Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study RFP - Questions & Responses

	QUESTIONS FROM RFP INQUIRIES	RESPONSE FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1	Please clarify the public input process beyond the meetings with the COGs and the advisory committee. Do the COGs prefer that broader engagement with the public be conducted directly by the COGs and reported out to the consultant, or by the COGs in collaboration with the consultant?	Public input process beyond the initial meetings with the COGs and advisory committee, should be by the COGs in collaboration with the consultant
2	Please confirm that the study should rely on plans published by the State of Colorado and the utility sector, including but not limited to energy plans and forecasts approved or in process with the Public Utility Commission, and that original energy modeling is not required to be conducted under this contract	The consultant should rely on the published plans from utility energy plans, PUC filings, etc. In terms of original modeling, consultants should estimate wind/solar/geothermal resource potential in the study area. The consultant is not required to come up with modeling that shows how much new generation/storage needs to be built to meet state energy and climate goals.
3	Can you please provide clarification on the Land Fire Mitigation impacts that SECOG will require in this study. If you could please clarify if this item is referring to either the development of resilient landscapes, or the risks and fire response associated with renewable technologies and storage systems.	The risks and fire response associated with renewable technologies and storage systems.
4	Under the list of elements that should be included in the RFP responses, is “ability to work with youth” (see page 6, item 5.d. Team, bullet four). Please explain the relevance of this item to the proposed study.	This is a misprint, and not a requirement. There will be no youth involvement for the production of the Impact Study
5	The description of HB21-1266 in the last paragraph on page 1 discusses “Disproportionately Impacted Communities” and “environmental justice impacts.” Have either of these elements been affected by the new Trump Administration’s policies regarding consideration of environmental justice impacts in NEPA studies?	HB21-1266 is state legislation and not impacted by the Federal policy
6	Please provide a list of commercial scale renewable energy generation projects and transmission line projects, and the counties in which they are located, that are currently anticipated, are currently under development, or that have been completed within the past 5 years – and the counties in which they are or would be located.	This is a data collection requirement of the selected consultant, in collaboration with the COGS
7	Regarding the web-based platform for the final study, does the SECOG envision a stand-alone website or a section or page on the existing SECOG site, https://seced.net/?	The information for web-based platform and final study will reside on the SECOG site on an existing page. Please plan to build the format for the page for it to be then implemented into the SECOG page. https://secog.colorado.gov/ Link to the SECOG website will be shared to the other COGS

Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study RFP - Questions & Responses

	QUESTIONS FROM RFP INQUIRIES	RESPONSE FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8	The RFP asked about the ability to work with youth. Can the SECOG elaborate on its anticipated youth involvement in this study?	This is a misprint, and not a requirement. There will be no youth involvement for the production of the Impact Study
9	Can you elaborate on the goal of community engagement/public outreach in the context of this project? Is the intention to have the Advisory Committee represent the community and/or for community feedback to be routed through that group, or is widespread public outreach expected to be conducted separately from (but in coordination with) the Advisory Committee events? In either case, is the public outreach intended to be mostly informational, or is the public expected to be able to weigh in on or influence the study?	Public input process beyond the initial meetings with the COGs and advisory committee, should be by the COGs in collaboration with the consultant
10	Under Section 3 Scope, does the Projections on Regional Renewable Energy production dot point refer to only proposed projects as of today, or over the period to 2050? The latter would require consideration of US regional power market dynamics and the relative competitiveness of projects in the study area.	The period is to 2050 and to project the future development. Yes, the study should look at regional power market dynamics and the region's competitiveness to other region of the country.
11	Under Section 3 Scope, does the Community-based ownership models and community-based net metering dot point refer to a community-based renewable energy developer concept, focused on investing in, operating, and maintaining renewable energy projects that could connect at transmission and/or net metering basis, or does it potentially refer to a co-op arrangement, or something else?	Net metering would give the region an idea of what is being produced and where it is going, in order to provide counties data of economic impact and energy production.
12	Under Section 3 Scope, does the Capital cost recovery dot point refer to capital cost recovery of a renewable energy project, or something else?	Yes, the study should break down the captial recovery costs and impacts to the region's energy costs to users where these are developed.
13	Under Section 3 Scope, does the Battery storage systems impact dot point refer to consideration of a battery as part of a renewable energy project, or a behind-the-meter battery project, or potentially a discrete utility-scale battery project connected in the region, or something else? It refers to system impacts. Does this refer to impacts on renewable energy project connection capacity, to market services including ancillary services, or price arbitrage, or something else? Is a load flow expected for this, as the information may not be available from the utility?	This refers to the battery storage for the utility scale project not end users. The study should use load data from established battery systems.

Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study RFP - Questions & Responses

	QUESTIONS FROM RFP INQUIRIES	RESPONSE FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
14	Under Section 3 Scope, does the Traditional energy (coal, oil, or natural gas) vs. renewable energy impact on State/Local property taxes assessments dot point refer to comparing the improvement values between these two types of energy infrastructure investment, or something else? Should this analysis consider renewable development and expansion of renewable capacity across the state and its implications for state property tax receipts?	Correct. The study should also investigate regulations and potential impact fees, i.e. property taxes, use tax, other potential taxes and impact fees to offset the development and maintenance impacts of utility scale renewable energy projects
15	Due to the specialist skills involved in environmental, economic development, health, and other technical assessments of renewable energy project impacts, it may not be possible to find organizations that are not engaged in proposed projects. We would like guidance on what would be considered a conflict of interest and what would be acceptable as a mitigation.	The advisory committee will be responsible for working with the selected consultant to approve the particpation of selected orginizations that may have a conflict of interest.
16	Can you elaborate on the goal of community engagement/public outreach in the context of this project? Is the intention to have the Advisory Committee represent the community and/or for community feedback to be routed through that group, or is widespread public outreach expected to be conducted separately from (but in coordination with) the Advisory Committee events? In either case, is the public outreach intended to be mostly informational, or is the public expected to be able to weigh in on or influence the study?	Public input process beyond the meetings with the COGs and advisory committee should be by the COGs in collaboration with the consultant
17	The RFP mentions that the study should be an advisory document and not create statewide regulations. Can you elaborate on the desired outcome for the final report? Are you primarily looking for a data-driven document to inform local policy, a public resource, or something else?	Colorado is a local control State. State wide regulations especially land use regulations are not warranted by this study. Due to the diverse landscape and diverse potential impacts, each County wants to ensure land use control and independent land use regulations for the review of new projects. This study should provide "best pratice" guideance/regulations for the future creation of utitly scale renewable projects.
18	You've identified several key areas for the study, from economic growth to wildlife impacts. Are there any specific areas of concern that the Advisory Committee is prioritizing, or are all topics equally weighted at this time?	No areas of priority have been identified at this time. The selected consultant will be responsible for working with each COG to narrow the study area for each region and impacts.

Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study RFP - Questions & Responses

	QUESTIONS FROM RFP INQUIRIES	RESPONSE FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19	The RFP states that “One in-person kick-off meeting is required with each respective COG region.” Is this a single in-person meeting with each COG, such that there would be four in-person meetings total, or is this a single in-person meeting with all four COGs at the same place and time, such that a single in-person meeting is required? Where, for budgeting purposes, should we plan on this(these) meeting(s) being held? Should we plan on these meetings taking place in a single day?	As it states, one in-person kick-off meeting is required with each respective COG, which would mean 4 separate meetings at a site and time designated by the respective COG. It would be impossible to have all in a single day due to the miles that will need to be driven. I would say 4 different days. Depending on the time that is desired by each COG, it might be possible to do two in a day, but more likely 4 meetings.
20	Land Fire Mitigation - Is this impact category focused on impacts to the wildland-urban interface? Or is the intent to assess general fire risk across the study area, regardless of proximity to human resources?	Focus is on impacts to the wildland-rural interface (not urban). Assess the general fire risk potential for wildfires where renewable energy projects exist or are proposed within the study area.
21	Do any of the COGs have a pre-identified list of existing renewable energy projects they would like to use as case studies, or is the contractor expected to develop a framework for selecting existing projects as candidates for case studies?	These lists would be created with the intitial required consulation with each COG and/or county government.
22	Would the contractor be expected to develop their own traffic studies to assess transportation infrastructure impacts of existing renewable energy projects, or is that information that will be provided by the government?	CDOT ADT data and industry traffic demand, use, and impacts for the development and maintenance of utlity scale renewable should serve as the quantitative data sets for this analysis.
23	Regarding potential change to water demands/drought resiliency, is the contractor expected to assess overall watershed health in relation to water availability/drought resiliency? Or would the focus be on how specific energy projects have impacted water demand/resilience themselves?	Many parts of the study area have experienced extreme drought. The watershed health and the future demands of utility scale projects should be studied to ensure adequate water demand and resiliency.
24	Does the government have an idea of what types of "other topics" could potentially be included by a majority vote of the Advisory Committee?	Not at this time, it is anticpated that the selected consultant may have addtional topics suggestions for the advisory committee to study. The consultant would be responsible to bring back to the advisory committee any additional items or areas to be included in the study (within the budget scope of the RFP).
25	Can you clarify whether the study is expected to include field-based ecological surveys (e.g., for federally or state-listed species, wetlands, or habitat assessments), or whether desktop analysis and literature review will be sufficient?	Desktop literature. However, the study should identify regional ecological sensitive areas such as river valleys, irrigatable land, wetlands, watersheds, etc.
26	In the RFP, there is a list that states “Generally, the study shall explore the impacts of the following:…” Is it your intention that these impacts be studied only for past projects or also for potential future projects?	Both