

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) - 2022 Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Pilot Demonstrations

DATE: April 19, 2022
SUBJECT: Request for Information (RFI)

Description

This is a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the U.S. Department of Energy on behalf of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO). The intent of this RFI is to obtain feedback on Section 41007 (a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which authorizes activities under section 615(d) (Enhanced Geothermal Systems Demonstrations) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17194(d)). Specifically, this RFI seeks input on:

1. Section 41007 (a) Enhanced Geothermal Systems Pilot Demonstrations Structure and Implementation Strategy and Requirements
2. Employment: Expanding Union Jobs and Effective Workforce Development
3. Equity, Environmental and Energy Justice (EEEJ) Priorities
4. Build America, Buy American Requirements

Information collected from this RFI will be used by DOE for planning purposes to develop the EGS Pilot Demonstrations FOA. The information collected will not be published.

Background

On November 15, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law¹. The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy through enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the world, creating good jobs, ensuring stronger access to these economic benefits for underserved communities. The BIL appropriates more than \$62 billion to DOE² to deliver a more equitable clean energy future for the American people by:

- Investing in American manufacturing and workers, including supporting good-paying union jobs
- Expanding access to energy efficiency and clean energy for families, communities, and businesses.

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf>

² U.S. Department of Energy. November 2021. "DOE Fact Sheet: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Will Deliver For American Workers, Families and Usher in the Clean Energy Future." <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-fact-sheet-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-will-deliver-american-workers-families-and-0>

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- Delivering reliable, clean, and affordable power to more Americans.
- Building the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

BIL section 41007 (a) authorizes GTO to carry out activities under section 615(d) (Enhanced Geothermal Systems Demonstrations) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, as amended by the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 17194(d) (EISA 2007) including \$84,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2025. EISA 2007 authorizes GTO to support EGS pilot projects that collectively demonstrate EGS in different geologic settings, using a variety of development techniques and well orientations, at sites where subsurface characterization or geothermal energy integration analysis has been conducted. These demonstration projects will enable investments that maintain progress towards GTO's aggressive *GeoVision*³ goals and will support the Biden Administration's goal to achieve a carbon-free electric grid by 2035 and a net zero emissions economy by 2050.⁴

Principles of equity and justice will guide BIL implementation, consistent with the Biden Administration's commitments to ensure that overburdened, underserved, and underrepresented individuals and communities have access to federal resources pursuant to EO 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities*; EO 14020, *Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council*; and EO 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*. Implementation efforts shall ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of the BIL Section 41007(a) flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs),⁵ and not exacerbate existing inequalities, including disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and harms (the Justice40 Initiative, or Justice40). Moreover, the BIL implementation process should advance equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Strengthening prosperity – by expanding good, safe union jobs and supporting job growth through investments in domestic manufacturing – is a key goal set by President Biden and is discussed in depth in his Executive Orders (EOs) on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers (EO 14005), Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (EO 14008), Worker Organizing and Empowerment (EO 14025), and Promoting Competition in the American Economy (EO 14036). The BIL Section 41007(a) will support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a

³ The GeoVision Roadmap outlines a compilation of technical, economic, and institutional actions that the entire geothermal community including DOE, other government agencies, industry, and academia must address in order for geothermal technologies to play a larger role in the Nation's energy mix.

⁴ FACT SHEET: President Biden sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

⁵ The Justice40 initiative, established by E.O. 14008, states that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments should flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs). [DOE's definition of DACs, which should be used to determine benefits calculations, is available \[on the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity web site\].](#)

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union, through the incorporation of strong labor standards, and high-road workforce development efforts such as registered apprenticeship.^{6,7}

Context and Purpose

Geothermal energy is a renewable and diverse solution for the United States—providing reliable and flexible electricity generation and delivering unique technology solutions to America’s heating and cooling demands. Geothermal resources can be found nationwide, are “always on,” and represent vast domestic energy potential; however, only a fraction of this potential has been realized due to technical and non-technical barriers that constrain industry growth. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Geothermal Technologies Office’s (GTO) recent *GeoVision* report concludes that with technology improvements, especially in areas relevant to enhanced geothermal systems (EGS), geothermal power generation could increase 26-fold from today, representing 60 gigawatts-electric (GWe) by 2050³, providing significant transition jobs for the same skilled workers currently engaged in fossil fuel pipeline activities.

Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) are engineered geothermal reservoirs, created where there is hot rock (175-300+°C), but little to no natural permeability and/or fluid saturation. During EGS development, subsurface permeability is enhanced via safe, well-engineered stimulation processes that re-open pre-existing fractures, create new ones, or a combination of both. These open conduits increase permeability and allow fluid to circulate throughout the hot rock. The fluid transports the otherwise

⁶ Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAPs) are a proven model of job preparation, registered by DOL or a DOL-recognized State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA), which employ workers and combine paid On-the-Job Learning (OJL) (also referred to as On-the-Job Training (OJT)) with Related Instruction (RI) to progressively increase workers’ skill levels and wages. RAPs are also a business-driven model that provide an effective way for employers to recruit, train, and retain highly skilled workers. RAPs allow workforce partners, educators, and employers to develop and apply industry standards to training programs, thereby increasing the quality of the workforce and workforce productivity. RAPs offer job seekers immediate employment opportunities that pay sustainable wages and offer advancement along a career path as they complete their training. Registered Apprentice completers receive industry-recognized certificates of completion leading to long-term career opportunities. For more information on RAPs, please visit www.apprenticeship.gov

⁷ The US Department of Labor has developed a framework for Quality Pre-Apprenticeship Programs:

- Training and curriculum based on industry standards, approved by the Registered Apprenticeship sponsor with whom the pre-apprenticeship program is partnering.
- Strategies that increase Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for disadvantaged and under-represented individuals that will allow the participant to meet the entry requirements for a Registered Apprenticeship program upon completion. These involve:
 - » Strong recruitment efforts for populations under-represented in Registered Apprenticeship programs
 - » Educational and pre-vocational services that prepare participants to meet the minimum qualifications for entry into a Registered Apprenticeship program
 - » Activities introducing participants to Registered Apprenticeship programs and assistance in applying for those programs
- Access to support services that help participants remain in the program (such as childcare, transportation, counseling and ongoing career services).
- Collaboration with Registered Apprenticeship sponsors to promote apprenticeship to other employers as a quality approach to attain and retain a skilled workforce.
- Hands-on experience that simulates the work performed in the Registered Apprenticeship, while observing proper supervision and safety protocols.
- Formal agreements, wherever possible, with Registered Apprenticeship sponsors for entry into Registered Apprenticeship programs upon successful completion of the pre-apprenticeship program.

For additional information on pre-apprenticeship, please review [USDOL’s Training and](#) Employment Notice 13-12.

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stranded heat to the surface where clean, renewable electricity can be generated with current power generation technologies.

Relative to other geothermal resources, EGS have the potential to provide the most growth in the electric sector, and in the GeoVision scenarios, support noteworthy growth within the non-electric sector for district heating and other direct-use applications. Without significant and sustained investment in EGS technology development and demonstrations to refine our ability to access and develop these resources, however, the 60 GWe target will not be achieved.

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, State and local coalitions, labor unions, Tribal councils, community-based organizations (CBOs), and other stakeholders on issues related to Section 41007(a) Enhanced Geothermal Systems Pilot Demonstrations. This is solely a request for information and not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). EERE is not currently accepting applications.

Request for Information Categories and Questions

PLEASE NOTE: RESPONDENTS MAY ANSWER AS FEW OR AS MANY QUESTIONS AS THEY WISH. There is no requirement to answer all questions in order to submit a response. Please use the numbered statements/questions as headings in your response to the greatest extent possible (e.g., 1.1...) in the body of your responses. This permits reviewers to efficiently organize and understand your input.

Category 1: *Section 41007 (a) Enhanced Geothermal Systems Pilot Demonstrations Structure and Implementation Strategy and Requirements*

This section provides a high-level draft plan for DOE's current vision to meet the BIL requirements by conducting a competitive solicitation to select and deploy Section 41007 (a). Please note this is a preliminary plan and it will likely evolve as DOE gathers feedback through the RFI and other stakeholder processes.

Under section 615(d) (Enhanced Geothermal Systems Demonstrations) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17194(d)) the Geothermal Technologies Office will receive \$84,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2025 to support enhanced geothermal systems pilot projects that collectively demonstrate EGS in different geologic settings, using a variety of development techniques and well orientations, at sites where subsurface characterization or geothermal energy integration analysis has been conducted.

DOE envisions that the EGS Pilot Demonstrations FOA could be structured as a single, rolling submission FOA open for two years with review periods occurring every six months. DOE envisions four topic areas, listed in the table below with associated funding amounts. Please note that funding amounts and the number of awards are all approximate and subject to change.

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Topic	# of Awards	Award Duration	Federal \$ per award (estimated)	Total Federal Funding (estimated)
Topic 1: EGS Proximal Demonstrations <i>EGS demonstrations utilizing existing infrastructure proximal to existing geothermal / hydrothermal development with immediate potential for electrical power production.</i>	1-4	3-5 yrs	\$5-15 M	\$12 M
Topic 2: EGS Green Field Demonstrations <i>Sites with no existing geothermal development and potential for shallow sedimentary, igneous and/or mixed metamorphic rock EGS with near-term electrical power production potential.</i>	1-3	3-5 yrs	\$5-25 M	\$25 M
Topic 3: Super-hot / Supercritical EGS Demonstrations <i>Super-hot/ Supercritical EGS demonstrations located at well-characterized sites with near-term electrical power production potential.</i>	1-2	3-5 yrs	\$5-25 M	\$25 M
Topic 4: Eastern-US EGS Demonstrations <i>EGS stimulation demonstration located at a well-characterized Eastern U.S. site, with existing wells in place and near-term electrical power / heat production potential.</i>	1	3-4 yrs	\$5-9 M	\$10 M

For each of the above topic areas, projects will be structured as follows:

- 1. Site and Stimulation Planning + Permitting**
 - 1.1. Site Data collection
 - 1.2. Develop Stimulation Plan
 - 1.3. Initiate Permitting Activities
 - 1.4. Develop Well repair/re-configuration (workover) plans
 - 1.5. Develop Drilling plans (if drilling new wells)
- 2. Drilling and Site Preparation**
 - 2.1. Prepare site for Well repair/re-configuration (workover) OR Drilling operations
 - 2.2. Perform well repair/re-configuration (workover)
 - 2.3. Perform new drilling
- 3. Stimulation + Testing**
 - 3.1. Perform stimulation(s)

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- 3.2. Circulation testing
- 3.3. Electrical or Thermal estimate analyses

4. Long Term Flow Testing

- 4.1. Long term flow testing
- 4.2. Post-stimulation Data Collection

Questions:

1. DOE has outlined the above topic areas and proposed Phase breakdown according to Congressional direction, however, **considering the total funding available (\$84 million) under BIL, and a requirement to fund several demonstration projects, GTO seeks community input on the most impactful prioritization of funds for these EGS Pilot demonstrations.**

Please provide feedback on where, in your opinion, within the proposed Phase breakdown, you believe Federal funding will be the most impactful and where, in your organization's experience, it would be most tractable to provide cost share to cover majority costs.

2. Should any of the proposed phases be further broken into multiple sub-phases, and if so, what should be included in each sub-phase?
3. How should the teams be asked to measure progress toward the administration's goal of transforming the economy by 2050 to achieve net-zero emissions goals? Please be as specific as possible.
4. What are the key review criteria (e.g., technical merit, workplan, market transformation plan, team and resources, financial, regional economic benefits, quality jobs, environmental justice, DEI) that DOE should use to evaluate and select the EGS Pilot Demonstrations as well as evaluate readiness to move from one phase to the next?
5. Are the proposed funding levels, considering the cap on the program, appropriate/adequate?
6. What external non-project partners/stakeholders (e.g., CBOs, DACs, tribal groups, state and local governments, economic development organizations, labor unions) will be critical to the success of the EGS Pilot Demos? What types of outreach and engagement strategies are needed to make sure these stakeholders are involved during each phase of the EGS Pilot Demos? Are there best practices for equitably and meaningfully engaging stakeholders?
7. Based on EPAct 2005, Section 988, the cost share requirement for demonstration and commercial application projects is 50% cash and/or in-kind and must come from non-Federal resources (i.e., the total project cost includes both a 50% DOE share and a 50% recipient cost share). DOE is seeking a reduction to 20% for this Provision. Is it feasible for projects to meet this 20% cost share requirement on an invoice-by-invoice basis?
8. What incentives/programs exist or can be put in place to encourage and foster U.S. manufacturing? What potential challenges or opportunities might exist to meet the new Buy American requirements in the BIL?
9. Please identify any iron, steel, manufactured goods, or construction materials that will be crucial for building out the EGS Pilot Demonstration Provision that would not typically be procured domestically. For each, please specify how the EGS Pilot Demonstrations could work to procure

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these items domestically, and any potential barriers to domestic procurement, such as lack of availability or cost.

10. What types of cross-cutting support (e.g., technical assistance) would be valuable from the DOE/national laboratories, and/or from other federal agencies, to provide in proposal development or project execution? Are there other entities that DOE could fund to provide technical assistance for the EGS Pilot Demonstrations?
11. What data should DOE collect from the EGS Pilot Demonstrations recipients to evaluate the impact of the program? How should this data and the program outcomes be disseminated to the public including data that will be required to be submitted to our Geothermal Data Repository: <https://gdr.openei.org/>
12. How could funding under other BIL provisions be leveraged to maximize the impact of BIL funding?
13. How can DOE support the applicants in working together to increase competitiveness and scale?
14. What policies, infrastructure, or other considerations could be put in place to enable the provision implementation to be more successful?

Category 2: Employment: Expanding Union Jobs

In keeping with the administration's goals, and as an agency whose mission is to help strengthen our country's energy prosperity, the Department of Energy strongly supports investments that expand union jobs, improve job quality through the adoption of strong labor standards and project labor agreements, increase job access, strengthen local economies, and develop a diverse workforce for the work of building and maintaining the country's energy infrastructure and growing domestic manufacturing. Respondents to this RFI are encouraged to include information about how this program can best support these goals.

1. What would be the most impactful workforce outcomes of the EGS Pilot Demonstrations? For example?
2. What tools should the EGS Pilot Demonstrations provision utilize to meet the goals of supporting good union jobs and work opportunities for local residents from the construction phase of the project through the long-term operations phase of the project?
3. What activities and engagement (e.g., with minority-serving institutions (MSIs), community-based organizations, registered apprenticeship programs, joint labor-management partnerships, women and minority-owned contractor capacity building, and community-based quality pre-apprenticeship programs) would make the EGS Pilot Demonstrations effort successful and sustainable in terms of workforce development; worker recruitment; improved diversity, equity, and inclusion across the workforce; and pathways to good union jobs?
4. How should labor standards be incorporated in project planning stages to support the creation of high-quality, good-paying jobs?

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5. If you are a potential funding applicant or recipient, would you consider signing a card-check labor neutrality agreement, collective bargaining agreement, and/or establishing a labor-management partnerships? Why or why not?
6. What tools should the EGS Pilot Demonstrations provision utilize to meet the goals of providing opportunities for workers displaced from fossil industries and other industrial or resource-based industries in decline?
7. What would be the most effective workforce development activities to both ensure employers have access to qualified workers and ensure that workers are broadly qualified for good-paying jobs across the industry?
8. What tools should be utilized to ensure good-paying and secure work opportunities for local residents in the construction and long-term operations of projects, especially in disadvantaged communities and in communities that have experienced or will experience job losses due to economic transition?

Category 3: Equity, Environmental and Energy Justice (EEEJ) Priorities

EEEJ principles and priorities will be central to the successful implementation of the BIL. Equity requires the consideration of existing barriers underserved and underrepresented individuals and communities face when accessing Federal resources. Environmental and energy justice principles include procedural justice, distributive justice, recognition justice, and restorative justice. For the purposes of this RFI, DOE has identified the following non-exhaustive list of policy priorities as examples to guide DOE's implementation of Justice40⁸ in DACs: (1) decrease energy burden;^{9,10,11} (2) decrease environmental exposure and burdens;¹² (3) increase access to low-cost capital; (4) increase the clean energy job pipeline and job training for individuals;¹³ (5) increase clean energy enterprise creation (e.g., minority-owned or disadvantaged business enterprises); (6) increase energy democracy, including community ownership and other economic benefits associated with the energy transition; (7) increase parity in clean energy technology access and adoption; and (8) increase energy resilience.

⁸ The Justice40 Initiative states that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments will flow to DACs, and that projects will have minimal negative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. The Justice40 Interim Guidance defines benefits as direct and indirect investments (and program outcomes) that positively impact disadvantaged communities and provides examples (Page 4): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>

⁹ The Initiative for Energy Justice https://iejusa.org/glossary-and-appendix/#glossary_of_terms

¹⁰ DOE's LEAD tool illustrates energy burden in U.S. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/slsc/maps/lead-tool>

¹¹ Drehobl, A., Ross, L., and Ayala, R. 2020. How High are Household Energy Burdens? Washington, DC: ACEEE.

¹² Tessum, C., et al., 2019. Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

¹³ DOE's US Energy & Employment Jobs Report (USEER), <https://www.energy.gov/us-energy-employment-jobs-report-useer>; Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force by Sex, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/data/facts-over-time/women-in-the-labor-force>

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Equity:

Ensuring that traditionally underserved populations, including Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American people, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural or remote areas; persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), MSIs, and Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), have access to Departmental programs and opportunities.

1. What information do communities, Tribal or State governments, or other stakeholders need to engage with the Department on EGS Pilot Demonstrations?
2. What benefits or opportunities could encourage local, State, and Tribal governments to consider engaging with the Department EGS Pilot Demonstrations?
3. How should the Department better engage local, State, and Tribal communities to establish reasonable expectations and plans concerning EGS Pilot Demonstrations?
4. What organizations, universities, or communities should the Department consider partnering with to develop EGS Pilot Demonstrations?
5. What are the key equity-aligned review criteria that DOE should use to evaluate and select EGS Pilot Demonstrations as well as evaluate readiness to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2?

Environmental Justice and Energy Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys: (1) the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and (2) equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice).

Energy justice refers to the goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation in the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those disproportionately harmed by the energy system. Initiative for Energy Justice (2019).

Procedural Justice

1. How can EGS Pilot Demonstrations ensure community-based stakeholders/organizations are engaged and included in the planning, decision-making, and implementation processes (e.g., including community-based organizations on the EGS Pilot Demonstrations team)?
2. What barriers exist, if any, for deeper economic and other engagement with communities impacted by this EGS Pilot Demonstrations?

Distributive Justice

1. Please give input on how the Justice40 policy priorities can be achieved through EGS Pilot Demonstrations to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of projects will flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs) and maximize implementation co-benefits.

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2. Please clearly articulate, with concrete actions, how regional economic growth and its benefits will be shared with underserved populations.
3. What equity, energy and environmental justice concerns or priorities are most relevant for EGS Pilot Demonstration? How have/can these concerns or priorities been/be addressed?
4. How are adverse impacts currently measured or monitored, and which materials/processes/components result in the largest environmental impact? What opportunities exist to minimize impacts?
5. Describe possible human health, environmental or ecological considerations, both positive and negative (e.g., are there any air quality impacts, sensitive ecosystems, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues, environmental justice communities, other considerations) in connection with implementation of this provision.
6. How may Tribal communities or lands be impacted by potential EGS Pilot Demonstrations?

Recognition Justice

1. What are the demographics of the area immediately surrounding the EGS Pilot Demonstrations site and what are the characteristics of the area immediately surrounding the site (e.g., residential, industrial, rural, urban)?
2. What factors should be considered when identifying and selecting EGS Pilot Demonstrations (e.g., economic considerations, policy considerations, environmental and energy justice considerations, geology, workforce availability and skills, current industrial and other relevant infrastructure and storage available/repurposed/reused, industry partners, minority-serving institutions (MSIs), minority-owned businesses, regional specific resources, security of supply, climate risk, etc.)?

Category 4: Build America and Buy American Requirements

Executive Order 14005 directs the Executive Branch Departments and agencies to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in, and services offered in, the United States through the terms and conditions of Federal financial assistance awards.

1. Does any of the work for which you expect to apply for DOE Financial Assistance involve the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of any of the following:
 - a. Roads, highways, and bridges;
 - b. Public transportation;
 - c. Dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities;
 - d. Intercity passenger and freight railroads;
 - e. Airports;
 - f. Water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems;
 - g. Electrical transmission facilities and systems;
 - h. Utilities;
 - i. Broadband infrastructure; and

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- j. Buildings and real property.
2. If your answer to question 1 is yes, please identify any iron, steel, manufactured goods/products or construction materials which are crucial to this work, and whether you would normally procure those items domestically or from a foreign source.
3. For any item you indicate that you would normally procure from a foreign source, please specify to the best of your ability whether you would avoid seeking to procure these items domestically due to lack of availability or cost.

Disclaimer and Important Notes

This RFI is not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA); therefore, EERE is not accepting applications at this time. EERE may issue a FOA in the future based on or related to the content and responses to this RFI; however, EERE may also elect not to issue a FOA. There is no guarantee that a FOA will be issued as a result of this RFI. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to potential applicants if EERE chooses to issue a FOA regarding the subject matter. Final details, including the anticipated award size, quantity, and timing of EERE funded awards, will be subject to Congressional appropriations and direction.

Any information obtained as a result of this RFI is intended to be used by the Government on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. EERE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies for the identified materials of interest that are the subject of this request. EERE will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that EERE is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind EERE to any further actions related to this topic.

Confidential Business Information

Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email, postal mail, or handBI delivery two well-marked copies: one copy of the document marked "confidential" including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked "non-confidential" with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email or on a CD, if feasible. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

Evaluation and Administration by Federal and Non-Federal Personnel

Federal employees are subject to the non-disclosure requirements of a criminal statute, the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC 1905. The Government may seek the advice of qualified non-Federal personnel. The Government may also use non-Federal personnel to conduct routine, nondiscretionary administrative

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activities. The respondents, by submitting their response, consent to EERE providing their response to non-Federal parties. Non-Federal parties given access to responses must be subject to an appropriate obligation of confidentiality prior to being given the access. Submissions may be reviewed by support contractors and private consultants.

Request for Information Response Guidelines

Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to BIL_EGSPilotDemos@ee.doe.gov **no later than 5:00pm (ET) on 5/13/22**. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) attachment to the email, and no more than 5 pages in length, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Only electronic responses will be accepted.

Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic if applicable. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

EERE will not respond to individual submissions or publish publicly a compendium of responses. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their response to this RFI:

- Company / institution name;
- Company / institution contact;
- Contact's address, phone number, and e-mail address.

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. EERE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. EERE may or may not issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) based on consideration of the input received from this RFI.