

Minnesota Power is seeking proposals for up to 300 megawatts of solar energy

Minnesota Power, a utility division of ALLETE Inc. is submitting a Request for Proposals (RFP) on November 15, 2023, for up to 300 megawatts of regional solar energy to come online by 2027 that can provide customers with reliable energy that will help the company and state meet carbon free goals in the coming decades. **Proposals are due by 5 p.m. CST on Friday, January 5, 2024.**

The RFP strives to maximize the regional economic benefits of solar development, including seeking projects located within the region Minnesota Power serves, preferences for diverse bidders and domestically sourced materials, and requirements for using union labor, local labor for construction and permanent staffing, and the development of apprenticeship programs.

Minnesota Power has retained the services of a third-party independent evaluator, Levelized Consulting, to monitor, support, and evaluate bids.

All interested parties should use the solar RFP email address for all communications related to this RFP, including questions, RFP clarification concerns, and RFP submittal package. All correspondence concerning RFP must be sent via e-mail only to SolarRFP@MNPower.com, which will be monitored by Minnesota Power and the Independent Evaluator.

Minnesota Power's expected timeline for conducting this resource request is shown below. Minnesota Power reserves the right to modify this schedule as circumstances warrant and/or as Minnesota Power deems appropriate.

Table 1 Schedule/Timeline	
Event	Anticipated Date
Release of RFP <i>Bidders submit bids, bid fees and questions regarding the RFP</i>	11/15/2023
Proposal Submission Deadline <i>All bids must be submitted by 5 p.m. CST</i>	1/5/2024
Proposal Evaluation <i>Minnesota Power and Independent Evaluator review bids and ask bidders questions regarding their proposal. Bidders will be notified if their bid has been selected.</i>	1 st Quarter 2024
Negotiations with Selected Bidder(s) <i>Minnesota Power and selected bidders will discuss the terms and conditions of the contract.</i>	2 nd Quarter 2024
Application for Regulatory Approval filed with MPUC <i>Includes preparation of the petition and filing of the petition for MPUC review</i>	3 rd Quarter 2024

Minnesota Power will be holding a webinar at 2 p.m. CST on November 28, 2023. This will be an opportunity for bidders to ask questions related to the Minnesota Power 2023 Solar RFP.

All information regarding the RFP can be found at
<https://www.MNPOWER.com/Environment/SolarRFP>