

**Americans for a Clean Energy Grid Request for Proposals:
Siting and Permitting Facilitation Consultant
November 15, 2024**

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. Developing new transmission is often delayed by lengthy siting and permitting processes, which can take 5-10 years or more. Accelerating these timelines is possible through early, meaningful engagement with local communities and clear communication of project benefits, fostering equity and community support. Additionally, federal agencies—including the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior—are implementing new rules to expedite the transmission permitting process.

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, renewable developers, 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, the development and achievement of ACEG’s siting and permitting goals. 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.
- Work with ACEG support to implement recommendations from ACEG’s community benefit agreement (CBA) work and undertake efforts to improve community engagement.
- Engage with key stakeholders regularly to solicit ideas and build consensus for recommendations.
- Provide regular updates on relevant court decisions and Administration activities to ACEG staff and stakeholders, including through written or oral status reports.

- Monitor and report on federal and state efforts related to the siting and permitting of transmission.
- Identify opportunities for ACEG to engage with the Administration or Congress on key issues, which may involve recommending and drafting comments for relevant proceedings.
- Provide technical feedback on ACEG materials, including fact sheets and presentations explaining agency rulemakings or new legislation.

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

ACEG has led efforts to accelerate transmission siting and permitting by building consensus among a broad and diverse coalition of stakeholders. This coalition has supported the Biden administration’s use of Section 216(h) of the Federal Power Act and endorsed ACEG’s legislative recommendation for Congress to establish a single federal siting authority for major transmission lines, with streamlined permitting deadlines and early community outreach. ACEG’s Executive Director, Christina Hayes, underscored this approach when she [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

To further these goals, ACEG released a widely discussed paper in 2023 on best practices for transmission siting, aimed at reducing litigation through community engagement. In response to key regulatory developments, ACEG submitted comments on FERC’s Section 216(b) (backstop siting) and DOE’s Section 216(h) (CITAP) regulations, influencing final rules that reduced review timelines and improved transparency. ACEG also submitted feedback on DOE’s Categorical Exclusion rulemaking, supporting expanded exemptions, and on CEQ’s NEPA Phase 2 rulemaking to facilitate transmission growth.

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

Additionally, ACEG provided input on DOE's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) process and the Transmission Facility Financing Program, advocating for broad project eligibility and timely NEPA reviews. ACEG continues to monitor and communicate key regulatory changes and offer support to members on siting and permitting priorities, reinforcing its role as a central voice in advancing transmission infrastructure policies.

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 November 26, 2024, and include "Siting and Permitting Facilitation Consultant" in the subject line. Proposals should include:

- 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 meet the requirements of this RFP, or to withdraw the RFP with no advance notice. Activities will commence after a contract has been executed.

ACEG is committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. We believe that diverse perspectives are essential to achieving our mission of expanding and modernizing the electric grid to benefit all communities. ACEG is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or any other protected characteristic. Please provide a brief explanation of the efforts, if any, the Offeror has taken to foster diversity and inclusion in its employee hiring and retention processes.

Timing:

Application Deadline: November 26, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. ET

Planned Selection Deadline: December 20, 2024

Start Date: April 1, 2025

End Date: March 31, 2026