



## Request for Proposals Benton Unit 1 CCGT Natural Gas Project

Pursuant to this Request for Proposals – Benton Unit 1 CCGT Natural Gas Project (“RFP”), American Electric Power Service Corporation (“AEPSC” or “Company”), as agent for Southwestern Electric Power Company (“SWEPCO”), is soliciting proposals from bidders (each a “Proposal”) to construct, operate and maintain a natural gas pipeline lateral and associated natural gas facilities (collectively, the “Gas Facilities”) to the Benton Unit 1 CCGT Natural Gas Project (“Plant”) located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. These Gas Facilities will be utilized to supply the Plant with natural gas as the primary fuel source. The Company is also seeking offers of mainline firm transportation capacity.

It is the Company’s objective to obtain a reliable supply of natural gas for the Plant beginning on its Commercial Operation Date (“COD”) estimated to be March 1, 2031. Fuel for testing must be available at the Plant site prior to the COD. All construction and/or interconnection activities should be completed with sufficient time to provide intermittent startup and fuel for testing beginning approximately April 30, 2030.

### 1) RFP SCHEDULE

Proposals should be submitted to the Company via e-mail no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on September 9, 2026. Proposals should be emailed to [aepfuelsrfp@aep.com](mailto:aepfuelsrfp@aep.com). All RFP communication with the Company shall be directed to the RFP Representative:

Clint Stutler  
[cmstutler@aep.com](mailto:cmstutler@aep.com)

Below is a tentative schedule for the RFP process. Notification to bidders will occur if changes to the schedule are required.

Issue Draft RFP	May 18, 2026
Notice to AEPSC of Intent to Bid	June 8, 2026
Submission of Credit Requirements	June 8, 2026
Issue Final RFP	June 15, 2026
Submission of Bids	September 9, 2026
Clarification of Bids	September 10, 2026 – October 1, 2026
Bid Selection	October 12, 2026



## **2) SCOPE OF WORK**

The Company is soliciting Proposals for the following design scenario:

- Maximum Consumption: 226,000 MMBtu per day (9,417 MMBtu per hour)
- Minimum Consumption: 66,720 MMBtu per day (2,780 MMBtu per hour)
- Minimum Delivery Pressure: 810 psig
- Maximum Delivery Pressure: 1000 psig

The design scenario described above is detailed in the attached Appendix A: Gas Pipeline RFP Specification.

### **PROGRESS AND REPORTING**

Bidders will be required to prepare and submit to Company, monthly progress reports, describing the status of all on going activities, and an update to the proposed Project and Construction Schedule submitted. The reports shall include significant events or changes, detail of delays, and major activities to be performed in the next month.

## **3) BIDDER'S REQUIREMENTS**

- Submittal of Credit Information (see Section 4).
- Proposal inclusive of all Content Requirements (see Section 7).
- Timely Submission of Proposals. It is the bidder's responsibility to submit all requested material by the deadlines specified in this RFP.

## **4) CREDIT INFORMATION**

Bidders shall provide the following credit information by June 8, 2026:

1. The most recently published senior, unsecured, unenhanced, long-term debt rating (or corporate issuer rating if an unsecured, unenhanced long-term debt rating is unavailable) from S&P or Moody's Investor Services.
2. If a Credit Rating is not available for the Bidder or its Guarantor, the Bidder or its Guarantor may submit their previous three years of audited financial statements for review. Financial statements shall mean audited Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement, and accompanying notes.

## **5) COMPENSATION / RATE STRUCTURE**

The Company is soliciting Proposals in which all costs and fees related to the construction of the lateral, interconnect and delivery facilities are borne by the bidder. The capital cost is to be recovered over a 20-year term, beginning with the expected COD of the Plant ("Initial Term"). The Proposal should include the cost to construct, own, operate and maintain the lateral, interconnect and delivery facilities over the Initial Term of the contract. Furthermore, and also



incorporated within the 20-year term, the Proposal should include the rate for mainline firm transportation capacity. The lateral, interconnect and delivery facilities portion of the rate should be provided separately from the firm transportation portion of the rate. All costs should be expressed as dollars per MMBtu. *Please see Example 1 below:*

**Example 1**

<b>Rate Breakdown</b>	<b>\$ Per MMBtu</b>
Lateral / Facilities	\$0.05
Firm Transportation	\$0.20
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>\$0.25</b>

In this example, the bidder has provided a total rate of \$0.25 per MMBtu.

For the required 226,000 MMBtu per day of capacity, the total monthly payment will equal \$1,718,542 [(\$0.25 per MMBtu \* 226,000 MMBtu \* 365) / 12].

**If the bidder is unwilling to sell mainline firm transportation capacity, if not also awarded the construction of the Gas Facilities, that should be noted in the Proposal. For example, if the mainline firm transportation rate provided is contingent on being awarded the construction of the Gas Facilities, that should be noted in the Proposal. Otherwise, the Company will assume that a third party can be awarded the construction of the Gas Facilities, and that it can secure mainline firm transportation capacity from the bidder at the rate submitted.**

Although the Company will not own the Gas Facilities, the Company reserves the right to review and approve engineering drawings for the Gas Facilities to be installed on SWEPCO property as well as review and approve the procedures for any operational release of gas (e.g., pigging process and/or cleaning blows).

**6) REGULATORY FILINGS**

SWEPCO desires to obtain regulatory approval to complete this project. It will be unavoidable for the parties to execute a Precedent Agreement, where the successful bidder will be limited to only performing work required to support any permitting and/or regulatory approvals, engineering, and right of way identification needed to construct the Gas Facilities. In line with a Precedent Agreement, the Company would require that major procurement and construction work not occur until such final Commission approval has been received by SWEPCO and any Firm Transportation Service Agreement would be contingent upon SWEPCO receiving such approval. At that time, the parties would agree to terminate the Precedent Agreement and enter into a Firm Transportation Service Agreement. The Company will keep open communications with the successful bidder regarding the status of such approval throughout the process and notify the successful bidder once final approval has been granted.

## 7) PROPOSAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

AEPSC expects bidders to furnish information that could impact the cost, construction schedule, reliability, or capability of the project Proposal. If it appears that certain information is inadvertently omitted from a Proposal, AEPSC may contact the bidder to obtain the information. **In order to make the evaluation / review process as efficient as possible, bidders should only include the requested, relevant information.**

Proposals must include the following topics:

**Executive Summary:** Provide an executive summary of the bid's characteristics and timeline, including any unique aspects and benefits.

**Bidder's Information:** Bidders must provide the name of the company, its address, and any company representative(s) (name, phone number and email address).

**Compensation / Rate Structure:** See Section 5.

**Project and Construction Schedule:** Schedules must include major milestones such as expected receipt of all regulatory approvals, completion of engineering design, procurement of construction materials, major construction activities, availability for testing, and the Commercial Operation Date, etc.

**Quarterly Pre-Service Cost Estimate Template (Appendix B):** The attached Appendix B is a proposed template that the bidder would complete prior to capital being disbursed. This will ensure the Company is aware of potential pre-service cost exposure if the required Commission approval is not granted.

## 8) RFP REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

In addition to the information provided herein, the following are included as appendices to this document:

- Appendix A: Gas Pipeline RFP Specification
  - Attachment A1 – M&R Yard Process Flow Diagram (*Will be provided with the Final RFP*)
  - Attachment A2 – M&R Yard Location Plan
- Appendix B: Quarterly Pre-Service Cost Estimate Template
- Appendix C: Safety Requirements and General Terms & Conditions
  - Appendix C Attachment 1: Safety and Health Requirements
  - Appendix C Attachment 2: Natural Gas Venting, Purging, Inerting Procedure
  - Appendix C Attachment 3: PWSHA Form
  - Appendix C Attachment 4: GEK 110843G

## **9) BID EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The objective of the AEPSC bid evaluation is to identify the Proposal or Proposals which best meet the needs identified in this RFP solicitation. The evaluation process will include an assessment of both economic and non-economic criteria. Non-economic factors will be assessed through a due diligence process that will gauge the relative risks and benefits of the Proposal.

The information provided in each Proposal will first be evaluated for completeness and consistency with the Proposal content and bid requirements outlined in this RFP. As a result of this screening review, AEPSC will eliminate Proposals that do not meet the requirements described in this RFP from further consideration. AEPSC will limit follow up contacts to clarify Proposals or request additional information only to those Proposals that meet the requirements described in this RFP.

Once Proposals have been evaluated for completeness, preliminary due diligence will be conducted at this stage to identify any flaws associated with the Proposal that are unacceptable to AEPSC. As a result of this screening, AEPSC may either eliminate Proposals from further consideration, or contact bidders to clarify information or request additional material.

The Company has no obligation to accept any Proposal, and the Company may reject any Proposal for any reason at any time in its sole judgment and discretion. The Company has no obligation to disclose the reason or reasons for rejection. AEPSC reserves the right to solicit additional Proposals and the right to submit additional information requests to bidders during the Proposal evaluation process.

## **10) POST-BID NEGOTIATIONS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACT**

AEPSC may request additional information regarding factors that could impact the total cost and/or schedule of the project Proposal in order to periodically reevaluate the Company's economic and risk exposure until such time as AEPSC and the bidder execute an acceptable agreement.

Neither AEPSC nor its affiliates are obligated to enter into a definitive agreement with any bidder responding to this RFP and may terminate or modify this RFP at any time without liability or obligation to any respondent. AEPSC also reserves the right to negotiate with only those bidders who propose transactions that AEPSC believes offer the best combination of value to SWEPCO and their customers.



American Electric Power  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, OH 43215  
AEP.com

For further information, please contact the Company representative:

Clint Stutler  
American Electric Power Service Corporation  
1 Riverside Plaza, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614.395.3562  
E-mail: [cmstutler@aep.com](mailto:cmstutler@aep.com)



## Appendix A

### Gas Pipeline RFP Specification

See Separate Attachments:

- Appendix A: Gas Pipeline RFP Specification
  - Appendix A Attachment A1 - M&R Yard Process Flow Diagram (*Will be provided with the Final RFP*)
  - Appendix A Attachment A2 - M&R Yard Location Plan



## Appendix B Quarterly Pre-Service Cost Estimate Template\*

Bid Item	Description	QX XXXX	QX XXXX	QX XXXX	QX XXXX
1	Estimated cost of acquiring all required regulatory approvals and permits.				
2	Estimated cost of Engineering and Design.				
3	Estimated cost of Environmental Impact Study.				
4	Estimated cost of Identifying and Acquiring Rights of Ways.				
5	Estimated Material Costs.				
6	Estimated Installation and Labor Costs.				
7	Other Estimated Costs.				

\*The Company is agreeable to discuss alternative templates or ways to communicate cost estimates.



## Appendix C

# Safety Requirements and General Terms & Conditions

See separate attachments:

- Appendix C Attachment 1: Safety and Health Requirements
- Appendix C Attachment 2: Natural Gas Venting, Purging, Inerting Procedure
- Appendix C Attachment 3: PWSHA Form
- Appendix C Attachment 4: GEK 110843G

Safety requirements outlined in the above-mentioned attachments only apply to work performed on AEP/SWEPCO owned property.