

**Americans for a Clean Energy Grid Request for Proposals:
Siting and Permitting Facilitation Consultant
July 28, 2023**

Overview

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid (“ACEG”) is a diverse, multi-stakeholder, public interest education and advocacy 501(c)(3) organization focused on the need to expand, modernize, and integrate the high-capacity transmission grid to achieve greater security, reliability, affordability, and sustainability of electric power service in the United States. A key challenge to developing new transmission is that the siting and permitting processes can be protracted, taking at minimum five to 10 years to plan, permit, and construct, and in some cases have taken over 15 years to receive permits and begin construction. While there are several factors that contribute to this timeline, diverse sets of stakeholders agree that the siting and permitting processes can be accelerated when there are opportunities for early and meaningful local community engagement and clear understanding of the benefits of the project as these factors support equity principles and can lead to strong community support for the project.

To further its mission, ACEG is seeking consultant(s) to facilitate a continuing dialogue between diverse stakeholders, including environmental and environmental justice organizations, utilities and transmission developers, landowner interests, and others about how to accelerate siting and permitting of transmission lines by engaging and building greater local community support.

Statement of Work

ACEG seeks to retain the services of one or more qualified firm(s) or individual(s) to facilitate, in consultation with ACEG leadership, a stakeholder engagement process to develop consensus recommendations to the Biden administration and others about the best ways to build and maintain community support for transmission lines. ACEG plans to release these recommendations publicly in early 2024. In particular, the consultant will:

- Organize and facilitate monthly meetings to build real consensus on best practices and policy proposals for federal and state policymakers. The primary focus of this work will be about developing consensus about recommendations about engaging communities and building support for transmission lines, but

other suggestions about how to accelerate siting and permitting may emerge and are encouraged.

- Engage with key stakeholders between meetings to solicit ideas and build consensus for recommendations.
- Collaborate with and facilitate Committee feedback for another consulting team who will draft a paper on community engagement and support, which is aimed at providing recommendations. The paper will be a proposed set of consensus policy recommendations, including best practices for enhancing stakeholder participation in transmission planning and siting processes, programs to share transmission revenues with communities, and best practices among Community Benefit Agreements for communities impacted by transmission, which will be based on discussions and other input. ACEG expects this paper may go through several iterations.
- Provide regular updates on the activities to ACEG staff and stakeholders, including through written or oral status reports.
- Assist ACEG with the public announcement of the consensus recommendations by reviewing press releases and other materials.

During this contract, ACEG's consultant will not participate or intervene on behalf of ACEG, in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office to an extent that would disqualify ACEG from its tax exemption status.

Background on ACEG's Siting and Permitting Work

To accelerate transmission siting and permitting policy, ACEG has brought together its diverse coalition to build consensus among utilities, transmission developers, and environmental and environmental justice organizations about how to more than double the pace of transmission construction. These conversations have led to broad support for the Biden administration's use of Section 216(h) of the Federal Power Act and agreement on ACEG's legislative principle that Congress should "Enact permitting reform that establishes a single federal siting authority for clearly designated high-capacity transmission lines — and sets reasonable and efficient deadlines for the permitting process, paired with extensive community outreach in the early stages of project development." Similarly, ACEG's Executive Director Christina Hayes recently [testified](#) before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on siting and permitting, that "any siting and permitting process must include early meaningful engagement with affected customers and communities, before the application and

during the pre-filing process. Additionally, developers should consider support through community benefit agreements and/or revenue sharing. Mitigation beats litigation every time.”¹

As part of its effort to support policies that improve siting and permitting, in February 2023, ACEG released a paper highlighting recommended practices for siting transmission lines to minimize litigation; the paper was the focus of a breakfast held at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in conjunction with the Edison Electric Institute, to a standing-room only audience of more than 200.

In addition, ACEG is updating its 2021 [Transmission Projects Ready to Go](#) report to shine a spotlight on shovel-ready, high-voltage, long-distance transmission lines that are key components of building out the grid. The updated report, scheduled for release in September, will provide impetus for federal and regional policy makers to push for accelerated siting and permitting for these lines.

Eligible Offerors

Eligible offerors must demonstrate experience to perform the duties described under the scope of work, including but not limited to:

- Deep experience facilitating diverse stakeholder dialogues and building consensus among those groups, especially environmental and environmental justice organizations, utilities and transmission developers, labor unions, and others.
- Strong understanding of siting and permitting of clean energy projects and methods of building community support for those projects.
- Creativity and strong critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills.
- Project management experience and ability to meet deadlines.

Submission Requirements

To Apply: Please submit an electronic proposal to Applications@cleanenergygrid.org by 5 pm ET on August 11, 2023, and include “Siting and Permitting Facilitation Consultant” in the subject line. Proposals should include:

¹ The full hearing can be viewed [here](#).

- An executive summary consisting of a brief overview of the Consultant's experience and the planned scope of work.
- A statement of firm qualifications that addresses the required experience listed under "Eligible Offerors".
- A proposed work plan, including a proposed approach and timeline for facilitating this dialogue.
- The names of the persons who will perform the tasks outlined in the scope of work, and bios or resumes of each proposed team member.
- A proposed budget, including hourly rates for team members.
- A list of two to three references who were provided with services similar to those described in the scope of work.
- A statement disclosing any potential conflicts for this work.

Consultant Selection

All expenses related to responding to this RFP shall be borne by the bidders. ACEG retains the right to award a portion, or all, of this contract to one or more offerors that best meets the requirements of this RFP, or to withdraw the RFP with no advance notice. Activities will commence after a contract has been executed.

Timing:

Application Deadline: August 18, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. ET

Planned Selection Deadline: August 25, 2023

Start Date: September 1, 2023

End Date: January 31, 2024

ACEG aims to begin this project on September 1, 2023, and to announce consensus recommendations in January 2024. ACEG may extend this timeline if more time is needed to enable consensus.