

Prepared on behalf of:



PJM Interconnection

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PJM Reliability Backstop – 2026 RFI

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1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1 Introduction

PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM") is issuing this Request for Information ("RFI") to solicit input from key stakeholder segments directly impacted by emerging approaches to address large, discrete electric load additions within the PJM footprint.

Recent and anticipated growth in large loads presents unique challenges related to timing, scale, and locational specificity that may not be fully addressed through existing wholesale market mechanisms. PJM is seeking targeted input and comments to enable a bilateral matchmaking process, finetune the backstop procurement approach and better understand market interest, resource availability, capabilities, and constraints to maximize the effectiveness of the contemplated path forward presented to stakeholders at the PJM Backstop Workshop.

1.2 Purpose of the RFI

The purpose of this RFI is to gather information that will enable PJM to assess current market conditions, support the implementation of a bilateral matchmaking process and refine the backstop procurement approach. The RFI will help determine whether additional actions to address the growing market gap between load and supply are warranted. Specifically, under this RFI, PJM seeks to:

- Identify projects and developers interested in developing large scale load and generation resources within the PJM footprint.
- Assess the level and characteristics of expected large load demand, including timing, magnitude, location, and development status.
- Assess the level and characteristics of potential generation resources that may be available to serve large load demand, including technology, COD timing, capacity and location.
- Understand the conditions under which bilateral contracting arrangements between load and supply are feasible, including key commercial, timing, and risk considerations.
- Identify the information, process, and coordination needed for PJM to effectively facilitate bilateral matching between load and supply.
- Identify key risk factors that may impact the final process design including process rules, agreement structures, security considerations, timelines and other factors.
- Identify the conditions under which a PJM-administered backstop procurement, including a settlement structure administered by PJM consistent with existing governance arrangements (e.g., PJM Settlements Inc. acting on behalf of Electric Distribution Companies), would enable generation resource development.
- Identify regulatory, tariff, commercial, and implementation considerations that could affect the viability, participation and timing of any potential future actions.

To address current capacity needs, PJM intends to proceed with a multi-phase backstop process that includes an initial Matchmaking Phase, during which large scale loads and generation resources will be encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements. To the extent required, there may be a formal Request for

Proposal (“RFP”) process during a Phase 2, immediately following the Matchmaking Phase. During an RFP Phase, PJM would evaluate and rank residual generation resource options and execute commitments to attempt to cover as much of the residual capacity needs as capacity availability allows. Consistent with PJM’s preliminary proposal, any potential PJM-administered backstop procurement is currently contemplated as a capacity-only construct; however, PJM seeks input on commercial and risk-allocation considerations that may affect project financeability and execution. However, final structure and mechanics of the backstop is subject to be refined based on RFI responses, stakeholder comments and further PJM analysis related to the process.

Responses to this RFI will be used by PJM to support implementation of the bilateral matchmaking process and finetune the design, scope, timing, and structure of a future competitive solicitation or other procurement mechanism.

1.3 Timeline

The proposed timeline for the RFI process is shown below:

Milestone	Date
RFI Issuance	April 17, 2026
Responses Due	May 6, 2026

Following the RFI, PJM will use responses to conduct analysis, stakeholder engagement, and refinement of the process design and participation parameters prior to initiating the Matchmaking Phase.

The bilateral matchmaking process is estimated to take approximately 6 months, starting in September 2026 and ending in March 2027. Then the (tentative) backstop process would start in March 2027 completing 6 months later in September 2027. The timeline remains subject to refinement based on RFI responses and stakeholder comments.

1.4 Nature of the RFI

This RFI is not a request for proposals and does not constitute an offer to transact. This RFI does not oblige PJM to pursue any procurement, consider any market design change, or obligate PJM to take any other course of action. PJM may elect to take no further action based on the information received, or may determine that additional stakeholder processes, regulatory filings, or procurement activities are warranted.

Participation in this RFI is voluntary, and respondents may provide partial responses limited to those sections relevant to their interests or capabilities.

1.5 Confidentiality and Use of Information

Information submitted in response to this RFI will be treated in accordance with applicable PJM confidentiality provisions and individual responses will not be publicly posted. Notwithstanding, information collected through this RFI may be aggregated, anonymized, and summarized for purposes of analysis, stakeholder engagement, and potential regulatory filings or public communications.

During the bilateral facilitation process, PJM and its agents may disclose information submitted in response to this RFI to limited parties to facilitate economic and qualitative screening. All entities receiving information in this manner from PJM or its agents shall be bound by written agreement to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

Notwithstanding the above, PJM shall disclose information to third parties as required by applicable law, order, or in the course of administrative or judicial proceedings. PJM shall notify the impacted submitters as soon as it becomes aware of the disclosure requirement.

Responses to this RFI shall constitute consent to this data confidentiality disclaimer, including, but not limited to, consent of the entity waiving rights to confidentiality pursuant to Operating Agreement, section 18.17 to the extent confidential information may be disclosed or aggregated in the bilateral facilitation process.

2. Background and Need

2.1 PJM Led Reliability Rationale and Alignment with Federal/State Policy Direction

PJM is proposing a multi-phase approach that includes facilitation of bilateral arrangements, with a supplemental long-term capacity clearing mechanism to address any remaining capacity needs as a transitional measure to support reliability. This RFI is intended to inform PJM's understanding of market interest, capabilities, and constraints related to serving large load growth under current market conditions. Based on the information received, PJM may help refine its approach, particularly the timing, of the overall backstop procurement process.

3. Information Requested – EDCs – Large Load Interest and Characteristics

3.1 Who Should Respond

Response to this request for information should be completed by large load customers (e.g., hyperscalers/data center developers, large industrials/advanced manufacturing) and/or their authorized representatives, including EDCs/LSEs submitting on behalf of one or more specific large loads.

3.2 Response Instructions

- Please respond using the matrix set forth in Appendix 1 to this RFI.
- Where a respondent has multiple projects within the same zone, responses should be aggregated at the zonal level where feasible. Respondents may provide supplemental detail for individual projects where relevant.
- Unless otherwise noted, select from the options provided and provide brief narrative only where requested.
- Partial responses are encouraged; respondents may answer only those items relevant to their project(s).
- Where ranges are provided, respondents may use ranges instead of exact values.

- Respondents are encouraged to provide a cover letter and supplemental information on the following items:
 - The rationale for the selected procurement preference, and
 - What facilitation by PJM (if any) would most improve the likelihood of a successful bilateral outcome.

3.3 Submission Instructions

Respondents should email their submissions to pjmbackstop@crai.com. For respondents with submissions larger than 10 MB, please reach out to pjmbackstop@crai.com for instructions on the secure large file sharing option.

4. Information Requested – Supply Side Capabilities and Interest

4.1 Who Should Complete This Section

This section should be completed by generation developers, owners, investors, and other supply-side participants, including entities representing new resources, upgrades/uprates, repowering projects, storage resources, or retained existing resources capable of serving large loads. Respondents should note that PJM's current proposal prioritizes resources that provide net-new capacity and deliverability; however, PJM welcomes broader input through this RFI to inform final design considerations.

4.2 Response Instructions

In responding to this section, respondents are encouraged to focus on projects capable of achieving commercial operation within timeframes relevant to PJM's identified reliability needs, as follows:

- Please complete the response matrix set forth in Appendix 2 using checkboxes, dropdowns, and short-form entries.
- Respondents may use ranges in lieu of exact values.
- While complete responses are requested and preferred, partial responses are acceptable and encouraged, particularly for early-stage projects.
- This is not an RFP; responses are non-binding.
- Respondents are encouraged to provide a cover letter and supplemental information on the following items:
 - Conditions under which bilateral contracting would be feasible or preferable,
 - Circumstances under which a PJM-administered procurement or settlement construct (e.g., administered through PJM Settlements Inc. on behalf of EDCs) would materially improve financeability or execution,
 - Interest in participating in a PJM facilitated bilateral matching process,

- Types of information that would be most helpful in such a process, what do they need to find a matching partner, and
- Suggested role for PJM in the bilateral matching process.

4.3 Submission Instructions

Respondents should email their submissions to pjmbackstop@crai.com. For respondents with submissions larger than 10 MB, please reach out to pjmbackstop@crai.com for instructions on the secure large file sharing option.

5. Information Requested – Regulatory and Tariff Considerations (EDCs / LSEs)

5.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this section is to identify implementation prerequisites that may affect the feasibility, timeline, and structure of any market-based approach to serving large, discrete load additions, including:

- Bilateral load-to-supply contracting (direct or utility-facilitated), and
- Any potential PJM-facilitated or PJM-administered mechanism (including circumstances where PJM would administer settlement arrangements through PJM Settlements Inc. on behalf of Electric Distribution Companies, with costs, credit obligations, and indemnification allocated consistent with existing tariff frameworks).

Responses will help PJM understand which elements are readily implementable under existing tariffs and regulatory frameworks, and which would require tariff changes, regulatory approvals, or other state actions.

5.2 Who Should Complete This Section

This section should be completed by:

- EDCs and transmission/distribution utilities,
- LSEs (including competitive suppliers where relevant), and
- State commissions or state energy offices (optional, if they wish to provide perspectives on feasibility, timing, or jurisdictional considerations).

5.3 Response Instructions

- Please respond using the matrix set forth in Appendix 3.
- Short-form responses are preferred; use checkboxes/selection options where possible.
- Provide jurisdiction-specific answers where relevant (respondents may attach a state-by-state annex).

- Provide context to responses that distinguish between limitations/opportunities resulting from use of existing processes and existing authorities, and where state legislation, or lack thereof, impacts responses provided.
- While complete responses are requested and preferred, partial responses are acceptable and encouraged.

5.4 Submission Instructions

Respondents should email their submissions to pjmbackstop@crai.com. For respondents with submissions larger than 10 MB, please reach out to pjmbackstop@crai.com for instructions on the secure large file sharing option.