



Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultant Services

Title: Illinois Municipal Electric Agency
Integrated Resource Plan

RFP Issue Date: July 1, 2026

Register as
an Interested Party: July 10, 2026

RFP submittal Deadline: August 7, 2026

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

TITLE: Illinois Municipal Electric Agency Integrated Resource Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (“IMEA” or “Agency”) is a body politic and corporate, municipal corporation and unit of local government of the State of Illinois created and existing by virtue of the Illinois Joint Municipal Electric Power Act and the Agency Agreement of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, dated May 16, 1984. IMEA is known in the electric supply business as a full service, total requirements joint action agency. All customers have a single joint power supply program with all costs being socialized via a monthly cost true up allocation process. IMEA currently consists of 32 members that own and operate their own municipal electric utilities for the distribution and sale of electricity to end-use customers within their respective service areas. IMEA is responsible, pursuant to its long-term Power Sales Contracts with its members, to plan for and provide all of the electric power and energy related needs of the members in connection with the operation of their electric utilities.

IMEA’s members include the 32 communities of Altamont, Bethany, Breese, Bushnell, Cairo, Carlyle, Carmi, Casey, Chatham, Fairfield, Farmer City, Flora, Freeburg, Greenup, Highland, Ladd, Marshall, Mascoutah, Metropolis, Naperville, Oglesby, Peru, Princeton, Rantoul, Red Bud, Riverton, Rock Falls, Roodhouse, St. Charles, Sullivan, Waterloo, and Winnetka. IMEA’s members are located in MISO and PJM territories. The member communities of Naperville, Rock Falls, St. Charles, and Winnetka are located in PJM, while the remaining IMEA members are in MISO. IMEA is a full Market Participant directly with both MISO and PJM. A list of IMEA’s members including their peak demand, annual energy usage, and population is provided.

IMEA’s current Power Sales Contracts with its 32 members are effective until September 30, 2035. To date, IMEA has secured new Power Sales Contracts with 29 of its existing members to serve them from October 1, 2035 to May 31, 2055. Those members include the communities of Altamont, Bethany, Breese, Bushnell, Cairo, Carlyle, Carmi, Casey, Chatham, Farmer City, Flora, Freeburg, Greenup, Highland, Ladd, Marshall, Mascoutah, Metropolis, Oglesby, Peru, Princeton, Rantoul, Red Bud, Riverton, Rock Falls, Roodhouse, Sullivan, Waterloo, and Winnetka.

In December 2023, the IMEA Board of Directors approved its Sustainability Plan (<https://www.imea.org/Documents/Sustainability.pdf>) which included a Net-Zero Vision for reducing to net-zero our power supply carbon emissions delivered to our member municipalities by 2050. In January 2026, the Illinois Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (“CRGA”) was signed into law, which requires Illinois municipal systems with more than 7,000 retail electric customer meters and joint action agencies such as IMEA to perform an Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) and regulates the process. This process is outlined under the Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act (220 ILCS 31).

IMEA is very financially stable and rated by three of the recognized financial rating agencies with the following ratings:

Moody's Ratings	"A1" with a Stable Outlook
S&P Global Ratings	"A" with a Stable Outlook
Fitch Ratings	"AA-" with a Stable Outlook

All of IMEA's current power resource bond obligations will be paid in full by February 1, 2035. IMEA also holds a low cost \$50 million Line of Credit ("LOC") from PNC Bank. IMEA has held the LOC since 2012 and the LOC is locked in until October 31, 2027. IMEA plans to extend the LOC going forward. There are no funds drawn on the LOC currently and there are none anticipated at this time. The past 10 years of IMEA's fiscal audits are available on the IMEA website at www.imea.org.

IMEA has a variety of power supply resources. IMEA's Participating Members have dedicated approximately 295 MW of behind the wholesale meter fossil fuel-fired generating units for use as peaking and reserve capacity. IMEA owns five mobile Caterpillar generators that are located behind the wholesale meter and connected to the local distribution system of one of our Members, Flora, each with a nominal capability rating of approximately 1.8 MW each.

IMEA owns a 12.12% (approximately 62 MW) undivided interest as tenant in common in Trimble County Unit 1. Trimble County Unit 1 is a coal-fired, electric generating facility with a net generating capacity of 514 MW which commenced operation in December 1990. IMEA also owns a 12.12% share (approximately 91 MW) of Trimble County Unit 2. Trimble County Unit 2 is a 750 MW pulverized-coal supercritical unit which was placed in commercial operation in 2011. Both Trimble County Units are located near Bedford, Kentucky, approximately 30 miles northeast of Louisville, Kentucky and are operated and maintained by Louisville Gas & Electric Company.

IMEA has a 15.17% (approximately 246 MW) undivided ownership interest in the Prairie State Energy Campus which consists of Prairie State Unit 1 and Prairie State Unit 2. Both are pulverized coal-fired supercritical units with a nominal net output capacity of 815 MW each. Both units commenced operation in 2012. Prairie State is located in southwest Illinois and is owned by several municipal and cooperative organizations. Prairie State Generating Company is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the facility.

IMEA has a variety of Power Purchase Agreements, which include the purchase of 70 MW of wind energy and capacity from the Lee-Dekalb Wind Project until May 31, 2030; 50 MW of wind energy and capacity from Green River Wind Farm Phase I, LLC until May 31, 2035, 25 MW of solar energy and capacity from Big River Solar, LLC until May 31, 2035, with an option to extend for additional 15 years if certain conditions are met; and 150 MW of solar energy and capacity from Bee Hollow Solar, LLC for 25 years. Bee Hollow is expected to become operational by the end of 2026.

IMEA’s share of the output from the Trimble County Units, the majority of IMEA’s share of Prairie State, Lee-Dekalb Wind, and Green River Wind are all delivered to PJM’s ComEd Zone. IMEA’s share of the output from Big River is delivered to MISO Zone 4. The output from the Bee Hollow solar facility will be delivered to MISO Zone 4.

IMEA has power purchase agreements for 9 behind-the-meter solar facilities in 8 of its member communities totaling 7.5 MW. Two of IMEA’s members, Rock Falls and Peru, own and operate nearly 10 MW of hydroelectric generation resources for IMEA’s utilization.

Summary of IMEA Sales to Members Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2025

Participating Members	Non-Coincident Peak Demand (kW)	Energy Usage (kWh)	Population*
Altamont	6,250	25,156,435	2,200
Bethany	2,384	8,470,102	1,198
Breese	13,006	53,471,963	4,629
Bushnell	7,518	30,288,731	2,649
Cairo	9,782	55,363,656	1,523
Carlyle	8,878	34,200,748	3,197
Carmi	13,679	52,388,506	4,679
Casey	7,485	28,465,794	2,376
Chatham	26,649	84,983,565	14,639
Fairfield	14,506	58,128,531	4,790
Farmer City	4,370	17,330,411	1,817
Flora	23,437	110,082,290	4,647
Freeburg	11,361	42,168,704	4,518
Greenup	4,403	18,254,092	1,347
Highland	33,180	127,602,811	10,028
Ladd	2,680	10,544,372	1,387
Marshall	13,459	61,236,581	3,865
Mascoutah	18,536	69,694,423	9,118
Metropolis	17,585	74,052,268	5,776
Naperville	347,082	1,274,124,448	153,124
Oglesby	14,076	59,021,260	3,626
Peru	48,702	233,252,778	9,793
Princeton	26,278	102,232,023	7,667
Rantoul	36,332	173,873,095	12,268
Red Bud	12,824	46,404,638	3,763
Riverton	7,798	28,194,408	3,489
Rock Falls	20,186	66,244,371	8,614
Roodhouse	3,162	11,590,808	1,499
St. Charles	114,963	491,316,486	33,482
Sullivan	14,726	63,681,350	4,298
Waterloo	25,288	90,269,543	11,165
Winnetka	35,237	125,985,046	12,494
Total Full Requirements Sales to Participating Members	945,802	3,728,074,237	

* Note: Populations are from the Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places in Illinois: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 (SUB-IP-EST2024-POP-17), U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, released May 2025.

OBJECTIVE OF IRP:

- The purpose of the IRP is to
 1. Consider and evaluate the Agency's current power supply resource portfolio, including electrical generation, power supply contracts, storage, and demand-side programs to satisfy the demand for electricity services for a planning period of at least 5 years;
 2. To forecast future load obligations for each year of the study period for the IRP, including any substantial changes that would significantly modify the pattern from the loads served by IMEA from the past 10-15 years;
 3. To facilitate prudent planning with respect to reliability, resources, energy and capacity procurements, power supply contract expiration, and timing of generation retirement;
 4. To determine what resource portfolio will maintain reliability consistent with Regional Transmission Organization ("RTO") obligations and will maintain such compliance requirements by the RTOs that IMEA serves load within;
 5. To minimize cost and meet State and federal environmental law; including compliance with the State of Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ("CEJA") and new CRGA laws;
 6. And to articulate steps the Agency can take to maximize members' rate stability, minimize customer costs and consider environmental impacts through changes to its current generation portfolio through construction, procurement, retirement, demand-side programs or other applicable technology or processes.
- The IRP shall consider all commercially-proven resources reasonably available or reasonably likely to be available to meet RTO compliance obligations during the relevant time period and to satisfy the demand for electricity services for a planning period of at least 5 years, taking into account both supply-side and demand-side electric power resources and annual cost and benefits projections for at least the next 20 years.
- The IRP may include the results of a request for information (RFI) for generation resources and capacity contracts for delivery beginning within the next 5 years.
- The IRP shall model a range of technically feasible least cost portfolio scenarios, consistent with RTO reliability obligations from the following (each scenario should explain if the plan is feasible) and, at a minimum, shall consider and include the following:
 1. The least cost technically feasible resource portfolio scenario that meets the demand for electricity services for a planning period of at least 5 years, taking into account both supply-side and demand-side electric power resources and annual cost and benefits projections for at least the next 20 years, and also meets the emission reduction requirements under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ("CEJA");

2. A scenario that meets such demand for such period and that includes the construction or procurement of least cost renewable energy resources to meet 40% of IMEA's energy needs by 2030;
 3. A scenario that meets such demand for such period and that includes supplying 100% of IMEA's total projected load through least cost carbon free resources in combination with storage resources and demand side programs by 2045;
 4. A scenario that meets such demand for such period and that includes least cost Net-Zero power supply carbon emissions by 2050;
 5. The proposal price should include up to three additional scenarios.
- Review and Model additional scenarios that may be necessary or requested by IMEA Staff. Respondent shall provide the cost of each additional scenario that would be requested by Staff beyond those listed in this RFP. The scenarios listed in this RFP shall be included in the respondent's base price proposal.
 - Respondent shall also be notified that IMEA would expect that if fewer scenarios are ultimately performed than as described in this document, then the base price shall be adjusted downward by the same cost per scenario that Respondent provides if IMEA chooses to perform additional scenarios.
 - IMEA will provide Respondent with its most current load forecast as a base projection.
 - The IRP shall demonstrate the pricing effects the final selected scenarios have on the Agency's wholesale energy rates and the average effects to the end use customers of IMEA's member communities by broad customer class.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

IMEA seeks proposals from qualified Consultants to provide the following IRP services. The Scope of Work is divided into 4 individual Tasks/Deliverables plus 2 optional Tasks/Deliverables. Those 4 Tasks/Deliverables are to 1) actively participate in public stakeholder meetings before the Preliminary IRP is issued, 2) issue a Preliminary IRP, 3) actively participate in public stakeholder meetings after the Preliminary IRP has been issued and provide IMEA with draft responses to public comments, and 4) to issue a Final IRP at the direction of the IMEA Management and IMEA Board. The consultant may provide additional, optional bids to provide a Resource RFI and Communications Assistance. Except for the required information that is labeled as being provided by the Agency, the consultant is responsible for all researching, developing, drafting, revising, and delivering a Preliminary IMEA IRP by October 1, 2027 and later a Finalized IMEA IRP.

Task/Deliverable 1 – Actively Participate in two (2) in-person Public Stakeholder Meetings, one (1) in-person IMEA Board Meeting, and one (1) online Public Stakeholder Meeting Prior to Issuance of Preliminary IRP

Meetings will be coordinated with IMEA Staff. Consultant shall be the primary participant in the Public Stakeholder Meetings and the IMEA Board Meeting to describe the IRP process and respond to stakeholder or IMEA Board member questions and comments. IMEA Staff will be on hand to assist with any Agency specific questions or comments.

Each meeting shall provide opportunity for meaningful public engagement including reasonable time to ask questions, have those questions answered (for those questions that can be answered with a reasonably short verbal response), and to provide for public comment. During these meetings prior to the issuance of the Preliminary IRP, the Consultant shall describe its proposed processes for developing the IRP and its core assumptions and constraints.

Respondent shall include in its proposal a base price for participating in these meetings prior to the Issuance of the Preliminary IRP. Respondent shall provide pricing for any additional Public Stakeholder Meetings that are mutually agreed upon between Respondent and IMEA.

Task/Deliverable 2 – Finalize a Preliminary IMEA Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) by October 1, 2027 and present said findings

The consultant shall provide IMEA a Preliminary IRP by October 1, 2027 ready for presentation to the IMEA Board and publication.

The Preliminary IRP shall use the following outline:

- A. Executive Summary – The executive summary shall explain the IRP criteria, discuss the data and information collected for the analysis, identify key resource and planning assumptions made, identify solutions and options to consider, and finally steps and recommendations to move forward. This shall include a brief summary of the scenarios and sensitivities performed and comparison of said scenario’s ability to maximize rate stability and minimize costs while providing reliable electric service and meeting State and federal environmental law.

B. Information as required under 220 ILCS 31 (Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act). The IRP must include a list of the key terms of the Agency's generation facilities, power purchase agreements, demand side programs, transmission assets and transmission rights, capital expenditures and ranges of load forecasting.

1. The Agency shall provide the Consultant a list of all electricity generation facilities owned by the Agency, in whole or in part. And for each such facility, the IRP shall report:
 - (A) General Location
 - (B) Ownership information, if ownership is shared with another entity
 - (C) Type of Fuel
 - (D) Date of Commercial Operation
 - (E) Expected Useful Life
 - (F) Expected retirement date for any resource expected to retire within the next 8 years, and an explanation of the reason for the retirement
 - (G) Nameplate, maximum output, and accredited capacity
 - (H) Total MWH generated at the facility during the previous calendar year
 - (I) Date on which the facility is anticipated to be fully depreciated
 - (J) Any known and measurable compliance obligations, or compliance obligations reasonably expected to apply within the next 8 years, and an estimate of reasonably anticipated expenditures intended to meet those obligations

2. A list of all power purchase agreements to which the Agency is a party, whether as purchaser or seller, including the following, if specified: the counterparty(s), general location and type of generation resource providing power per the agreement, date on which the agreement was entered into, duration of the agreement, and the energy and capacity terms of the agreement, which will be provided by the Agency.

3. A list of any sale transactions of any capacity to any purchaser which will be provided by the Agency.

4. A list of any demand-side programs and known distributed generation which will be provided by the Agency.

5. A narrative description, which will be provided by the Agency, of all existing transmission facilities owned (and/or transmission rights held) by the Agency, in whole or in part, that identifies anticipated transmission constraints or critical contingencies, and identification of

the RTO, if any, that exercises operational control over the transmission facility.

6. A description, which will be provided by the Agency, of all transmission investment costs, disaggregated by expenditure, related to interconnection costs and other transmission system upgrades associated with a new generating resource or increased injection rights from an existing generating resource costing greater than \$1,000,000 over the term of the agreement.
7. A copy, which will be provided by the Agency, of the most recent FERC Form 1 filed by the Agency. If no such FERC Form 1 has been filed, the Agency shall provide Form EIA 860, Form EIA 861, Form EIA 412, or information applicable to the Agency included in the sections of FERC Form 1 or Form EIA 412 relating to electric operating revenues, sales for resale, electric operating and maintenance expenses, purchased power, common Agency plant and expenses, and electric energy accounts for the prior calendar year. The Agency shall not be required to disclose any information required to be protected from disclosure by the regional transmission organizations.
8. A range of load forecasts for the 5-year planning period that incorporate varying assumptions regarding electrification, economic growth, new regulation, and major new customers, sufficient for capacity planning for the Agency. Such forecasts shall include, at a minimum:
 - (A) All relevant underlying market, economic and resource assumptions;
 - (B) (i) historical analysis of hourly loads consistent with NERC and regional transmission organization reporting requirements; (ii) known or projected changes to future loads; and (iii) growth forecasts and trends by customer class or load type;
 - (C) Analysis of the annual capacity and energy impact of any demand-side programs, and energy efficiency programs both current and projected;
 - (D) Any reserve margin or other obligations placed on the Agency by regional transmission organizations or other entity responsible for reliability standards under State or federal law; and
 - (E) A comparison of past load forecasts and actual realized load and a brief narrative description of any unforeseen events to which any discrepancy may be attributed.

(F) Consideration of new large load customer scenarios at approximately 5 intervals.

9. A prepared 5-year action plan for meeting the forecasted load that maintains rate stability and reasonably minimizes customer cost taking into account load, fuel price, and regulatory uncertainty, that ensures reliability consistent with RTO obligations, and meets State and federal environmental law. As part of the action plan, the IRP shall:

(A) Identify any generation or storage resources reasonably anticipated to be removed from service in the 5 years following the date on which the IRP is due to be completed.

(B) Determine whether given forecasted load growth or unit retirements, or both, the Agency will need to procure additional accredited capacity and energy for the RTO where the load is served, and provide a quantitative estimate of any such gap between forecasted load and supply-side resources.

(C) Provide a narrative description of the process for evaluating possible resources to secure additional needed capacity and energy.

(D) Provide a narrative description of the processes for assessing the economic value of existing generation; and consistent with these processes, explain whether any currently operating units could be replaced by other resources and still maintain current contractual obligation compliance at lower cost to ratepayers while maintaining reliability.

(E) Identify a preferred portfolio of generation resources, which may include storage, and demand-side programs that meets the forecasted load and complies with State and federal environmental law, while maintaining rate stability and minimizing ratepayer cost to the extent reasonably achievable in the planning period covered by the IRP. The portfolio shall incorporate any accredited capacity or other reliability requirements of MISO and PJM.

(F) Describe any anticipated capital expenditures by the Agency in excess of \$1,000,000 at existing generation facilities and the reason for such expenditures (will be provided by the Agency).

10. A description of all models and methodologies used in performing the IRP process. The Consultant shall provide IMEA staff and IMEA Members' staffs with reasonable access to computer models used in

the analysis that are not proprietary to the owner of the model, such as software that cannot be used without a licensing agreement, or otherwise subject to confidentiality by the modeler.

11. In coordination with the Agency, the IRP will identify all programs, grants, loans, or tax benefits for which the Agency has applied for or plans to apply for pursuant to the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and shall state whether the Agency has applied for or otherwise used the program, grant, loan, or tax benefit.
12. Conclusion: The IRP shall include a summary of the scenarios outlined in the Introduction and any other scenarios IMEA Staff directs Consultant to perform.
13. Graphs – Include graphs, flow diagrams, and models throughout the report to help illustrate sections as needed.
14. Appendix – Includes all supportive data in tabulated forms.

Task/Deliverable 3 – Actively Participate in two (2) in-person Public Stakeholder Meetings, one (1) in-person IMEA Board Meeting, and one (1) online Public Stakeholder Meeting after the Issuance of Preliminary IRP within the time frame required by Illinois CRGA Act (P.A. 104-0458) and assist in responding to public comments to be submitted to the Illinois Power Agency

Consultant shall present its Preliminary IRP to the IMEA Board, tentatively planned at either its October or December 2027 meeting.

Public Stakeholder Meetings must be held no sooner than 15 days, and no later than 45 days after the Preliminary IRP is made available to the public.

Consultant shall be primarily responsible for explaining the preliminary IRP and responding to questions and comments from stakeholders. IMEA Staff would be on hand to assist in any Agency specific questions or comments.

Each Public Stakeholder Meeting (prior to or after the issuance of the Preliminary IRP) shall provide opportunity for meaningful public engagement including reasonable time to ask questions, have those questions answered, and to provide for public comment.

The Consultant shall, in partnership with the Agency, review public comments and provide suggested responses that reasonably address all relevant issues or questions raised by such comments. The Consultant shall, in partnership with the Agency, prepare a document with responses to public comments in order to submit this response to the Illinois Power Agency no later than 90 days after the close of the comment period.

Respondent shall include in its proposal a base price for participating in these meetings after the Issuance of the Preliminary IRP. Respondent shall provide pricing for any additional Public Stakeholder Meetings that are mutually agreed upon between Respondent and IMEA.

Task/Deliverable 4 – Issue a Final IRP

The Consultant shall, after reviewing and responding to public comments submitted during the required comment period and active coordination with the Agency, issue a Final IRP.

Task/Deliverable 5 (Optional) – Communications Consultant

If Respondent has dedicated communications personnel or a preferred communications subcontractor, they may propose said services to IMEA and shall provide an optional bid. It is expected that the Communications Consultant will assist IMEA in developing, distributing, and analyzing the results of a customer survey as well as assist IMEA in developing IRP related messaging to the IMEA Board of Directors and various stakeholder groups and moderating all of the IRP stakeholder meetings. This would be an optional service that IMEA may or may not utilize with a separate bid price.

3. INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENT

Any Respondent who submits a Proposal agrees to do so without legal recourse against IMEA, its Board, its staff, consultants or members for rejection of any response(s), for failure to execute an agreement for any reason, or for any costs relating to the Proposal including the costs of preparation. IMEA shall not be liable to any Respondent or party at law or in equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in connection with this RFP.

3.1 Public Nature of Proposal

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this document, the Parties acknowledges that: IMEA and each of its member municipalities is a public body subject to state and federal sunshine and open meetings laws, including the State of Illinois' Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act; that IMEA or an affected member municipality may have need to discuss this Agreement or the otherwise Confidential Information to be provided hereunder with its governing body and such information may not qualify for an exemption to go into closed session under the Open Meetings Act or similar statute; that IMEA or an affected member municipality may be required to produce copies of some of its records upon request to members of the public and such information may not qualify for an exemption to such disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act; and that IMEA shall have no liability to any other Party in connection with any such required public discussion or disclosure.

3.2 Rights of Agency

This RFP does not commit Agency to enter into a contract.

Agency reserve the right to:

- Make the selection based on its sole discretion;
- Enter into relationships with more than one Respondent;
- Reject any and all Proposals;
- Issue subsequent or amended Requests for Proposals;
- Postpone opening for Agency's own convenience;
- Remedy technical errors in the Request for Proposals process;
- Approve or disapprove the use of particular sub-consultants;
- Negotiate with any, all, or none of the Respondents;
- Accept other than the lowest offer;
- Waive informalities and irregularities in one or more Proposals;
- Enter into an agreement with another Respondent in the event the originally selected Respondent defaults or fails to execute an agreement with Agency;
- Utilize others to perform or supply work of the type contemplated by this RFP; and/or
- Request proposals from others with or without requesting proposals from contractors for work of the type contemplated by this RFP.

Evaluation of a Proposal does not constitute a commitment by Agency to acquire such services from any source. The Agency is not obligated in any way to proceed with this RFP or consider or enter into any agreement or undertake any liability to any Respondent in connection with this RFP and any

and all Proposals, whether qualified or not, may be rejected without any liability whatsoever to the Agency or any Respondent on the part of Agency. Agency shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by Respondent to prepare, submit, negotiate, contract, or participate in this RFP process.

3.3 Examination of Proposal

This RFP includes a description of the scope of services, proposal requirements, and instructions for submitting a proposal. The submission of a Proposal shall be deemed a representation and certification by the Respondent that the Respondent:

- Has carefully read and fully understand the information provided by Agency to serve as the basis for submission of the proposal;
- Has carefully read and fully understands the information in the Illinois CEJA (PA 102-0662) and CRGA (PA104-0458) laws that impact this offering to serve as the basis for submission of the proposal.
- Has the capability and qualifications to successfully undertake and complete the responsibilities and obligations of the Proposal being submitted;
- Represents that all information contained in the Proposal is true and correct;
- Did not, in any way, collude, conspire to agree, directly or indirectly, with any person, firm, corporation or other Respondent in regard to the amount, terms or conditions of this Proposal; and
- Acknowledges that Agency has the right to make any inquiry they deem appropriate to substantiate or supplement information supplied by Respondent, and Respondent hereby grants Agency permission to make these inquiries, and to provide any and all related documentation in a timely manner.

No request for modification of the Proposal shall be considered after its submission on grounds that Respondent was not fully informed about any fact or condition.

3.4 Register as Interested Party

It is recommended that all parties interested in submitting a proposal shall register as an Interested Party with IMEA by providing such notification via email to **IMEA.IRP.RFP@imea.org** by 5:00 p.m. (Central Prevailing Time or "CPT") on Friday July 10, 2026 to allow IMEA to provide all addenda to all Interested Parties.

It is recommended that respondent prequalify for the Illinois Power Agency's list of integrated resource planning consulting firms at this website:
<https://ipa.illinois.gov/electricity-procurement/muni-and-co-op-irp-support.html>.

3.5 Addenda/Clarifications

Questions or comments regarding this RFP must be put in writing and received by Agency no later than 5:00 p.m. (CPT), Friday, July 17, 2026. Direct all inquiries regarding this RFP by electronic mail to: **IMEA.IRP.RFP@imea.org**

Responses from Agency will be communicated via email to all recipients of this RFP. No oral representations or interpretations will be made to any Respondent as to the meaning or interpretations of this RFP.

In the event that it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, written addenda will be issued to all candidates. Any amendment to this RFP is valid only if it is in writing and issued by Agency. No oral interpretations or answers shall bind Agency unless confirmed by Agency in writing. All addenda shall become a part of this RFP and shall be acknowledged on the Respondent's Information Form (Attachment A).

3.6 Submission of Proposals

Responses to this RFP are due to Agency with the appropriate attachments by electronic mail no later than 5:00 p.m. (CPT) on Friday, August 7, 2026. All proposals shall be submitted to Agency at:

Email: **IMEA.IRP.RFP@imea.org**

Agency, in its sole discretion, may reject any late or incomplete response.

All materials submitted by the Respondent in response to this RFP will become the property of Agency and may be used by Agency for the purpose of evaluating qualifications, soliciting proposals, executing any agreements, and administering any resulting definitive agreements.

4. TENTATIVE TIMELINE

The proposed timeline is as follows:

TASK	TENTATIVE DATE
IMEA Board Authorization for RFP	June 25, 2026
RFP Issued by IMEA	July 1, 2026
Register as Interested Party	July 10, 2026
Deadline for Respondent Questions	July 17, 2026
Deadline for IMEA Clarification	July 24, 2026
Proposals Due	August 7, 2026
Review Responses/Respondent Interviews	Aug 7 – 26, 2026
IMEA Board Approves Consultant Contract	Aug 27, 2026
Negotiate Consultant Contract	Aug 28 – Sept 30, 2026
Contract Execution	Prior to Oct 1, 2026
Kick-Off Meetings (IMEA Staff and Consultant)	Oct -Nov 2026
Twice Monthly Progress Meetings (IMEA Staff and Consultant)	Nov 2026 until Final IRP Issued
Initial Consultant Presentation to IMEA Board	Dec 2026
Public Stakeholder Meetings Prior to Preliminary IRP	Jan-Feb 2027
Preliminary IRP Finalized for IMEA Board Review	Oct 1, 2027
Present Preliminary IRP to IMEA Board	Oct - Dec 2027
Publish Preliminary IRP	Oct – Dec 2027 (CRGA Deadline is 1/1/28)
Public Stakeholder Meetings after Publishing Preliminary IRP (No sooner than 15 days, and no later than 45 days after Preliminary IRP published)	To be determined at a later date
Accept Public Comments after Prelim IRP Published	For 60 Days after Date Published
Review Public Comments and Provide Responses	Within 90 days of close of Comment Period
Publish Final IRP	To be determined at a later date

Solicitation timeline is subject to change. Any updates to the timeline will be posted as an addendum.

5. PROPOSAL FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

These instructions outline the guidelines governing the format and content of the proposal and the approach to be used in its development and presentation. The intent of the RFP is to encourage responses that clearly communicate the Respondent's understanding of IMEA's requirements and its approach to successfully provide the products and/or services on time and within budget. Only that information which is essential to an understanding and evaluation of the proposal should be submitted. Items not specifically and explicitly related to the RFP and proposal, e.g. brochures, marketing material, etc. will not be considered in the evaluation.

All proposals shall address the following items in the order listed below and shall be numbered 5.1 through 5.7 in the proposal document.

5.1 Respondent Information Form

Include a completed Respondent Information Form, which is provided as Attachment A to this solicitation.

The Respondent Information Form shall be signed by an official legally authorized to bind the Respondent.

5.2 Proposal Summary

Discuss the highlights, key features, and distinguishing points of the Proposal. A separate sheet shall include a list of individuals and contacts that will be responsible for this Proposal and any work product provided by the Consultant and how to communicate with them. This section should be limited to ten (10) pages including the separate sheet. An additional 4 sheets shall be allowed if bidding on the optional tasks/deliverables.

5.3 Profile of the Proposing Respondent(s)

Include a brief description of the Respondent's firm size, as well as the proposed local organization structure. Include a discussion of the Respondent firm's financial stability (with relevant verification documents), capacity and resources. Include all other firms participating in the Proposal, including similar information about the other firms.

Additionally, this section shall include a listing of any lawsuit or litigation and the result of that action resulting from (a) any public project undertaken by the Respondent or by its subcontractor where litigation is still pending or has occurred within the last five (5) years or (b) any type of project where claims or settlements were paid by the Respondent or its insurers within the last five (5) years.

5.4 Qualifications of the Respondent

Include a brief description of the key personnel from the Respondent and any subcontractor as well as their qualifications and previous experience on similar or related projects. Provide in a table format descriptions of pertinent project experience that those key personnel have with other publicly-owned electric utilities, public joint action agencies, investor-owned electric utilities, electric cooperatives or other entities that includes a summary of the work performed, the percentage of work the firm was responsible for, the period over which the work was completed, and the name, title, and phone number of client's to be contacted for references. Give a brief statement of the firm's adherence to the schedule and budget for the proposed project. IMEA may, at its discretion, contact any or all of the references provided.

If any of your previous experience on similar or related projects performed by the staff in the past five (5) years is available publicly, please either provide said documents as attachments to your proposal or internet links to said documents in your proposal.

5.5 Approach & Work Plan

Present a well-conceived service plan. Include a full description of major tasks and subtasks. This section of the proposal shall establish that the Respondent understands the Agency's objectives and work requirements and Respondent's ability to satisfy those objectives and requirements. Succinctly describe the proposed approach for addressing the required services and the firm's ability to meet the Agency's schedule, outlining the approach that would be undertaken in providing the requested services.

5.6 Project Staffing

Discuss how the Respondent would propose to staff this project. Key project team members shall be identified by name, title and specific responsibilities on the project. An organizational chart for the project team and resumes for key Respondent personnel shall be included.

Attach résumés of all personnel who will perform each aspect of the proposed work and who are assigned to this project. The resumes must include a summary of the person's experience (especially that which is specific to this RFP), a chronological, detailed account of their experience, education information, and identification of any certifications. Please also provide an explanation as to why these personnel are best suited to meeting the requirements of this RFP.

5.7 Proposal Cost Sheet and Rates

Provide cost sheet and rates information, which is relevant to a determination of whether the cost is fair and reasonable in light of the services to be provided. Provision of this information assists the Agencies in determining the Respondent's understanding of the project, and provides staff with tools to evaluate and negotiate the cost.

This section shall include the proposed costs to provide the specific services offered and the applicable timeframe. Include any other cost and price information, plus a not-to-exceed amount, that would be contained in a potential agreement with the Agency. The hourly rates may be used for pricing the cost of additional services outlined in the Scope of Work.

PLEASE NOTE: The Agency does not pay for services before it receives them. Therefore, do not propose contract terms that call for upfront payments or deposits.

6. CONTRACT TYPE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

It is anticipated that the agreement(s) resulting from this solicitation, if awarded, will establish the terms and conditions for services and include a not-to-exceed amount for the services over the term of the agreement. The dollar amount in the agreement is not a guarantee that Agency will pay that full amount to Consultant, but is merely a limit of potential Agency expenditures under the agreement.

Payments would be expected to be on a milestone basis agreed upon between the Consultant and the Agency.

Respondent shall provide IMEA with its standard professional services contract in its response as the basis for which contract negotiations would commence if selected.

7. EVALUATION PROCESS

IMEA will, in its sole discretion, evaluate RFP responses to determine which Respondents are likely to provide the greatest overall value to IMEA. Evaluations will be based on evaluation criteria described below, information provided in each RFP response, possible oral interviews with the Respondent, mail or email requests, information already known by IMEA, and other publicly available information such as publicly available credit ratings.

IMEA may request that Respondents complete supplemental questionnaires and/or meet for oral interviews (either in person or via TEAMS calls) at any stage of the RFP process. Respondents failing to provide information, deemed necessary by IMEA to

adequately review a response, may be eliminated from further consideration at any stage or time during the RFP process.

All determinations made by IMEA with respect to any Respondent or its response, including the determinations described in this RFP, shall be made by IMEA at its sole discretion and without liability. No de-briefings will be provided as these determinations will be final and are not subject to review.

IMEA will evaluate the proposals provided based on the following criteria:

1. Quality and completeness of Proposal.
2. Knowledge, experience and skills of Respondent to provide the requested services.
3. Experience of staff to be assigned to the project, based on prior engagements of similar scope and complexity.
4. Competitive rates for the requested services.
5. Respondent's ability to perform the work within the time specified and demonstrated strong project management.
6. Customer references.

IMEA Staff will make a recommendation to the IMEA Board of Directors. The acceptance of the proposal will be evidenced by written Notice of Award from IMEA to the successful Respondent(s).

**ATTACHMENT A
RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM**

RESPONDENT

Name of Business

Contact Name & Title

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

ADDENDA

To assure that all Respondents have received each addendum, check the appropriate box(es) below. Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum/addenda may be considered an irregularity in the Proposal:

Addendum number(s) received: 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6;

Or, _____ No Addendum/Addenda Were Received (check and initial).

SIGNATURE

By signing below, the submission of a proposal shall be deemed a representation and certification by the Respondent that they have investigated all aspects of the RFP, that they are aware of the applicable facts pertaining to the RFP process, its procedures and requirements, they have read and understand the RFP, and agree that their proposal will remain firm for a period of up to 120 days in order to allow the Agency adequate time to evaluate the qualifications submitted and obtain approval from the IMEA Board.

**ATTACHMENT A
RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM**

No request for modification of the proposal shall be considered after its submission on the grounds that the Respondent was not fully informed as to any fact or condition.

1. The duly authorized officer shall sign as follows:

The undersigned certify that he/she is respectively:

_____ and _____
Signature Title