise. The firm must have expertise in wholesale electricity market rules, market planning, market development, and market modeling. This expertise should include, but is not limited to, current and ongoing implementation of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission orders into regional transmission organization markets; RTO governing documents; transmission planning processes; and resource planning.
E.	FERC and RTO Market Rules Expertise. The firm must have expertise in wholesale electricity market rules, including rules established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and regional transmission organizations.
F.	Adequate Resources. The firm must have adequate personnel, technical capabilities, tools, and organizational resources to perform and fulfill the required IRP support functions and responsibilities.

- I.11 SELECTION OF FIRMS FOR PUBLISHED LIST:** The Agency will select the Firms who meet the requirements defined in I.10 for use in populating a published list of prequalified consulting firms to be posted to the Illinois Power Agency website.

Those Firms that meet the criteria in Section I.10 will be placed on a list of pre-qualified consulting firms for access and use by Utilities. The IPA will determine whether each Firm has met the qualifications set forth in this RFI. Any Firm that is determined to not meet the requirements of this RFI may request to submit additional information to the Agency for reconsideration. The Agency will make a final determination of qualification based upon that additional information. A failure of a Firm to meet the requirements of this RFI does not prohibit the Firm from submitting materials under a future RFI, including the evergreen RFI to be issued by the Agency in the future.

I.12 TIMELINE:

- RFI Issued: June 1, 2026
- RFI Questions Due: June 15, 2026, 5 PM CPT
- RFI Responses Due: July 15, 2026, 5 PM CPT
- Firms notified of eligibility: August 31, 2026

**The dates provided above are subject to change.*

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SUBMITTAL CHECK LIST

By completing and signing this form, the Firm makes a Submittal of information through this RFI to the Agency that the Agency may accept. Firm should also use this form as a final check to ensure that all required documents are completed and included with the submission. Firm must mark each blank below as appropriate. Firm understands that failure to meet all requirements will result in the Firm not being included on the pre-qualification list posted by the Agency.

CHECK LIST:

- 1.1. SOLICITATION REVIEW:** Firm reviewed the RFI, including all referenced documents, laws, and instructions, completed all blanks, provided all required information, and demonstrated how it will meet the requirements of the Agency.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 1.2. ADDENDA:** Firm acknowledges receipt of any and all addendums to this solicitation and has taken those into account in making this Submittal.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 1.3. SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS - Section 2.3 and 2.4:** Firm is submitting a response that is complete and accurate, to the correct location, and by the due date and time as defined in Section I.12.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 1.4. EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND STAFF:** Firm has the required expertise, skill, experience staff, and ability to meet the requirements of the Agency as provided in Section 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 1.5. FIRM STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:** Firm has provided a complete statement of qualifications in Sections 2.4.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 1.6. FIRM SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** Firm has provided a complete statement of qualifications in Sections 2.5.
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 1.7. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO THIS SUBMITTAL CHECK LIST:** The undersigned authorized representative of the identified Firm hereby submits this Submittal of Qualifications in full compliance with this solicitation.

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

Printed Name of Signatory: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Section 2 – Qualification Submittal

- 2.1. OBJECTIVE:** The Agency seeks responses from qualified consulting firms to support the creation of a list of pre-qualified consulting firms. This RFI has been issued in accordance with Section 1-30 of the Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act (see 220 ILCS 30/1-30).
- 2.2. EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND SERVICES REQUIRED:** The Agency seeks information from consulting firms seeking pre-qualification to support Utility IRP development and that have the following experience and qualifications (in alignment with the preceding “Pre-Qualifications Requirements” Section and Section I.10).
- A. Prior IRP or Power Supply Planning Experience.** The firm must have direct previous experience preparing integrated resource plans for utilities, assembling power supply plans for utilities, or assembling power supply portfolios for utilities.
 - B. Advanced Technical Expertise.** The firm must have one or more employees with an advanced degree in economics, mathematics, engineering, risk management, or a related field of study.
 - C. Electricity Sector Experience.** The firm must have at least 10 years of experience in the electricity sector.
 - D. Wholesale Market, Planning, and Modeling Expertise.** The firm must have expertise in wholesale electricity market rules, market planning, market development, and market modeling. This expertise should include, but is not limited to, current and ongoing implementation of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission orders into regional transmission organization markets; RTO governing documents; transmission planning processes; and resource planning.
 - E. FERC and RTO Market Rules Expertise.** The firm must have expertise in wholesale electricity market rules, including rules established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and regional transmission organizations.
 - F. Adequate Resources.** The firm must have adequate personnel, technical capabilities, tools, and organizational resources to perform and fulfill the required IRP support functions and responsibilities.
- 2.3. FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:** Please refer to Section 2.2 above for further information and explanation of each Qualification Requirement. For each of the Qualification Requirements in the table below, Firm shall state, by entering Yes or No, whether they meet the requirement. Failure to meet any of the requirements will result in the Firm not being included in the list of pre-qualified consulting firms posted on the Agency’s website.

Section 2 – Qualification Submittal

Qualification requirements:

Qualification Requirements	Firm must state below whether its meets each of the Requirements by entering "Yes" or "No"
A. Prior IRP or Power Supply Planning Experience.	Click here to enter text.
B. Advanced Technical Expertise.	Click here to enter text.
C. Electricity Sector Experience.	Click here to enter text.
D. Wholesale Market, Planning, and Modeling Expertise.	Click here to enter text.
E. FERC and RTO Market Rules Expertise.	Click here to enter text.
F. Adequate Resources.	Click here to enter text.

- 2.4. FIRM STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:** Please describe Firm's background, experience and qualifications relevant to support your response to Section 2.3. Be sure to specifically address **each** of the six (6) criteria (A-F) listed in Section 2.3. Please limit the evidence and information provided in response to this RFI to no more than 3 pages per requirement, or not more than 18 pages in total. This page limitation does not include the "Submittal Check List" in Section 1 or the matrix in Section 2.3. Please do not submit marketing materials or additional supporting documentation. The response to this section may be included as an attachment to the response.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- 2.5. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** The undersigned authorized representative of the identified Firm hereby submits this Submittal of Qualifications to perform in full compliance with this Solicitation.

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

Printed Name of Signatory: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)