



**Request for Power
Supply Proposals to
Provide the Following
Services:**

Default Service in:
Massachusetts

For the Period:

February 1, 2024 –
January 31, 2025

November 9, 2023

REQUEST FOR POWER SUPPLY PROPOSALS

1. Overview

1.1 Background

Legislation and restructuring settlement agreements in Massachusetts¹ provide for competition in the electric utility industry by extending competition in the wholesale power supply markets to retail customers through the provision of retail access to all customers.

The Massachusetts Act provides access to the competitive retail electricity market for all retail customers of National Grid in Massachusetts (Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid) as of March 1, 1998. The Massachusetts Act requires each distribution company to provide default service (“MA Default Service”) to those customers that are not receiving generation service from a competitive supplier.

1.2 MA Default Service

The Massachusetts Act requires MA Default Service to be competitively procured. The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“MDTE”) initiated a generic proceeding on rules and procedures for the provision and pricing of MA Default Service². The MDTE ordered all electric companies in Massachusetts to procure MA Default Service through competitive solicitations by customer group (residential, commercial and industrial) and to procure such power at fixed monthly prices³. The MDTE also ordered electric companies to procure power for each customer group on a zone-specific basis based on the three Standard Market Design (“SMD”) Load Zones in Massachusetts⁴. Retail pricing for MA Default Service is to be provided on a zone-specific basis for the industrial customer group while retail MA Default Service prices for the residential and commercial customer groups are to be averaged across the zones served by the utility.

The MDTE ordered electric companies to procure power for their residential and commercial customer groups on a staggered basis (securing 50% of their MA Default Service supply for a twelve-month term semi-annually)⁵. The MDTE also ordered electric companies to procure power for the industrial customer group (i.e., larger customers) on a quarterly basis⁶. Additional changes regarding the procurement of MA

¹ Act Relative to Restructuring the Electric Utility Industry in the Commonwealth, Regulating the Provision of Electricity and Other Services, and Promoting Enhanced Consumer Protections Therein, Chapter 164 of The Massachusetts Acts of 1997 (“Massachusetts Act”).

² Docket D.T.E. 99-60.

³ See Dockets D.T.E. 99-60-A and D.T.E. 99-60-B.

⁴ See Docket D.T.E. 02-40-A.

⁵ See Docket D.T.E. 02-40-B.

⁶ See Docket D.T.E. 02-40-C.

Default Service may result from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities’ (“MDPU”)⁷ , D.T.E. 04-115, “The Procurement of Default Service Power Supply for Residential and Small Commercial Customers” initiated on December 6, 2004. If the MDPU issues an order prior to executing agreements with Respondents, National Grid will incorporate any required changes into the agreements.

National Grid is hereby seeking proposals from qualified power suppliers to supply firm, load-following power to meet its MA Default Service requirements. It is the intent of National Grid and supplier(s) that the resulting transactions shall meet the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's criteria for the forward contract exclusion, including that the parties intend to physically settle the transactions, and are therefore not subject to swap regulation.

National Grid, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to issue additional instructions or requests for additional information, to extend the due date, to modify any provision in this RFP or any appendix thereto and to withdraw this RFP.

1.3 Massachusetts Customer Groups

For the purposes of this solicitation, the Massachusetts customer groups are defined as:

Customer Group	Rate Class
Residential	R-1, R-2 and R-4
Commercial	G-1 and street lights
Industrial	G-2 and G-3

2. Description of Services

2.1 Description

Appendix A contains an overview of the services covered by this Request for Proposal (“RFP”). The Appendix provides:

- A brief description of MA Default Service;
- The eligibility requirements for a customer to obtain or leave Default Service.

⁷ Effective April 11, 2007, the MDTE ceased to exist. Two new agencies have been established in its place: The Department of Telecommunications & Cable will handle telecommunications and cable issues and The Department of Public Utilities will handle electric, gas, siting, pipeline, water and transportation issues.

2.2 Expected Loads

National Grid is unable to predict the amount of load that will be required to meet the needs of any customer group. National Grid's customers are free to leave Default Service at any time to take service from competitive suppliers. The ability of customers to enroll or return to Default Service is described in Appendix A.

To assist Respondents in determining the potential load requirements, National Grid is able to provide the following information on its Power Procurement Website:

For MA Default Service:

- Aggregate historical wholesale hourly load information for MA Default Service (since March 1, 1998);
- Aggregate historical wholesale hourly loads for MA Default Service by customer group (since November 1, 2000);
- Historic hourly loads by SMD Load Zone and customer group for MA Default Service (since March 1, 2003);
- Reports showing the number of customers enrolled in various electric services and energy consumption at retail by rate class can be found at the Division of Energy Resource's ("DOER") Electric Deregulation page;
- Municipal Aggregation customer count and historical retail load information (since November 2015).
- Class average load shapes at the retail meter point;
- Historical customer counts, as of the last billing day in each month, by each National Grid company, SMD Load Zone (since March 1, 2003) and rate class. These counts represent the number of active accounts in each rate class as of the last billing day in each month;
- Historical customer counts for customers taking service from a competitive supplier, as of the last billing day in each month, by rate class.
- ICAP tags for each load asset.

Please use the following link to access the site:

<http://www.nationalgridus.com/energysupply/>

Click on "Data" at the upper right of the screen to access Load data, Customer Count data, Class Average Load Shapes and ICAP Tags. This site is open to anyone with the above link. No user id or password is required to access the data on the site.

2.3 Load Blocks

National Grid’s total Default Service requirements covered by this RFP are broken down into the following 21 load blocks:

Load Block	Customer Group	SMD Load Zone	Load Share	Type of Service	Period
A1	Industrial	SEMA	50%	MA Default Service	02/01/24 – 04/30/24
A2	Industrial	SEMA	50%	MA Default Service	02/01/24 – 04/30/24
B1	Industrial	WCMA	50%	MA Default Service	02/01/24 – 04/30/24
B2	Industrial	WCMA	50%	MA Default Service	02/01/24 – 04/30/24
C1	Industrial	NEMA	50%	MA Default Service	02/01/24 – 04/30/24
C2	Industrial	NEMA	50%	MA Default Service	02/01/24 – 04/30/24
J	Commercial	SEMA	50%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
K	Commercial	WCMA	50%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
L	Commercial	NEMA	50%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
M1	Residential	SEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
M2	Residential	SEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
M3	Residential	SEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
M4	Residential	SEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
N1	Residential	WCMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
N2	Residential	WCMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
N3	Residential	WCMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
N4	Residential	WCMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
O1	Residential	NEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
O2	Residential	NEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
O3	Residential	NEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25
O4	Residential	NEMA	12.5%	MA Default Service	08/01/24 – 01/31/25

The load blocks in the SEMA Load Zone include National Grid’s customers on the Island of Nantucket.

A Respondent may bid on any number of load blocks that it wishes to serve. A Respondent wishing to serve the entire load for a particular customer group should submit a bid for each load block of that customer group. Respondents may not limit the amount of service that may be purchased for a given load block. Proposals that contain limits on the amount of service provided will be rejected⁸.

⁸ For example, a Respondent offering to supply Block A load must agree to supply 100% of the needs of that load block during every month of the Period (for example, 100% of the total load of the Industrial customer group in the SEMA Load Zone). The Respondent may not offer to serve Block A provided that the amount of service purchased does not exceed [specified value] MW in any hour.

The amount of load for each load block to be supplied by the winning Supplier(s) will be determined in accordance with the procedure contained in Article 6 of the applicable Master Power Agreement, a copy of which is provided in Appendix B.

2.4 Massachusetts Retail Customer Rates

During the term of service covered by this RFP, National Grid intends, in accordance with MDPU orders, to establish retail rates for generation service for MA Default Service customers (“Basic Service Rates”). Such Basic Service Rates will reflect National Grid’s purchase costs for such service due to commitments made as a result of this and previous RFPs and those costs associated with arranging MA Default Service (see below).

The retail rates for the industrial customer group will vary by SMD Load Zone based on the winning bids. The retail rates for the residential and commercial customer groups will be uniform across the three SMD Load Zones and will be based on the accepted bids for each customer group in this and previous RFPs. National Grid will file proposed Basic Service Rates with the MDPU following execution of an agreement(s) with a winning supplier(s). The Basic Service Rates charged to retail customers during the term of service covered by this RFP will be as ultimately approved by the MDPU.

In Docket D.T.E. 02-40-B, the MDTE determined that it is appropriate to include other costs an electric company incurs in providing MA Default Service in its Basic Service Rates. In Docket D.T.E. 03-88-E, the MDTE ordered National Grid to include those costs associated with arranging MA Default Service in its Basic Service Rates at a fixed amount, subject to change for significant changes in the costs. In Docket D.P.U. 09-39, the DPU approved a new level of administrative costs to be reflected in Basic Service Rates pursuant to the Basic Service Adjustment Provision (MDPU No. 1457). National Grid recovers administrative costs associated with arranging Basic Service through the Basic Service Administrative Cost Factor.

2.5 Effectiveness of Contracts

Any agreement(s) entered into for the delivery of MA Default Service pursuant to this solicitation will be subject to the MDPU’s favorable review of the results of National Grid’s solicitation for Default Service. Section 1 of the Massachusetts Master Power Agreement Form of Confirmation addresses the possibility that the MDPU does not favorably review the results of National Grid’s solicitation for Default Service.

3. General Provisions

3.1 Terms and Conditions

The winning Supplier(s) will be selected to provide Default Service to the applicable customer groups/load blocks during the term covered by this RFP. Up to twenty-one (21)

separate Suppliers may be selected – one for each load block. Default Service will be provided by such Supplier(s) to National Grid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Master Power Agreement. A copy of the Master Power Agreement for Massachusetts is provided in Appendix B.

All Respondents must have an updated executed Master Power Agreement(s) prior to the indicative bid date.

The winning Supplier(s) will be required to execute the applicable confirmation(s) within three (3) business days of being notified that it has been selected as the winning Supplier. Under Article 7 of the Master Power Agreement, failure of the winning supplier to deliver Requirements would constitute an event of default under the agreement, allowing National Grid to terminate and recover liquidated damages from the supplier.

3.2 Proposal Process and Submission Dates

The following table outlines the key dates associated with this procurement process.

Process Step	Date
Issue Request for Proposal	November 9, 2023
Submit Respondent Proposal Information	November 22, 2023 – 5pm EPT
Submit Indicative Pricing	December 6, 2023 – 10am EPT
Submit Final Pricing	December 13, 2023 – 10am EPT
Execute Agreements and Submit solicitation process summary, Agreements and retail rates to MDPU	No later than three business days after receipt of all executed agreements.
MDPU Reviews and Approves both Agreements and Basic Service Rates	No later than five business days after filing of Basic Service Rates
Service Begins	February 1, 2024 or August 1, 2024

One (1) copy of a Respondent’s Proposal Information must be submitted by e-mail or facsimile or mailed to the following address:

James Calandra
 Wholesale Electric Supply
 National Grid
 100 East Old Country Road
 Hicksville, NY 11801
 (516) 639-1359
 e-mail: ElectricSupply@NationalGrid.com

National Grid is conducting the procurement process in three steps. The first step is for Respondents to provide National Grid with their background and financial information by 5:00 p.m. EPT on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. Upon receipt, National Grid will evaluate each Respondent’s qualifications and will notify any Respondent that does not qualify by at least one business day before indicative pricing is due.

National Grid will not evaluate any indicative or final pricing if the Respondent does not have an executed Master Power Agreement. The Master Power Agreement must be executed prior to submitting indicative pricing.

The second step in this process is for Respondents to provide indicative pricing information by 10:00 a.m. EPT on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at the above address. National Grid will evaluate the indicative pricing as described above, and if required, National Grid may seek clarifications from Respondents.

The third step is as follows: Respondents to provide final pricing information by 10:00 a.m. EPT on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the above address. National Grid requests final pricing be valid until 1:00 p.m. National Grid intends to evaluate the final pricing and select a Supplier(s) that day by that time. Final pricing shall be binding until execution of a confirmation. Respondents should specify the manner in which they will accept a binding acceptance of their offer by National Grid prior to receipt of an executed agreement (letter of intent or e-mail) or they will be deemed to be bound by National Grid's acceptance communicated in any of the preceding manners.

Within three business days of receipt of all executed agreements, National Grid will file with the MDPU a confidential summary of the solicitation process, the executed agreement(s) and proposed Basic Service Rates.

Consistent with its rules, the MDPU will have five business days to review the results of National Grid's solicitation for Default Service. If the MDPU takes no action, National Grid's proposed Default Service price will go into effect. If the Department issues an order disapproving or rejecting the results of National Grid's solicitation for Default Service, the agreement between National Grid and Supplier(s) shall become null and void.

At any time, National Grid, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to issue additional instructions or requests for additional information, to extend the due date, to modify any provision in this RFP or any appendix thereto and to withdraw this RFP.

3.3 Contact Person/Questions

All questions regarding this Request for Proposal should be directed to James Calandra at the address provided above.

3.4 Right to Select Supplier

National Grid shall have the exclusive right to select or reject any and/or all of the proposals submitted at any time, for any reason.

4. Service Features

4.1 Commencement Date of Supply

Service from the winning Supplier(s) to National Grid shall begin as of HE 0100 EPT on the date specified in the table found in Section 2.3 – Load Blocks.

Service from National Grid to individual customers, who are taking Default Service in each customer group as of the Commencement Date, if any, will continue with the winning Supplier(s) providing such service to National Grid as of the Commencement Date.

Service from National Grid to individual customers taking Default Service as of the Commencement Date shall begin on the customer's meter reading date following notification/determination that a customer will be commencing Default Service or such other date designated by National Grid consistent with National Grid's Tariff for Off Cycle Meter Read For Switch of Supplier Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1418 in Massachusetts.

National Grid's procedures provide for customers to be switched from one service option to another (e.g., from Default Service to a competitive supplier, from one competitive supplier to another competitive supplier, from a competitive supplier to Default Service) on their normal cycle meter reading dates. However, there may be circumstances (e.g., default of a competitive supplier) that might require a customer to be switched to Default Service "off-cycle". In such case, the customer will be switched to Default Service on a date designated by National Grid consistent with National Grid's Off Cycle Meter Read For Switch of Supplier Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1418 in Massachusetts.

4.2 Termination Date of Supply

Service from the winning Supplier(s) to National Grid shall terminate at HE 2400 EPT on the dates specified in the table found in Section 2.3 – Load Blocks.

Individual customers taking Default Service from National Grid may terminate the service at any time. Terminations may include, but not be limited to, (i) a customer's taking competitive service from a competitive supplier, (ii) disconnection of service by National Grid in accordance with regulations and procedures approved by the MDPU, or (iii) closing of a customer's account. National Grid's procedures provide for customers electing to terminate such service to be switched to their successor service on their normal cycle meter reading date following the date that National Grid receives notification of such switch. However, there may be circumstances which might require a customer to be terminated "off-cycle". In such a case, the customer will be terminated from Default Service on a date to be determined by National Grid.

4.3 Delivery Points

The Supplier(s) of Default Service will be responsible for delivering power to the nodes/zones representing the actual locations of the Default Service loads. The Supplier(s) of each of the services will be responsible for any PTF losses allocated by the ISO related to the services. The locations of the Default Service load assets are as follows:

Company	SMD Load Zone	Load Asset	Load Asset Name	Load Block
Nantucket	SEMA	10022	NANT-DEF SVC-RCG LOAD	M
Nantucket	SEMA	10020	NANT-DEF SVC-CCG LOAD	J
Nantucket	SEMA	10021	NANT-DEF SVC-ICG LOAD	A
MECo	SEMA	7601	DEF SVC-MECO-RCG LOAD_4006	M
MECo	WCMA	7703	DEF SVC-MECO-RCG LOAD_4007	N
MECo	NEMA	7803	DEF SVC-MECO-RCG LOAD_4008	O
MECo	SEMA	7603	DEF SVC-MECO-CCG LOAD_4006	J
MECo	WCMA	7705	DEF SVC-MECO-CCG LOAD_4007	K
MECo	NEMA	7805	DEF SVC-MECO-CCG LOAD_4008	L
MECo	SEMA	7605	DEF SVC-MECO-ICG LOAD_4006	A
MECo	WCMA	7707	DEF SVC-MECO-ICG LOAD_4007	B
MECo	NEMA	7807	DEF SVC-MECO-ICG LOAD_4008	C

4.4 Form of Service

The Supplier(s) of each Load Block shall be responsible for meeting the specified service requirements for all of National Grid’s customers in a specific Load Block. These service requirements include the generation and/or market procurement and delivery to the delivery point(s) of the portion of the electric capacity, energy and ancillary services required to meet the needs of National Grid’s ultimate customers taking such service. National Grid will implement the transfer of these responsibilities to the Supplier(s) by updating the asset registration for each of the above Load Assets. National Grid will assign to the Supplier(s) the applicable Ownership Share for each Load Asset. Once a Supplier’s obligation terminates, National Grid will terminate the Supplier’s Ownership Share of a Load Asset.

The Supplier(s) shall be responsible for all obligations, requirements, and costs associated with the Supplier(s) having the Load Asset Ownership Share which shall include but not be limited to the day-ahead load obligations and real-time load obligations at the nodes/zones of each Load Asset. A more complete description of a Supplier(s)’s responsibilities can be found in the Master Power Agreement in Appendix B of this RFP.

The Supplier(s) shall be responsible for all decisions and data submissions associated with any bids into the market system to manage these obligations. The Supplier(s) shall

be responsible for all components of any Locational Marginal Prices the Supplier must pay in delivery of the services. These components include, but are not limited to, the day-ahead and real-time energy, marginal losses, and congestion charges. As the supplier of such services, the Supplier(s) will be responsible for all present or future requirements and associated costs (to the extent such charges are not imposed on National Grid as a transmission charge by NEPOOL or the ISO) associated with the services and any other requirements, market products, expenses or charges imposed by NEPOOL or the ISO, as they may be in effect from time to time.

The Supplier(s) will also be responsible for all transmission and distribution losses associated with delivery of the electricity from the delivery point to the Default Service customer's meter. A description of the estimation process for determining supplier hourly load can be found in Appendix A of the Master Power Agreement, found in Appendix B of this RFP.

National Grid will make arrangements with the ISO for transmission service over the PTF and non-PTF, from and after the Delivery Point to the Customers' meters. National Grid will be billed by the ISO and the applicable Participating Transmission Owner(s) for these services. National Grid will pay these bills and collect the costs, along with National Grid's distribution costs, from its retail customers through its retail delivery service tariffs. Any other transmission or distribution costs will be the Supplier(s)' responsibility.

5. Proposal Requirements

5.1 Format of Proposal

The information required by National Grid to evaluate each proposal is identified in Appendix C. Respondents may simply complete the forms provided in Appendix C in any legible fashion and return them to James Calandra as provided in Section 3.2. In addition, proposals should contain explanatory, descriptive and/or supporting materials as necessary.

5.2 Proposed Pricing

Respondents must specify the price at which they will provide Default Service for each Load Block on which they are bidding to serve. Purchases will be made on an "as-delivered" energy basis with prices stated on a fixed \$/MWh basis. Such prices may vary by SMD Zone, calendar month and by customer group, but must be uniform for the entire calendar month and cover the entire term of this Request for Proposals.

Prices which contain demand components, minimum purchase requirements or which vary by time-of-use within a calendar month will be rejected. Prices which exclude one or more market costs (e.g. Capacity, uplift costs, etc.) will be rejected.

National Grid intends to pay a Supplier(s) based on the billing determinants as defined in the Master Power Agreement. These billing determinants are the loads as reported to and settled by the ISO, which include transmission and distribution losses, and exclude any PTF losses allocated to the Supplier by the ISO during the settlement.

National Grid is seeking the following pricing:

- **All-Inclusive Bids:** For each Load Block (A through C and J through O), a price which includes all costs. Should National Grid select this option, (1) suppliers would be responsible for all costs including capacity market charges and (2) Suppliers would not be responsible for complying with the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, the Clean Energy Standard, or the Clean Peak Energy Portfolio Standard.

5.3 Terms and Conditions

Service will be provided pursuant to the terms of the Master Power Agreement provided in Appendix B.

5.4 New England Market Participation

Each Respondent must indicate whether it has an executed and accepted Market Participant Service Agreement with ISO New England or if it plans to execute an agreement and, if so, at what point it is in the application process and the time frame for completing the process. Respondents must also provide evidence of agreements with a Market Participant if Respondent will have another Market Participant be responsible for its market settlement obligations.

5.5 Competitive Supplier Registration

The service provided by the Supplier(s) of Default Service to National Grid is a wholesale transaction between the Supplier(s) and National Grid; therefore, the Supplier(s) do not have to be licensed or registered suppliers with any state regulatory commission.

5.6 Regulatory Approvals

The Supplier(s) of the services covered by this Request for Proposal must obtain and maintain all necessary regulatory approvals required to enable it to provide the applicable service; such approvals must be obtained prior to February 1, 2024 or August 1, 2024, as applicable.

6. Retail Customer Relationships

6.1 Customer Billing

All customers taking Default Service covered by this RFP will be retail customers of National Grid. As the retail provider of such service, National Grid will bill customers for the Default Service provided.

6.2 Customer Bill Inserts in Massachusetts

The Supplier(s) of MA Default Service may furnish a one-page bill insert which National Grid may include in the bill that it sends to each customer taking such service in the applicable customer group and Load Zone in Massachusetts during the delivery term. Bill inserts may be included in only one monthly billing cycle during the term of service. Inserts shall be printed on 60# Mountie Matte paper, shall be three and one-quarter inches high by six and one-quarter inches wide in size and may be of any typeface *except* ITC Century and ITC Franklin Gothic.

The Supplier(s) must inform National Grid at least sixty (60) days prior to the start of the monthly billing cycle in which it seeks National Grid to include its insert in applicable MA Default Service customer bills. National Grid will respond within seven (7) days if it can accommodate the request, provide an estimate of the cost of additional postage to be paid by the Supplier(s) in order to include the insert in the requested monthly billing cycle, or suggest an alternate monthly billing cycle. Customer bill inserts must be received by National Grid at least ten (10) days prior to the start date of its inclusion in customer bills. National Grid will be responsible for including only the number of inserts that are provided to them. National Grid will not be responsible for returning to the Supplier(s) unused inserts unless the Supplier(s) have made arrangements for its return. National Grid reserves the right to schedule bill inserts in order to minimize postage and handling costs.

6.3 Notification of Enrollments and Terminations

National Grid will provide electronic notification to the Supplier(s) of Default Service customer enrollments and terminations within a customer group. Enrollment information will include account number, rate class and commencement date of service. Termination information will include account number, rate class and termination date of service. Such notifications shall only be provided when a Supplier establishes a Windows or Unix file server with capability of sending and receiving File Transfer Protocol ("FTP"), files with Pretty Good Privacy ("PGP"), Encryption/Decryption, and (ii) verifies its ability to transfer files to and receive files from National Grid at least fourteen (14) days prior to the day on which a Supplier desires to commence electronic receipt.

6.4 Customer Service

National Grid, as the retail provider of Default Service, will provide customer service to all customers receiving Default Service.

7. Selection Process

The principal criteria to be used in evaluating proposals will include:

- Lowest evaluated bid price by Load Block;
- Respondent's ability to meet the credit requirements established in the Master Power Agreement provided in Appendix B;
- Firmness of delivery;
- The supplier's past experience in providing similar services to National Grid;
- The supplier's past experience in providing similar services to other companies in New England;
- The supplier's past experience in providing similar services to other companies in other regions;
- The supplier's demonstrated understanding of its obligations under the Master Power Agreement; and
- Whether there have been any past or are any present events that are known that may adversely affect the supplier's ability to provide the requirements to National Grid's Default Service customers.

8. Credit Requirements

In order to protect National Grid's Default Service customers from the risk of Supplier(s) default, a winning Supplier(s) must be able to demonstrate it has the financial resources to perform during the term of the agreement. As reflected in the attached Master Power Agreement (Appendix B to this RFP), National Grid will require Supplier(s) to provide some form of security when entering into a Confirmation. The security arrangement will be based on the expected volume of load for the bid block and a mark-to-market margining clause. As forward market prices change, the Supplier(s) will be required to post security for those incremental changes. Additionally, Suppliers that are rated at or below BBB-/Baa3 will be required to post an Independent Amount equal to 10% of the notional value of each Load Block awarded. The Supplier(s) shall provide security in one of the following forms:

- Unsecured line of credit for a rated counterparty
- Parental Guaranty
- Letter of Credit
- Cash deposit with National Grid

Respondents that are rated by a major credit rating agency must provide the ratings assigned by such agencies. Respondents that are not rated by a major credit rating

agency must provide the following information to enable National Grid to evaluate a Respondent's financial strength:

- Respondent's organizational history
- Date of establishment
- Initial (if founded within the last ten years) and current capitalization
- Certified financial statements, including balance sheets and statements of income and cash flow with respect to the two previous fiscal years and the most recent interim period
- Forms 10-K and 10-Q, submitted to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission for the two previous fiscal years, if applicable;
- Short-term and long-term debt ratings from Moody's Investor Service or Standard & Poor's Corporation
- Corporate affiliates or joint venture partners including any details regarding financial limitations between partners or affiliates.

If a Respondent has provided this information to National Grid or an affiliate in a response to a previous RFP, then the Respondent needs only to identify the date and to whom the information was submitted and update the previously provided information.

National Grid agrees that it will treat the information it receives from Respondents in a confidential manner and will not, except as required by law or regulatory authority, disclose such information to any third party or use such information for any purpose other than in connection with this RFP.

9. General Requirements

National Grid may withdraw and terminate this RFP at any time without any liability. National Grid reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals. National Grid will not be responsible to any Respondent or any other party for failure to execute a Master Power Agreement or Confirmation.

National Grid shall reject proposals submitted in response to this RFP that are incomplete, or do not conform to the requirements of the RFP or, are submitted beyond the deadline for submission. All proposals submitted by Respondents in response to the RFP will become the exclusive property of National Grid.

If any information provided by the Respondent changes or fails to remain valid, it is the sole responsibility of the Respondent to notify National Grid of such change. Failing to do so may result in disqualification of the Respondent and its proposal for the solicitation.

Respondents shall, at their own cost and expense, defend, indemnify and hold harmless National Grid, its parent, subsidiaries and affiliates and their officers, directors, trustees, employees, shareholders, executors, administrators, successors and assigns against any

and all manner of past, present, or future claims, demands, disputes, controversies, complaints, suits, actions proceeding or allegations of any kind which in any manner relate to arise out of, or result from any false statements or misrepresentations, intentional or unintentional, in its proposal, or breach of any covenant by the Respondent set forth herein.

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

**Massachusetts Electric Company
Nantucket Electric Company**

MA Default (Basic) Service

Description	Electric Service provided to retail customers who are not taking service from a competitive supplier.
Eligibility Requirements	Service to customers can be initiated by: a) A customer notifying National Grid that it wishes to terminate service from its competitive supplier and commence Default Service. b) A competitive supplier notifying National Grid that it is terminating service to a customer. c) A competitive supplier ceasing to provide service to a customer without notifying National Grid. d) A customer moves into National Grid's service territory and does not affirmatively choose a competitive supplier.
Aggregate Number of Customers Taking Service and Historical Load Profiles	Note: Historic customer count data and historical hourly load profiles are available at National Grid's procurement website: http://www.nationalgridus.com/energysupply/

APPENDIX B

MASSACHUSETTS MASTER POWER AGREEMENT

APPENDIX C

REQUIRED PROPOSAL INFORMATION