



February 29, 2024

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Unitil Service Corp.
Patrick Taylor
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SUBJECT: Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) no. DE-FOA-0003195, titled “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP)” – Concept Paper Notification

Concept Paper Control Number: 3195-1940

Dear Patrick Taylor:

Thank you for submitting a Concept Paper under Topic Area 2 in response to the subject FOA. The Concept Paper for proposed project titled “The Regional Joint Utility Energy Data Hub: Advancing Community DER Enablement and Customer Analytics in New England” was carefully reviewed in accordance with the evaluation criteria in the FOA.

Based on the results of the Concept Paper review, your organization is hereby **encouraged to submit a full application** in accordance with the instructions and requirements contained within the FOA by the due date/time specified on the FOA cover page. Please be advised that receiving a letter of encouragement does not guarantee that an application will be selected for negotiations leading to award.

If the Department of Energy (DOE) has identified potential area(s) for improvement based on the concept paper merit review criteria identified in the FOA, it is marked with an “X” (see below). DOE will not provide any additional feedback or guidance beyond what is provided below.

The Concept Paper did not propose or thoroughly describe how the proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives as stated in the FOA for the specific topic area.

The Concept Paper does not clearly describe how the proposed work aligns with and supports State, local, Tribal, and/or regional resilience, decarbonization, or other energy strategies and plans.

The Concept Paper does not adequately identify risks (e.g. technical, financial, market, environmental, regulatory) and challenges, including possible mitigation strategies, to project success.

The Concept Paper has not adequately identified, including possible mitigation strategies, technical, operational, and administrative risks to the security of the applicant’s assets.

The Concept Paper has not adequately explained the impact of DOE funding.

The Concept Paper does not adequately propose strategies and accountability mechanisms to ensure:

- a. Meaningful community and labor engagement,
 - b. Quality jobs and workforce development,
 - c. Support for Diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility,
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d. Supporting the goals of the Justice40 Initiative.

__ The proposed project team does not appear to have adequate qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources necessary to complete the proposed project.

__ The applicant has not adequately provided an estimated total project cost, and/or characterized the project's economic viability, and/or demonstrated that the project provides enhanced system value and/or provides improved current and future system cost-effectiveness and delivers economic benefit.

This letter comprises the sole debriefing the DOE will provide with regard to your Concept Paper.

Please also ensure you have carefully read the Registrations Requirements located in the FOA document. There are several one-time actions that must be completed before submitting an application in response to this FOA (e.g., register with the System for Award Management (SAM), obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, etc.). It is vital that applicants address these items as soon as possible. Some may take several weeks, and failure to complete them could interfere with an applicant's ability to apply to this FOA.

The DOE will conduct two webinars in the coming weeks:

- **On March 5, 2024, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST DOE will conduct a Community Benefits Plan training webinar for applicants that will include important program update information.** To register for the webinar, please copy and paste the following link into your browser:
<https://doe.webex.com/weblink/register/rf943977a9b8d61037c9bacc55cacdb73>
- **On March 12, 2024, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM EST DOE will conduct a Program Update webinar that will include more detail on program updates as well as broad guidance to applicants based on our findings from the Concept Paper review process.** To register for the webinar, please copy and paste the following link into your browser: <https://doe.webex.com/weblink/register/ra5824dcfd55a545813f140b54474b8af>
- The purpose of these webinars is to discuss and emphasize FOA requirements within the FOA document that applicants may need to focus on in the full application. Attendance is not mandatory and will not positively or negatively impact the overall review of any applicant submissions. Questions will not be taken as part of these webinars.

The DOE did not make an applicant eligibility determination as part of the concept paper review. Applicant eligibility determinations will be considered at the full application stage of the FOA process. To be considered for substantive evaluation, an applicant's submission must meet the criteria set forth in Section III.A of the FOA (Eligible Applicants). If the full application does not meet the eligibility requirements, it will be considered ineligible and removed from further evaluation.

The DOE recognizes the significant effort your organization expended to prepare a concept paper in response to this FOA. On behalf of the DOE, the FOA team would like to express our appreciation for your interest in the Grid Deployment Office and this FOA.

Sincerely,

DE-FOA-0003195 Team

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