



**GTI ENERGY**

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## **RFP on NEPA Analysis for the HyVelocity Hub**

HyVelocity | Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs | Award No. DE-CD0000038

**GTI Energy**

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## 1.0 Background Information

### 1.1 Project Background and Objective

The HyVelocity Hub (HyV) is a collaborative group of non-profit research organizations, academia, and leading energy companies working to advance the clean hydrogen ecosystem in Texas and along the U.S. Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast is already the nation's largest hydrogen producer, with more than 1,000 miles of dedicated hydrogen pipelines and 48 hydrogen production plants. It is home to diverse energy resources, including hydrogen production facilities and pipelines, a large base of industrial energy consumers, and a skilled workforce. HyV will support and build on Houston’s Clean Hydrogen Roadmap.

HyV is an industry-led hub with seven core project sponsors: AES Corporation, Air Liquide, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Mitsubishi, Orsted, and Sempra Infrastructure. It is administered by GTI Energy and includes a wide array of organizations, including organizing participants, the University of Texas at Austin, the Center for Houston’s Future, and the Houston Advanced Research Center.

### 1.2 Project Team

The following table illustrates HyV’s project team:

| Team Member / Role                        | Organization   |
|---|--|
| Ted Barnes, P.E. (Principal Investigator) | GTI Energy   |
| Saad Khan (Project Manager)               | GTI Energy   |
| HyVelocity Project Sponsor Leads          | AES Corporation, Air Liquide, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Mitsubishi, Orsted, and Sempra Infrastructure |

### 1.3 Scope of Work Overview

#### 1.3.1 Role of NEPA in HyV Hub

The purpose of NEPA is to declare a national policy that will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between people and their environment, promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, stimulate the health and welfare of people, enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

Through the NEPA process, DOE evaluates a proposed action and analyzes reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts to inform the federal agency and the public. The NEPA process incorporates reviews required by other environmental laws, including, but not limited to, the following:

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Endangered Species Act

DOE's NEPA compliance strategy includes determining the required level of NEPA review and defining the purpose and need of the proposed action and alternatives and the scope of the NEPA document.

The different types of NEPA analysis with a brief description are listed below:

1. Categorical Exclusion (CX) - In NEPA, a categorical exclusion (CX) is a category of actions that a federal agency has determined typically do not significantly affect the human environment. As a result, these actions do not usually require an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment
2. Environmental Assessment (EA) - An environmental assessment (EA) is a public document that helps federal agencies determine if a proposed action will significantly impact the environment.
3. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)—An environmental impact statement (EIS) is a government document that outlines the impact of a proposed project on its surroundings.
4. Supplement Analysis: A Supplement Analysis (SA) determines whether a federal action requires further NEPA review or whether previous reviews are adequate. It can also assess the potential environmental impacts of continued operations at facilities.

The content of a NEPA review depends on the type of NEPA analysis (CX, EA, EIS, or SA) and the type of project OCED is reviewing. Typically, for an EA or EIS, the documents will include a purpose and need statement, a detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives, a description of the affected environment that could be impacted by implementing any of the proposed alternatives, and reasonably foreseeable trends and planned actions, and discussion of how the condition of a resource would change through direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts as a result of implementing each of the alternatives under consideration.

DOE and HyV have discussed several approaches to NEPA review. The current understanding is that a Programmatic EIS would provide project-specific analysis for activities ready to proceed immediately while providing the framework to analyze the remaining projects of the Hub in the future as additional information about those projects becomes available. Projects requiring additional NEPA analysis would be addressed in supplemental NEPA actions, likely as individual EAs that tier off of the programmatic EIS. The EAs can be developed in parallel with the Programmatic EIS and incorporated into the final, if available.

Under this approach, DOE would first complete a programmatic EIS for the HyV Hub that would cover DOE's issuance of funding for the HyV Hub and its related potential environmental impacts from the various types of activities that will be part of the Hub. Then, DOE would adopt individual project-specific NEPA reviews (likely as individual EAs) under the broader Programmatic EIS through tiering. HyV can request individual members to prepare EAs at the appropriate time to cover their components of the Hub, which are then incorporated into the Programmatic EIS. The individual EAs would incorporate by reference the general discussions within the Programmatic EIS and build upon those discussions with information and potential impacts specific to the individual project.

CEQ and DOE's NEPA Implementing Regulations (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-10/chapter-X/part-1021#part-1021>) provide details on the required content of NEPA documents.

### 1.3.2 NEPA Scope of Work for HyV Hub

A separate document, Appendix B, details the NEPA Scope of Work for the HyV Hub. Please assume the scope of work is focused on Programmatic EIS approach as described above.

### 1.4 Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities during NEPA contractual work for HyV are presented in the 3-way MOU and NEPA Scope of Work referenced as Appendices A and B.

### 1.5 Project Schedule

For details on underlying milestones, deliverables, and tasks, please refer to Appendix B.

### 1.6 Project Deliverables (NEPA)

For details on deliverables, tasks, and tentative dates, please refer to Appendix B.

## 2.0 General

### 2.1 Definitions

The following terms used herein and in the accompanying Contract Documents are defined as:

- **GTI Energy:** GTI Energy, an Illinois, USA, non-for-profit organization, and its representatives
- **DOE:** U.S. Department of Energy and its representatives
- **Other Stakeholders:** Other stakeholders could include members of the project sponsors/owners of HyV Hub and/or their contractors, as well as sub-contractors authorized by the participating organizations to work on the NEPA process with the NEPA contractor. The project sponsors for HyV are AES Corporation, Air Liquide, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Mitsubishi, Orsted, and Sempra Infrastructure.
- **Bidder:** It refers to an individual, company, or organization that submits a proposal or bid/quote/proposal in response to the RFP issued by GTI Energy
- **Selected Bidder:** The person, company, or supplier contracted by GTI Energy to execute the Work outlined in the Contract Documents and who is subject to the terms thereof. The designated representative for the Bidder is named in the Contract Agreement. A successful bidder is referred to as the Contractor or NEPA Contractor.

### 2.2 Legal Requirements

Any agreement resulting from this RFP shall be directly with GTI Energy, funded under the Cooperative Agreement Number DE-CD0000038 between HyV and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Therefore, certain contract provisions from the Cooperative Agreement and Service Agreement must be flowed down to the Selected Bidder. The Selected Bidder represents that the services furnished under this Agreement are commercially available services for sale in their regular course of business. The Selected Bidder further represents that the services provided do not involve intellectual property development, new goods creation, or research and development activities.

### 2.3 DOE Involvement

As part of the effort described in this RFP, a Selected Bidder would enter a three-way Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DOE, GTI Energy, and the Selected Bidder. A draft of this MOU is attached as Appendix A to this RFP for reference.

### 2.4 Health and Safety Requirements

All applicable safety standards must be implemented during the entire course of contractual work. This includes having the necessary and mitigative measures impact of any safety risk.

## 3.0 Bidding Information

### 3.1 Bid Opportunity

In the competitive proposal process, the proposal is judged to be the most highly rated based on merit, price, and price-related factors. Price will not necessarily be the predominant factor in the award decision. Because competitive negotiation procedures will be used to select the winning proposal, the terms "competitive proposal," "Request for Proposals," and "competitive negotiation" are often used interchangeably.

### 3.2 Bid Evaluation

The bid evaluation criteria for NEPA Contractual Work for Phase 1 of the HyVelocity Hub are listed below:

1. Costs (overall expected cost and the cost breakdowns)
2. Schedule (ability to meet contractual work's overall schedule)
3. Technical Solution (compliance with NEPA Scope of Work, Appendix B, number and type of exceptions)
4. Perceived Risks (demonstrated ability to deliver a quality product that meets Scope of Work's requirements)
5. Experience (demonstrated ability to deliver similar services)
6. Industry-relevant references (Up to three / Contact info including name, phone number, email address, and summary of experience with reference)

7. Familiarity/Experience working in the region (Texas and the Gulf Coast)
8. Other Factors (responsiveness, creative solutions, ability to support the project, if applicable, etc.)

GTI Energy will conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of all proposals. Each proposal will first be analyzed to determine overall responsiveness and completeness. Failure to comply with the instructions that do not satisfy the bid requirements will be deemed non-responsive and may, at the discretion of GTI Energy, be eliminated from further consideration. The proposal evaluation and selection process will be based on the evaluation of the information provided; analysis will be applied to each category above to produce a score for each criterion. The sum of these scores will provide an overall rating to be compared against other bidders. Each bidder should provide detailed responses, including reference to any existing “in-house” procedures, policies, etc., as they reference all requirements of this RFP.

### 3.3 Bid Content

The bidders shall complete a Budget Workbook, presented in Appendix C, and included in GTI Energy’s RFP package. In addition to the criteria mentioned above, the bidders should also provide information on the following as part of their proposal.

1. Summary of proposed subcontracted work. Please include details on the methodology for NEPA Analysis and how compliance will be ensured during the process.
2. Confirmation of acceptance of this scope or list of exceptions.
3. Organizational chart showing key personnel. Bidders are to present the qualifications and certifications of their team members in environmental analysis and compliance.
4. Confirm contractual work key deliverables and milestone dates as presented in Appendix B. Bidders need to elaborate on how they would handle potential delays or changes throughout the process.
5. Confirmation of previous experience as a NEPA contractor for a federal agency? If so, which ones and when?
6. A summary of how the bidder will coordinate and communicate between DOE, GTI Energy, and other applicable stakeholders to ensure their requirements are met.
7. For reporting and documentation, the bidder must present how information will be disseminated between DOE, GTI Energy, and applicable stakeholders and the process for revising and updating documents based on feedback or new information.



8. Confirm Quality Control measures in place for the contractual scope of work and elaborate on how the accuracy and reliability of findings during NEPA Analysis will be ensured.
9. Confirm whether the bidder has sufficient resources, expertise, and bandwidth to perform NEPA analysis that meets or exceeds the contractual scope of work requirements.
10. Has a State and/or Federal government ever canceled a contract with the contractor due to allegations of fraud? (If yes, please share details)
11. Has the bidder and/or its employees ever been convicted of falsifying records of their government contract performance? (If yes, please share details)
12. Risk identification for this scope and approaches to mitigate those risks.

### 3.4 Bid Submittal Instructions

The bidder should submit an electronic version to GTI Energy by **5:00 pm Central Time** on the bid due date, **SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**. Electronic copies can be emailed to GTI Energy at HyVPMO@gti.energy

### 3.5 Exceptions and Clarifications

The bidder shall identify any exceptions to the scope of work as defined in this RFP. Please identify the specific section and item number for the item that the exception applies to or needs further clarification on. The scope of work is expected to be in accordance with all communicated requirements, both published and public information and information received directly from OCED. See the links below and the appendices (not comprehensive).

- a) NEPA review process: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/national-environmental-policy-act-review-process>
- b) Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter V, Subchapter A:  
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-V/subchapter-A/part-1502>
- c) OCED Guide to NEPA: <https://www.energy.gov/oced/oceds-guide-nepa>

## **4.0 Appendices**

### **4.1 Appendix A: MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)**

The MOU highlights the agreement between DOE, GTI Energy and the Selected Bidder (Contractor / NEPA Contractor). A draft copy of the MOU is shared as part of the RFP package by GTI Energy.

### **4.2 Appendix B: NEPA Scope of Work for HyV**

The NEPA Scope of Work is a separate attachment to this RFP. For details, please refer to GTI Energy's RFP package.

### **4.3 Appendix C: Budget Workbook**

The Budget Workbook for bidders is a separate attachment to this RFP. For details, please refer to GTI Energy's RFP package.