

Responses to Vendor Questions Regarding NC-RETS RFP
12/4/2009
Docket No. E-100, Sub 121

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#	Page	RFP Requirement	Questions	Answers
1	App. 2, Pg 1	2. The Respondent must provide its proposed architectural solution. Diagrams showing major system components, their interrelationships and interfaces, and supporting diagrams and materials should be included to provide the Commission a visual, as well as a narrative, representation of the proposed technical operating environment. The Respondent must provide the following information:	To what level of detail does the Commission require this information? A responder believes this information to be confidential and vital to the integrity of system security. If the Commission requires the responder to release information believed to be confidential, to what extent would such information be made public, especially pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act?	A Respondent should provide as much detail as possible while allowing all of its submission to be fully available to the public. In other words, it is anticipated that respondents can provide the requested information in sufficient detail without providing details that would be considered confidential or vital to system security.
2		2a. Identification and description of the proposed hardware and operating system (OS) platform and components.		
3		2b. Identification and description of the proposed software components, including software development tools, language, technology, software version(s), database management system, commercial-off-the-shelf software products (as applicable), middleware, other software modules, standard and ad hoc reporting software, and the planned number of installations. This information must include specifying the vendor of each component (including the vendor's proprietary software components). The Respondent must identify and describe the proposed network infrastructure and components that will be used.		
4		2c. Specification of HTML encoding and other standards that will be used in developing and maintaining the system, and the rationale for selecting each standard that will be applied.		
5		2d. Description of how the system will be designed to interoperate with a standard email product, as well as a description of how the http file transfer functionality will be "built-into" NC-RETS to allow Users to submit electric generation data, Btu production data and energy efficiency/demand side management data and certification and eligibility information. NC-RETS should be designed such that Account Holders receive an email notification of any activity in their Accounts.		
6		2e. Description of the migration path for the system components described above that explains how the system could be upgraded or modified to support extensibility requirements in the event that the actual volume of data or number of system Users increases beyond anticipated numbers or when new functionality is added.		
7		2f. Description of how the system can run on multiple commercial browsers without requiring the installation of any software on Users' computers.		

8		2g. Description of how the Respondent proposes to migrate historic (from January 2008 until NC-RETS is fully operational) REC data into the system.	Please explain the following: (1) What is the data type (format, information of data, etc.) expected to be transferred? (2) Where will the data be stored prior to being loaded into NC-RETS? (3) What is the expected data volume?	System users will supply the data in a format acceptable to the selected vendor. The data is currently stored at individual utilities and electric generators. We estimate that historic production data representing approximately 3-4 million RECs will need to be migrated. Some utilities will want to wait until late 2010 to migrate / input those relative to energy efficiency. We anticipate that each electric power supplier will work with the system administrator individually to migrate their data.
9		2h. Description of the Respondent's overall approach for an integrated database design and model, including products, platform location, redundancy, and centralization. If the proposal does not offer a single, integrated database, the Respondent must include the data synchronization approach or other provisions for maintaining integrity between databases.	To what level of detail does the Commission require this information? A responder believes this information to be confidential and vital to the integrity of system security. If the Commission requires the responder to release information believed to be confidential, to what extent would such information be made public, especially pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act?	A respondent should provide as much detail as possible while allowing all of its submission to be fully available to the public. In other words, it is anticipated that respondents can provide the requested information in sufficient detail without providing details that would be considered confidential or vital to system security.
10	App. 2, Pg 2	4e. Proposed approach for providing User and transactional audit capabilities.	Please explain the type of information required to perform user & transactional audits. Also, is it correct that the Commission will perform said audits, while the outlined approach in requirement #4e will be used to assist the Commission with performing their audits?	The majority of audit activity will be conducted by the Public Staff. They will require access to all source documentation used by NC-RETS to create RECs and all source documentation used by NC-RETS to initiate a change in REC disposition, such as a transfer or retirement. They will need to know who inputted, provided and/or created the source document or data, and when.

11	App. 2, P. 5	3. Each REC shall have an associated data field to be populated by Account Holders that will record the year the related costs were recovered from utility customers. NC-RETS shall provide Electric Power Suppliers with the ability to batch upload such data into NC-RETS for multiple RECs.	At what point in the process (time-of-year and frequency) would the Commission like the Electric Power Suppliers to be able to upload cost-recovery information? Would the Commissioner entertain alternative, perhaps more cost-efficient, scenarios for associating cost-recovery information to specific RECs?	Each investor-owned utility would likely upload such information once a year. Since their compliance calendars differ, they will each have a unique timing need. Other electric power suppliers will not need this functionality at all. The Commission would welcome alternatives for associating cost-recovery information with specific RECs.
12		8. NC-RETS must issue RECs no less frequently than once a month per facility, assuming that the facility or Electric Power Supplier has qualifying entries in its Activity Log. <u>RECs for energy efficiency, demand side management and self reporting facilities shall be issued within two weeks of data being provided by the Account Holder or its Reporting Entity.</u> The Respondent shall demonstrate how it will manage fuel source information and issue appropriate RECs from multi-fuel facilities where one or more of the fuel sources do not qualify for RECs.	Please clarify the Commission's definition of 'Activity Log' for purposes of this requirement. To clarify the underlined portion of this requirement, is it correct that the Commission would require RECs be created within two-weeks of data reporting for Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management and self reported facilities. Can the Commission please clarify its timeline for reporting by EE, DSM and self reporting facilities? For instance, is reporting to be done on a monthly basis? Is reporting to be completed on a more or less frequent timeframe than monthly?	Please see the definition in the glossary of the RFP. The Commission would like to amend this requirement such that all RECs, including those from EE, DSM and self-reporting facilities, may be created via one monthly REC creation cycle. (A two-week deadline is not needed.) Self-reporting facilities must provide production data at least annually. They can provide it more often if they choose. We expect electric power suppliers will provide EE and DSM data once a year, with each doing it at a different time of the year. It is possible that some might want to do it more often than annually, but that is not envisioned at this time.

13	App. 2, P. 10	7. The NC-RETS Administrator shall retain facility fuel data and calculations of RECs in a manner designed to facilitate routine audits by the Public Staff.	Please explain in more detail the facility fuel data and REC calculation data required to perform an audit by Public Staff.	The NC-RETS Administrator should retain the source data provided to it by multi-fuel generators, including the amount of fuel and each fuel's Btu content and MWh produced for each metering period. Btu content and fuel mix can change from month to month so each month's data must be retained. For multi-fuel facilities, NC-RETS should perform and retain the calculations that determine how many RECs are created for the generator.
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