

High Level Design RFPs Questions and Answers

Below are the 19 questions we received and their answers.

There are 2 RFPs:

1. WEC-CUD-HLD RFP

This RFP is for the 900 +- mile Washington Electric Coop distribution lines that exist in 3 VT Communication Union Districts, CVFiber, ECFiber, and NEK Broadband.

<https://cvfiber.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HLD-RFP-14May21.pdf>

NOTE Change: The proposals are due 4 June.

Proposals are to be submitted to [hld-rfp@googlegroups.com](mailto:hld-rfp@googlegroups.com).

2. CVFiber HLD & Detailed Design RFP

This RFP is for the HLD of the remaining 800+- miles of non-WEC distribution within the 20 towns of CVFiber.

The RFP is also for all detailed design in the 20 towns for the CVFiber Community Network. It is expected this work will be accomplished in a series of work orders.

<https://cvfiber.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CVF-HLD-DD-RFP-17May-Final.pdf>

NOTE Change: The proposals are due 4 June.

Proposals are to be submitted to [cvf-hld-rfp@googlegroups.com](mailto:cvf-hld-rfp@googlegroups.com).

Thanks for your consideration of and participation in these RFPs.

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Q1. We understand information (indicated in Appendix A) will be provided for design. Will fielding be required to verify information for design?

A1. The Appendix A GIS files will be available to the selected vendor. No, fielding will not be necessary at this stage of the High Level Design. Utility pole locations will be provided, for this purpose you can assume that data is correct. When we get to detailed design and engineering, field validation will be required.

Q2 What standards and specifications will be provided for equipment, gear, and material selection?

A2 The High Level Design is for a XGSPON network with distributed splitters in the field. Details, such as loose tube or ribbon fiber, model numbers for cases is not necessary. Location of splitters/cases, identification of the Fiber Access Points and Fiber Access areas, hub locations (outside mounted on a concrete pad) and recommendations for central office/ internet backhaul locations is required.

Q3 What is the proportion of electric plant that is in the road ROW versus on private easement?

A3. Unknown

Q4 What is the percentage of private easement that can be reached by vehicle vs what will need to be build with alternate methods?

A4. Unknown

Q5 The RFP states that it is for high level design yet inside the RFP there appears to be a request for low level design as well. Is this correct?

A5 The question refers to the CVFiber RFP located at <https://cvfiber.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CVF-HLD-DD-RFP-17May-Final.pdf>

Q6 Will we be responsible for any pole information, slotting requirements, or pole application effort?

A6 No

Q7 There are significant issues that pertain to items outside of the area (IE backhaul routes, other carrier fiber that is available, is this research that we need to do and consider in our bid?

A7 Yes. Noting that a CVFiber Study indicated a connection to backhaul at the Moretown Substation, and that this may be an opportunity for ECFiber to add a third central office, otherwise these towns will connect back to Norwich for backhaul.

Q8

a.

Since all electrical substations are to be covered by this design, are they available for hubsite locations?

A8a. Yes, for outside hub placement. No CUD structure inside any substation fence line. Location of hub to be determined by WEC, and cannot conflict with access or gates to substation.

b. For Central Hub Locations?

A8b. Yes for outside hub placement

c. Is there sufficient space?

A8c. Yes. WEC has final right to confirm any splice box location

d. Are there existing structures to handle the 2 racks of capacity requirements or will they need to have cabinets or other new structures?

A8d. New outside structure. The structures/cabinets will be placed outside the substation fencing itself.

Q9. How detailed a list of parts is required? (IE 400 poles need 400 bolts or 122 poles with 14 inch bolts, 48 with 10" bolts and 240 with 12" bolts?, length of guys? Number and types of anchors? Etc.)

A9. Not that detailed - strand, fiber by fiber count, splitters, splitter cabinets, hub equipment.

Q10. Will auxiliary eyes be available to use or will all anchors need to be new?

A10. This information is not needed at this time.

Q11. Are we responsible for finding current fiber assets that are available (First Light, VELCO, etc.)?

A11. Do we provide this on our maps? I would say no unless we provide it to them.

Q12 I noticed several intersection points with existing networks. Will it be desired to connect this design with existing designs for ECFiber, Kingdom Fiber, and or other plants that are existing or have existing designs or are they stand alone?

A12. Yes if you have this information.

Q13. We noticed that Montpelier and Barre are excluded. Would you still want the populations of those area to have the ability to be added to the network at a later date by taking that population into account?

A13. Yes, leaving fiber at the network edges to build outside the WEC footprint should be designed. WEC has a limited number of members within Montpelier town boundary; many members in Barre Town.

Q14. Will new grounding be required on the poles or will we be able to bond to the existing electrical grounds?

A14. Not needed in the HLD.

Q15. Do we need a separate proposal for the CVFiber cover letter that has an expanded set of requirements or is that part of this same RFP response?

A15. These are two RFPs. So, yes

Q16. RFP Section 11 – Form of Proposal , item b:

Please provide additional clarity on the information being requested in the proposal response “ Scope of Work Narrative “ as listed as item b , Section 11 Form of Proposal ?

A16. Respondent shall indicate it has responded to all items adequately.

Q17. RFP Section 11 – Form of Proposal , item c :

Please clarify what information is expected in the “ Compliance Statement “ in the propose RFP response as requested in Section 11 item c ? Is this referring to the vendors ability to comply with and/or meet the RFP requirements as outlined ?

A17. Yes.

Q18. RFP Section 9 Evaluation Criteria , item a :

Evaluation Criteria “a” states Municipal Broadband Experience and Capability ( 25%).

Will Commercial Client high-level broadband design experience for Tier 1 /Tier2 Commercial Communications companies be considered as comparable experience with respect to the vendor evaluation criteria ?

A18. It will be considered.

Q19. RFP response Due Date: Can the RFP Response Due Date be extended to Friday June 4th to better accommodate the Memorial Day holiday weekend at the end of May ?

A19. Yes. The proposal due date is now Friday 4 June not later than 5:00 PM ET.