



**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
for  
**NWA Program for Voltage Support and Contingency Loading  
Relief at Sidney Substation**

**12/31/2024**

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## 1. OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Introduction

The objective of this bid event is to award a contract for the scope of work outlined in contract documents of this Request for Proposal (RFP). Ameren Illinois requests proposals from approved suppliers (Respondents) with the ability to design, engineer, construct, and operate and maintain a solution (or solutions) that addresses voltage support needs and provides contingency loading relief in the Vermillion, Illinois area. There is a select customer set served that resides within Equity Investment Eligible Communities (EIECs) as defined by the State of Illinois. These solutions must address the identified system need by replacing or deferring traditional utility infrastructure investments through Non-Wire Alternatives (NWA).

NWAs can result in cost savings for customers and societal benefits while maintaining system performance. NWAs are typically associated with the use of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) such as energy storage and Distributed Generation (DG) as well as nontraditional tools such as targeted Demand Response (DR) and Energy Efficiency (EE).

The scope of work included in this RFP is to be referred to as the Sidney Substation NWA Program.

### 1.2 Ameren Corporate Background

Ameren Corporation (NYSE: AEE) is a Fortune 500 company with consolidated assets totaling approximately \$22 billion. It is the parent company of Ameren Illinois, Ameren Transmission Company, and Union Electric Company d/b/a Ameren Missouri. The company's name is derived by combining the words American and Energy. Ameren companies generate a net capacity of nearly 10,300 megawatts of electricity. Employing more than 8,500 personnel, Ameren companies serve 2.4 million electric customers and nearly one million natural gas customers across 64,000 square miles in Illinois and Missouri. Ameren Missouri ranks as the largest electric power provider in Missouri, and Ameren Illinois ranks as Illinois' third-largest natural gas distribution operation in total number of customers.

This RFP is issued by Ameren Services, a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation, as agent for Ameren Illinois. Ameren Services provides administrative support and services to Ameren Corporation and its operating companies.

### 1.3 Definitions

AIC: Ameren Illinois (Company)

BCA: Benefit-Cost Analysis

BESS: Battery Energy Storage System

Company: Ameren Illinois

CE MDI: Clean and Equitable Market Development Initiative

DER: Distributed Energy Resources

DG: Distributed Generation

DR: Demand Response

EE: Energy Efficiency

EIECs: Equity Investment Eligible Communities

ESS: Energy Storage System

IBR: Inverted-based Resources

IEEE: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

NWA: Non-Wire Alternative

PUA: Public Utilities Act

RFP: Request for Proposals

Respondent: Respondents submitting proposals

Sidney Substation NWA Program: RFP project in question

SME: Subject Matter Expert

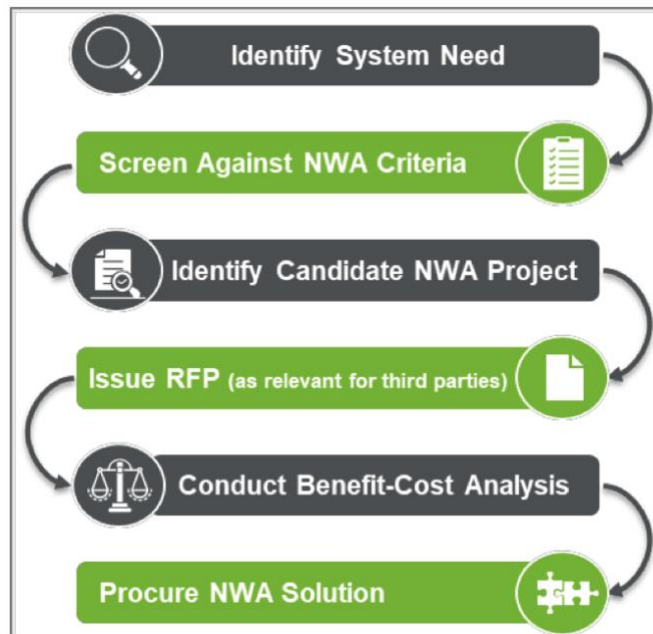
TRC: Total Resource Cost Test

WN: Weather Normalized

## 1.4 Non-Wire Alternatives High-level Procurement Process

Ameren Illinois follows an industry-accepted process for identifying and evaluating all aspects of potential NWA projects as part of its annual planning process. Once a system need is identified, the traditional solution is screened against the Company's NWA suitability criteria. Generally, the Company is looking for projects above a \$3 million cost threshold, projects needing to come online in the next three to five years, and projects addressing capacity expansion or system performance. If it is deemed suitable for an NWA, then the Company will issue an RFP for potential solutions. Proposals will be evaluated across a number of criteria, including the proposed solution's technical ability to meet the specific grid need, its feasibility, and any net benefits provided. Finally, if it is determined that a proposed solution or combination of solutions is cost-effective, feasible, beneficial to customers, and meets or exceeds all Company and industry standards required of the traditional investment, then procurement of the NWA will proceed. This process is summarized in Figure 1 below, please refer to the Company Refiled Grid Plan for additional information about the Company's Non-Wires Alternative framework<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 1: Ameren Illinois High-level NWA Procurement Process**



<sup>1</sup> <https://icc.illinois.gov/docket/P2023-0082/documents/348085/files/607904.pdf> | Ameren Refiled Grid Plan, Section 9, pg. 190

## 2. PROJECT/OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

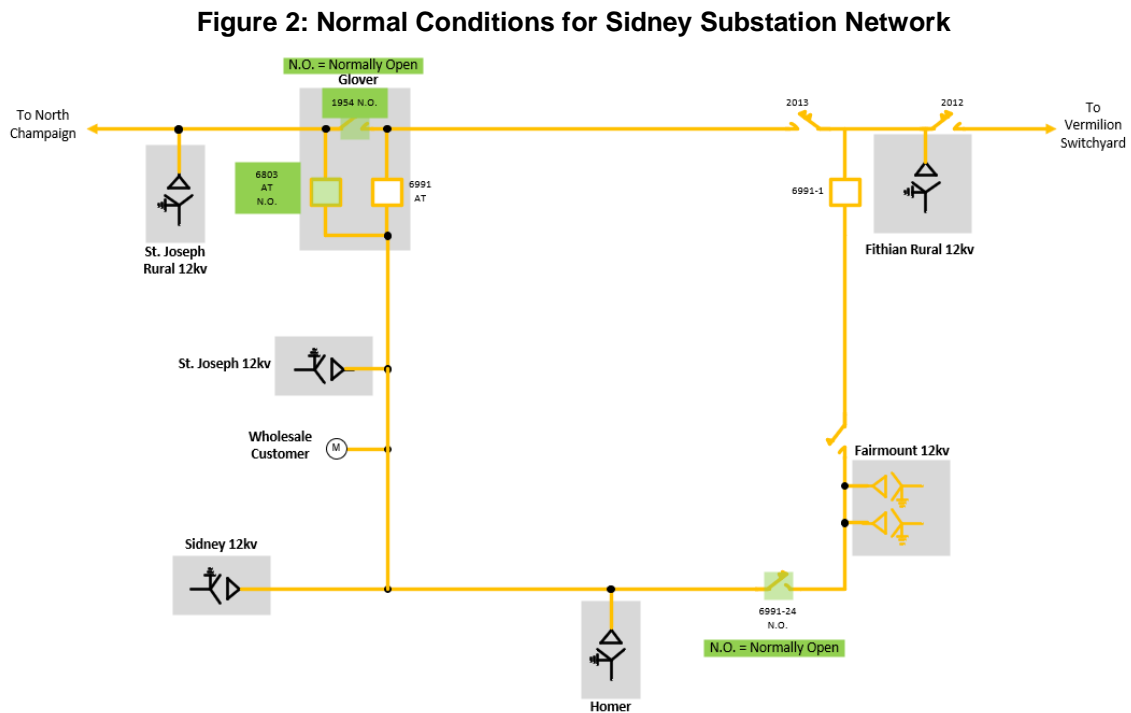
### 2.1 Project Description

This project is required to meet the grid need identified by Ameren Illinois' Electric System Planning team regarding voltage regulation and loading issues identified during evaluation of contingent, future state conditions. Specifically, the Vermillion, Illinois area is projected to experience low-voltage issues under three contingency conditions and an overload under one contingency. The 69/12kV distribution stations of St. Joseph, Sidney, Homer, and Fairmount are all impacted by these issues and conditions.

Low voltages and overloads are traditionally solved by constructing new system sources, installing capacitor banks, reconductoring lines, upgrading overloaded equipment, or some combination thereof. The Company details its proposed traditional solutions in Section 2.3 below. Alternative solutions, like those requested with this RFP, can include adding energy storage or other DERs to the system. The Company details its proposed NWA solutions in Section 2.4 below.

### 2.2 System Need<sup>2</sup>

The Sidney Substation Network under normal conditions is shown in Figure 2 below:



The Company is also providing as an Exhibit to this RFP additional detail regarding the current area network. Please refer to RFP Exhibit 1 to find customer counts by type across the relevant feeders in the area network. As the file indicates, 87% of the customers are residential customers.

When evaluating the future state against design criteria<sup>3</sup> in 2025, 2034, and 2042, the Company estimates that violations will be realized across three contingency scenarios. Contingency scenarios highlight capacity constraints in the system because increased loads are to be fed from

<sup>2</sup> NOTE: Lines shown in yellow throughout figures in RFP are 69kV lines

<sup>3</sup> The Subtransmission Planning Criteria requires lines to operate below 100% conductor rating and distribution 12kV buses to be between the voltage criteria of 0.96 P.U. and 1.08 P.U. during all normal and contingency conditions.

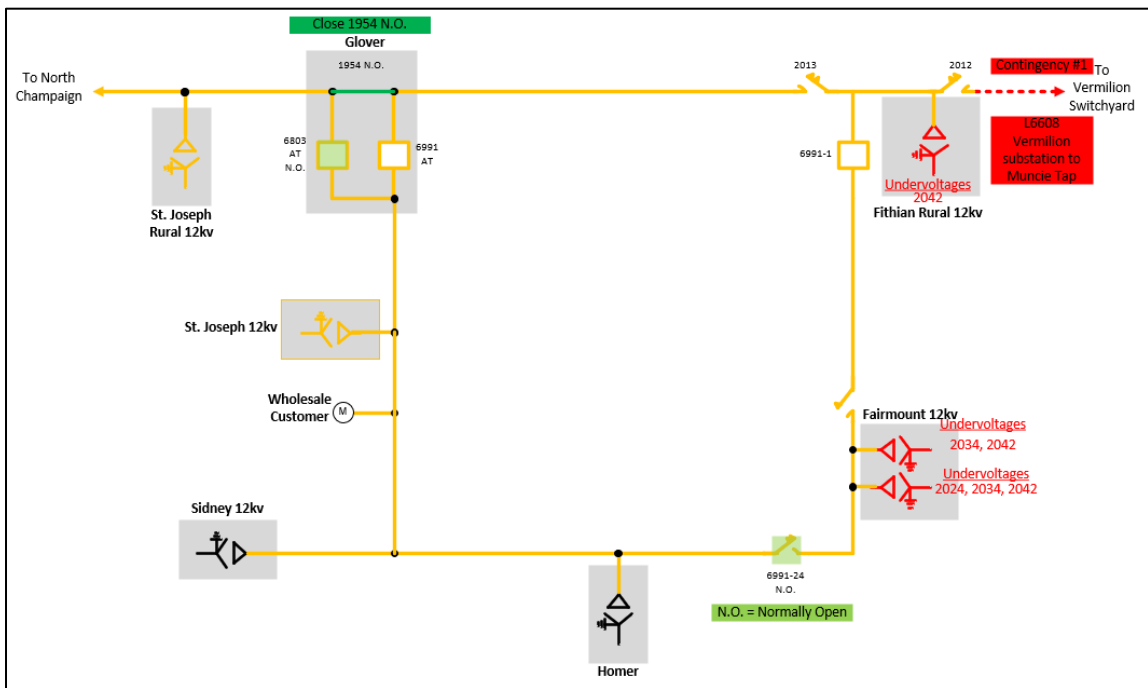
alternate sources. During contingency conditions in this area, multiple violations are projected on the distribution level. The contingencies that cause these issues are:

- Contingency 1: A fault on the line between Vermilion and Fithian Rural substations
- Contingency 2: A fault on the line between 6991-1 and Fairmount substation
- Contingency 3: A fault on the line between Glover and St. Joseph substations

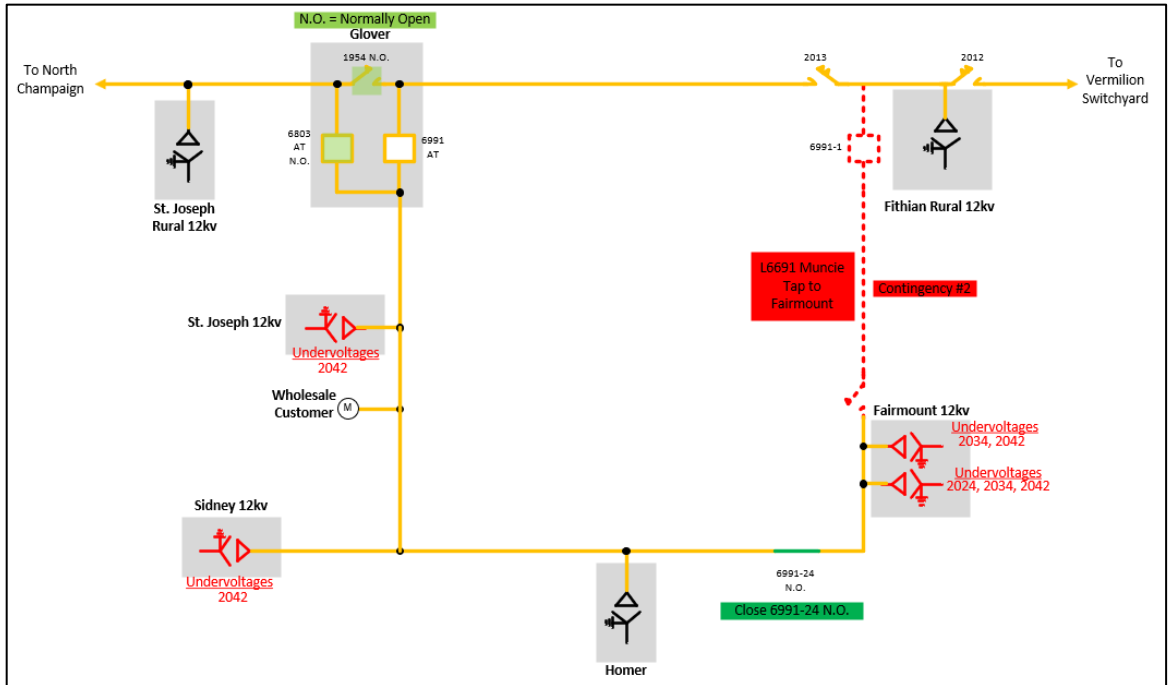
When these contingencies occur, different switching configurations are modeled as shown in Figure 3 below. These switching configurations are able to support all the load in the area for the majority of the year. When voltage and capacity violations happen—like those stated above—load will need to be dropped to avoid damaging equipment. During high summer demand, customers will be out of service unless a traditional or NWA solution is implemented.

**Figure 3: Contingency Scenarios**

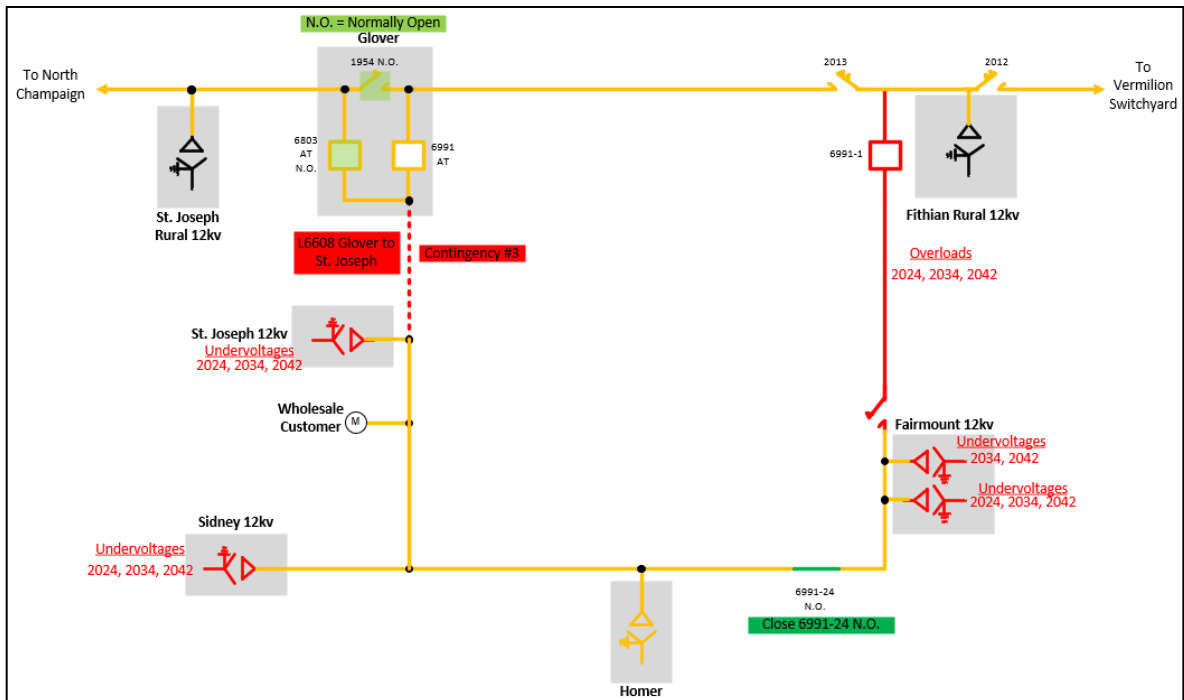
Contingency Scenario 1: Fault across L6608 between Vermilion and Fithian Rural substations



### Contingency Scenario 2: Fault across L6691 between 6991-1 and Fairmount substation



### Contingency Scenario 3: Fault across L6608 between Glover and St. Joseph substations



The Company has expected voltage and loading results that Respondents must address in their proposals. Table 1 below identifies the contingency, location, and violations over time across these contingencies. Also identified is the “% of System Load Triggering Violations.” If loadings reach



values higher than this threshold, design violations are triggered. Table 2 follows this with the same information regarding a thermal overload contingency on line L6691. This violation only occurs in Contingency Scenario 3.

**Table 1: Contingency Scenarios – Voltage Violations**

Contingency Scenario 1: Fault across L6608 between Vermillion Substation and Fithian Rural Substation

Asset	Expected Voltage (PU) [violations in red]			% of System Load Triggering Violations		
	2025	2034	2042	2025	2034	2042
Fairmount 1 12kV bus	0.9635	0.9509	0.9361	95%	88%	87%
Fairmount 2 12kV bus	0.9463	0.931	0.9134	95%	88%	87%

Contingency Scenario 2: Fault across L6691 between 6991-1 and Fairmount substation

Asset	Expected Voltage (PU) [violations in red]			% of System Load Triggering Violations		
	2025	2034	2042	2025	2034	2042
Fairmount 1 12kV bus	0.9674	0.9468	0.9317	95%	87%	83%
Fairmount 2 12kV bus	0.9503	0.9268	0.9088	95%	87%	83%
St. Joseph 12kV bus	0.9843	0.964	0.9485	95%	87%	83%
Sidney 12kV bus	0.9886	0.9707	0.9577	95%	87%	83%

Contingency Scenario 3: Fault across L6608 between Glover and St. Joseph substations

Asset	Expected Voltage (PU) [violations in red]			% of System Load Triggering Violations		
	2025	2034	2042	2025	2034	2042
Fairmount 1 12kV bus	0.9754	0.9549	0.9392	90%	81%	76%
Fairmount 2 12kV bus	0.9585	0.9351	0.9167	90%	81%	76%
St. Joseph 12kV bus	0.9386	0.9075	0.8807	90%	81%	76%
Sidney 12kV bus	0.9579	0.9326	0.912	90%	81%	76%

**Table 2: Contingency Scenarios – Thermal Overloads**

Contingency Scenario 3: Fault across L6608 between Glover and St. Joseph substations

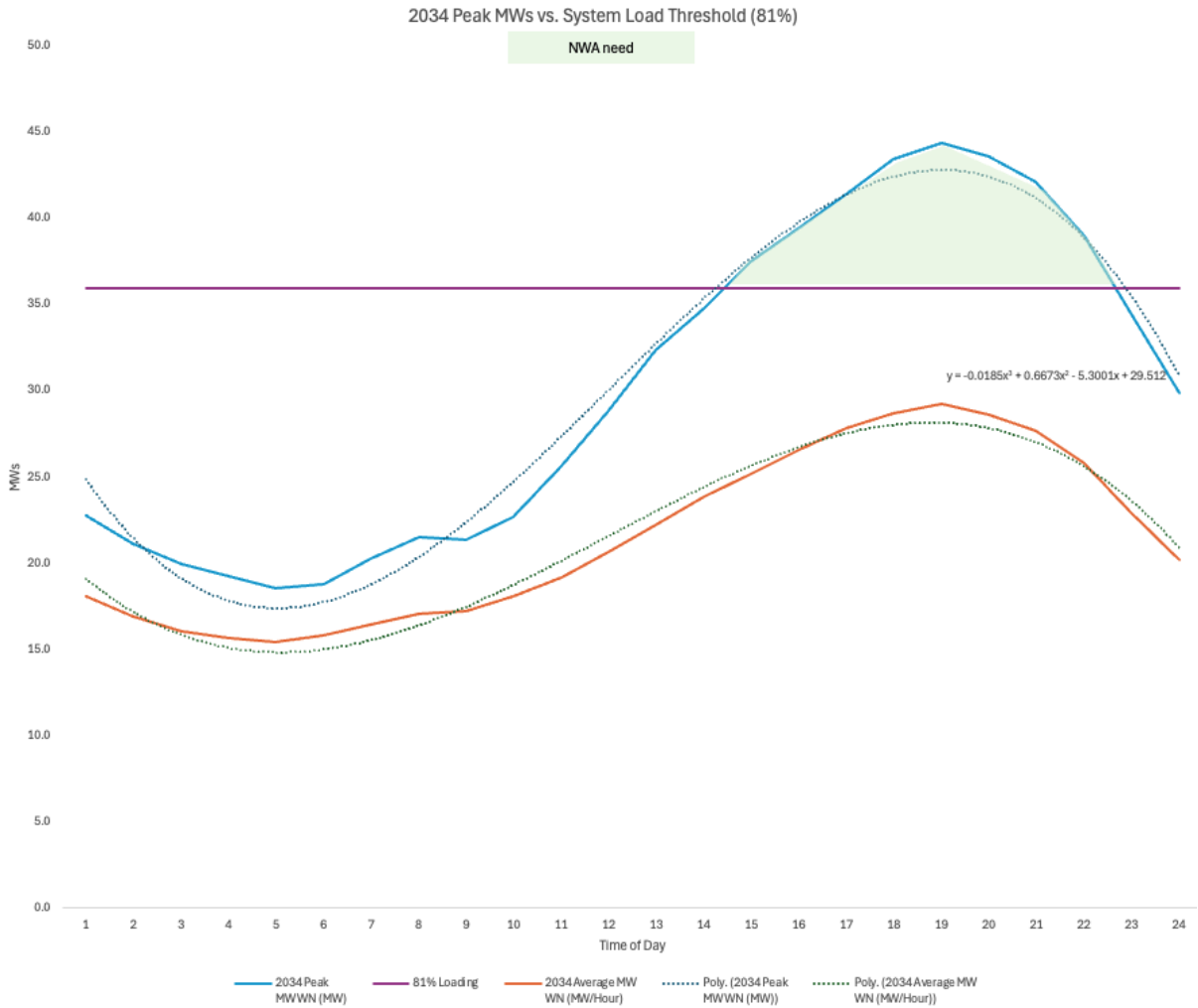
Asset	Expected Loading (MVA) [violations in red]			% of System Load Triggering Violations		
	2025	2034	2042	2025	2034	2042
L6691 from Fithian Rural to Fairmount	30.913	35.99	38.147	93%	84%	78%

These violations occur during summer peak loading. Ameren Illinois considers summer peak loading season to be from June 1<sup>st</sup> up to and through September 15<sup>th</sup>, and occurs during the afternoon and evening hours respectively, below.

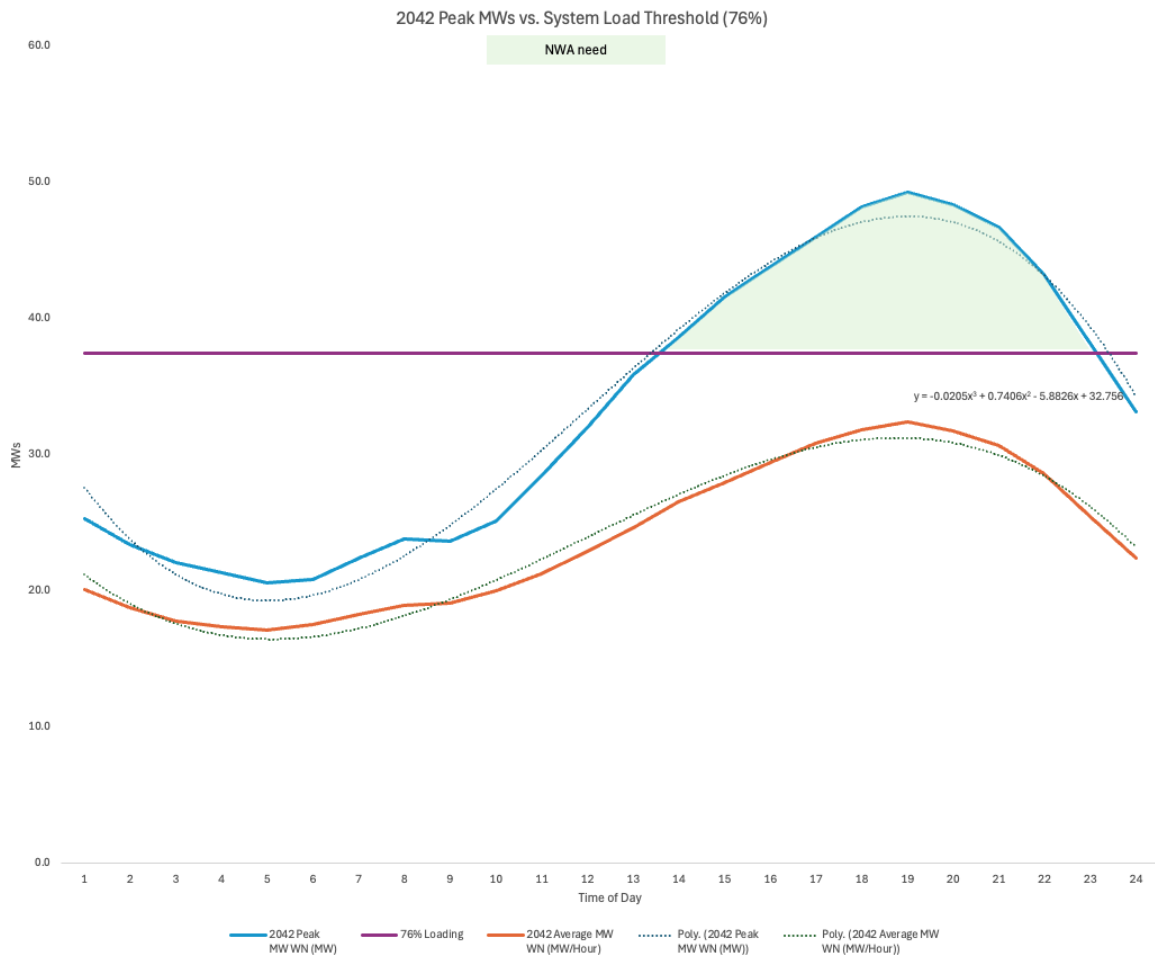
A traditional or NWA solution will need to increase voltages identified in Table 1 to a minimum of 0.96 PU to fully mitigate violations. Technical details and requirements will vary depending on implementation and location of a solution.

A traditional or NWA solution will need to decrease loading below 28 MVA on Line 6691 from Fithian Rural to mitigate the thermal overload violations identified in Table 2. Figure 4 and Figure 5 detail the projected energy offset needed in years 2034 and 2042. Additional detail on the Company's load projections can be found in RFP Exhibit 2.

**Figure 4: 2034 NWA Need (in MWh) | Weather Normalized (WN)**



**Figure 5: 2042 NWA Need (in MWh) | Weather Normalized (WN)**



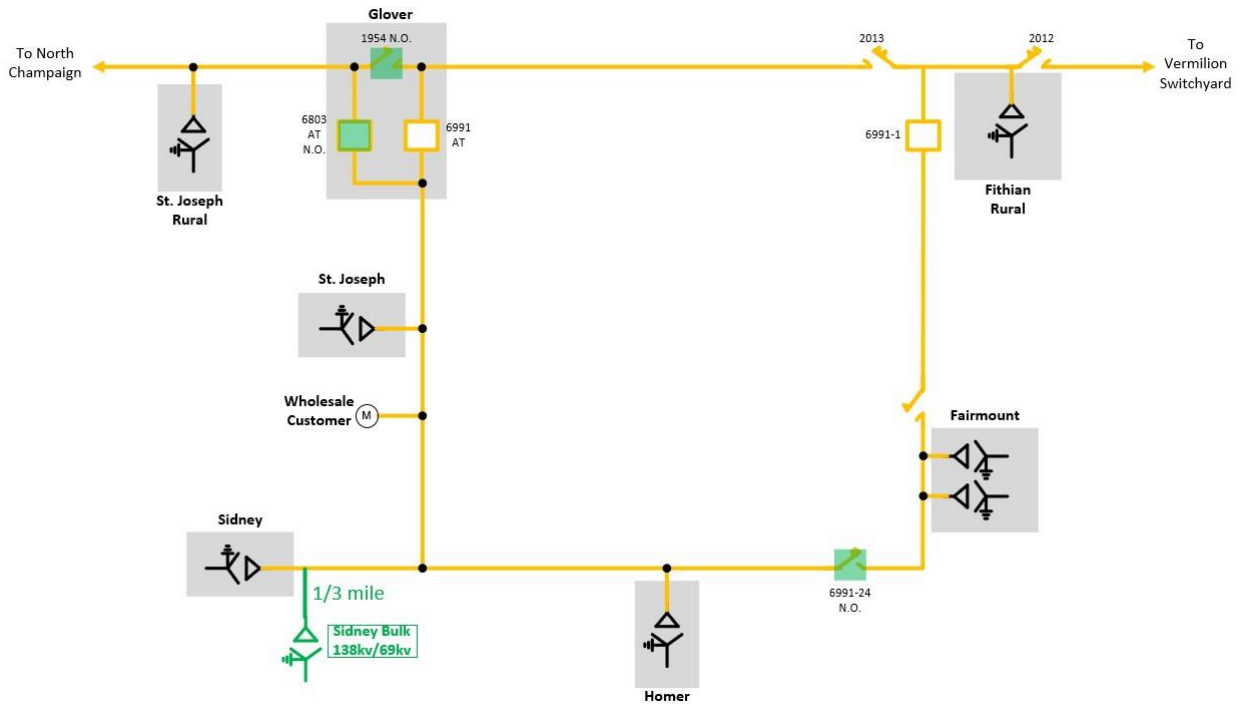
### 2.3 Traditional Solutions

The violations and overloads described above in Section 2.2 can be mitigated by a traditional solution. This section describes the traditional solutions the Company anticipates being required.

There are two potential traditional solutions to address the Company's forecasted violations. The estimated in-service date requirement for both solutions is 12/31/2027 to address the system need in time.

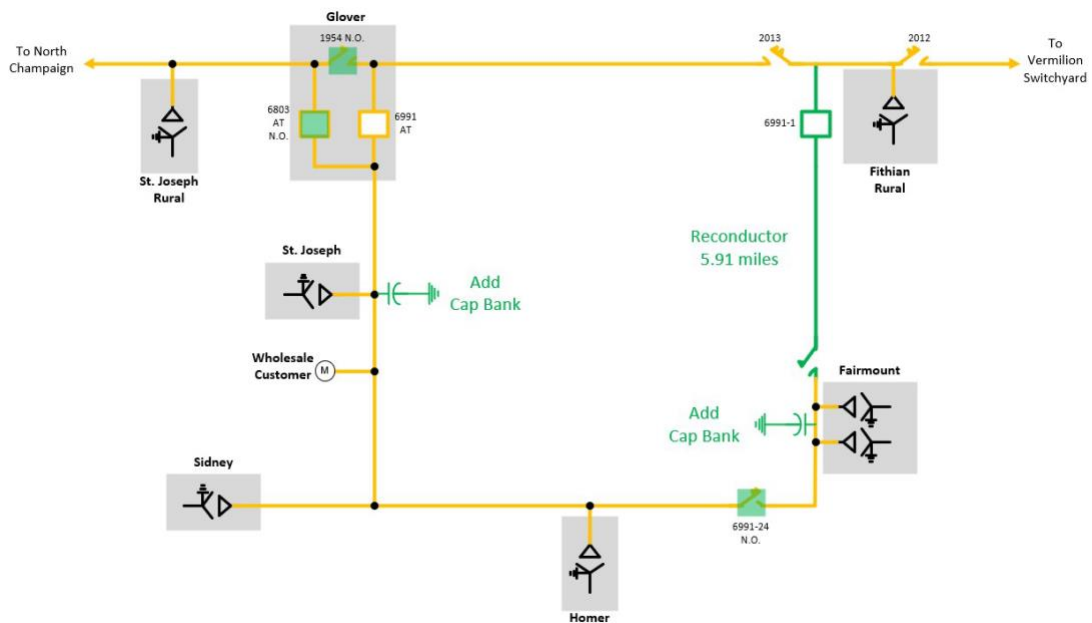
The first option, as shown in Figure 6, involves several upgrades: build off the Sidney 345-138 kV substation, install a 138 – 69 kV transformer, construct a 69 kV bus with one 69 kV line terminal position, and construct 1/3 mile of 69 kV line.

**Figure 6: Sidney Bulk (Traditional Solution 1)**



The second option, as shown in Figure 7, is to reconnector 5.91 miles of line L6691 from 6691-1 to Fairmount. Two additional capacitor banks are needed on 69kV buses for the Fairmount and St. Joseph assets.

**Figure 7: Line Reconnected and Two Capacitor Banks (Traditional Solution 2)**



Respondents' NWA solutions will be evaluated against these traditional solutions for the purposes of Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA). NWA solutions could replace or defer these traditional solutions, a major determinant for the Respondents' evaluations.

## 2.4 Non-Wire Alternative Solution Expectations

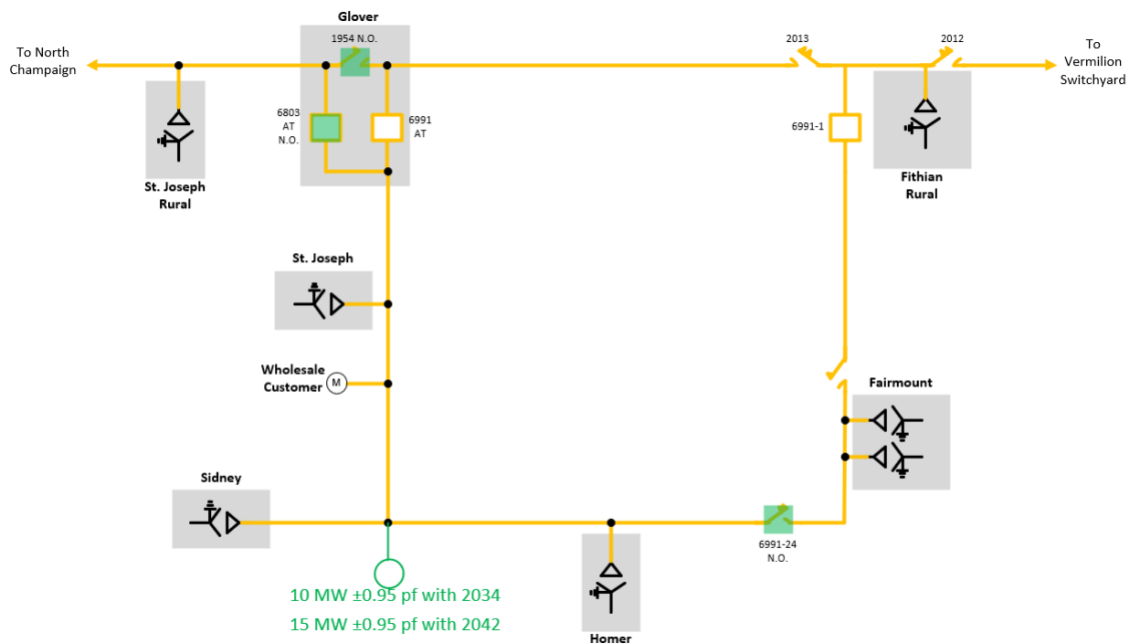
The Company is requesting proposals for an NWA solution to meet the needs outlined in Section 2.2 and as an alternative to the traditional solution identified in Section 2.3. The Company will consider any proposal submitted that supports meeting this need, even if the solution only partially addresses the need<sup>4</sup>. That said, the Company has identified two viable solutions for respondents to consider.

Figure 8 details the first potential solution. In this potential solution, the vendor installs a dispatchable generation facility on the 69kV line L6691. The need grows over time through the two contingency milestones identified of 2034 and 2042 (i.e., from 10MW total in 2032 to 15MW total in 2042 with minimum reactive power capabilities corresponding to a  $\pm 0.95$  power factor of identified maximum active power needs). Figure 9 details the second potential solution: installation of two generation units on 12kV buses. Again, the capacity need grows over time.

As for specific technologies utilized within these proposal types, the Company has a minor preference for any lithium-based battery proposals using lithium-iron phosphate cells. Separately, the Company is generally interested in flow battery technology.

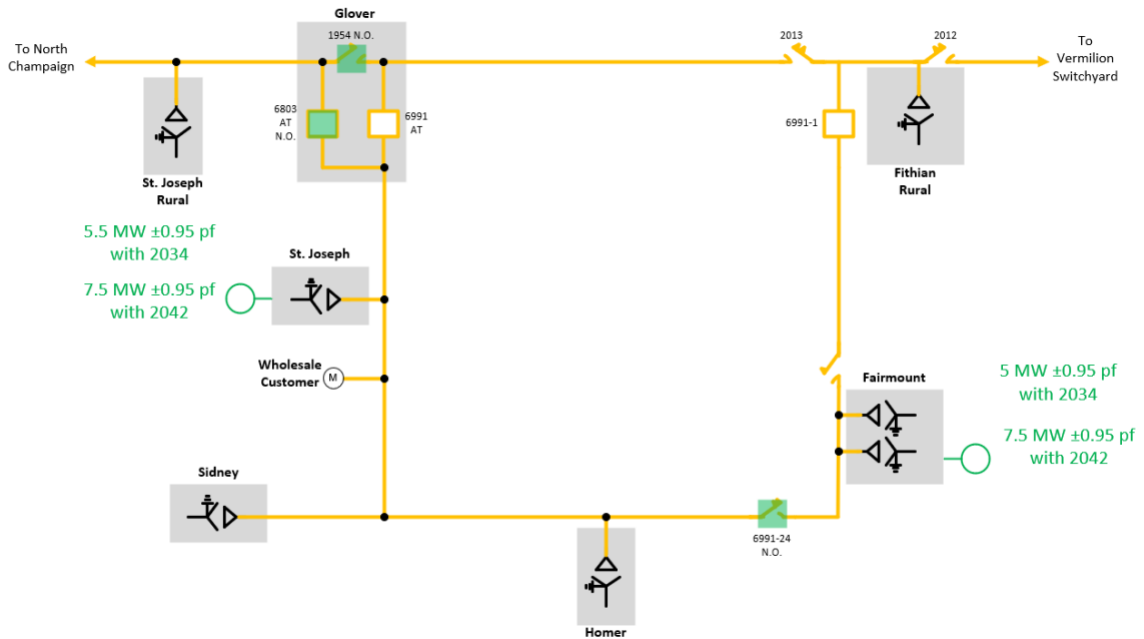
Respondents should note these are only proposed suggestions. The Company is open to additional solutions; further, changes to a single variable in any proposed solutions will impact other requirements. For example, if the location of the proposed generators changes, the capacity amounts required may also need to be adjusted.

**Figure 8: NWA Potential Solution Line L6691 (Solution 1)**



<sup>4</sup> In this scenario, the Company would be required to select multiple solutions as part of a solution portfolio.

**Figure 9: NWA Potential Solution Two 12kV Generation (Solution 2)**



In Table 3 below, the Company has provided short-circuit ratios across the potential solutions. This provides respondents with a measure of strength for the system in these various scenarios.

**Table 3: Short-circuit Ration Values for Potential Solutions**

Condition	Short-circuit Ratios (Solution 1)			Short-circuit Ratios (Solution 2)					
	2025	2034	2042	2025		2034		2042	
				Fairmount	St. Joseph	Fairmount	St. Joseph	Fairmount	St. Joseph
Normal	n/a	13.6	13.6	n/a	n/a	7.3	8.5	5.3	6.3
Contingency #1	n/a	15.3	15.3	n/a	n/a	6.5	8.8	4.8	6.5
Contingency #2	n/a	13.6	13.6	n/a	n/a	6.2	8.5	4.5	6.3
Contingency #3	n/a	10.6	10.6	n/a	n/a	7.3	6.9	5.3	5.0

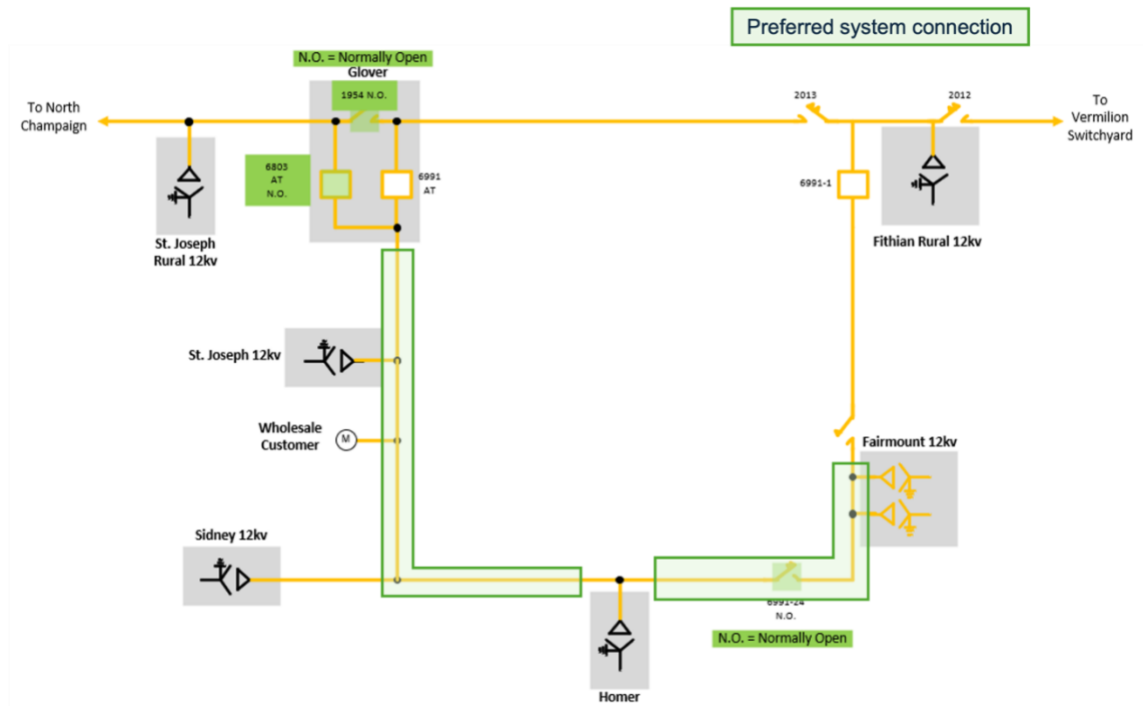
## 2.5 Non-Wire Alternative Requirements

The Company encourages Respondents to propose any solution they deem appropriate to meet the system need required in this RFP. However, there are certain parameters every solution must meet. Requirements by category are detailed in this section.

### 2.5.1 Location

The NWA solution must fall within the Sidney network. If the proposed solution interconnects to the system, the Company has identified a segment of the network best suited for deployment. This is defined below in Figure 10.

**Figure 10: Preferred Location for NWA Solution Installations**



### 2.5.2 Technology Standards

Ameren Illinois has certain technology-specific preferences as indicated in Section 2.3 and Section 2.4 above. It is also worth noting the Company has a preference for grid-forming Inverter-based Resources (IBRs) as opposed to grid-following IBRs. Still, the Company does not have restrictions on the technology types that can be proposed as a solution to this RFP.

Within certain technologies proposed, the Company has technology-specific requirements, including:

- All relevant IEEE standards for DERs and IBRs (e.g., IEEE 1547, IEEE 2800)
- All relevant standards as stipulated by Ameren Illinois DER Interconnection Policy<sup>5</sup>
- All relevant safety standards for proposed technology (see Section 2.5.4 below for additional safety protocols for consideration)
- Applicable Illinois Administrative Codes

Finally, it is worth noting that Respondents shall not provide proposals that include programs and offerings already available through Ameren Illinois. This includes programs such as system-wide demand response offerings like the Company's Peak Time Savings and Peak Time Rewards program. Note that this does not exclude Respondents from proposed geo-targeted programs addressing specific circuits.

### 2.5.3 Timing

Ameren Illinois is seeking proposals that deploy an NWA solution prior to the contingency being realized. Solutions must be deployed by 12/31/2028 and can be operational through 12/31/2034,

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ameren.com/-/media/illinois-site/files/electricchoice/aic-der-interconnection-policy-public-facing-guide.ashx>

12/31/2042, or beyond granted the useful life of the deployed solution. Respondents may propose multiple solutions to meet the need over different durations (e.g., a solution through 12/31/2030 and another solution from 1/1/2031 to 12/31/2034). The Respondent will have the opportunity discuss contract extensions once their original proposal date is reached (e.g., at 12/31/2034 following successful completion of original contract terms). The Company will also consider revisiting solution operating parameters once critical future state milestones are met. For example, following the first need milestone identified as 2034.

The Company will give preference to the solutions providing the most value for the Company and our customers. Given the impact that further deferral (or replacement) of the traditional solution can have on the Company's BCA, this preference should be reflected in more compelling BCA results. Explained another way, solutions that are deployed earlier may provide more value and be considered accordingly.

#### **2.5.4 Utility Control**

Ameren Illinois is seeking proposals that allow for the Company to utilize the solution as needed to meet the system needs defined in this RFP or otherwise. If the proposed solution is not Utility-owned, Respondents must make clear assurances on how the solution will deliver on the needs defined in this RFP with or without Company control. This could be through a defined coordination process between the Company, Respondent, and other implementation partners, or through another process.

#### **2.5.5 Additional Requirements**

The Company would like to draw Respondents' attention to two relevant safety standards that may apply to their proposals.

1. **NFPA 855:** While not yet formally adopted in most jurisdictions, NFPA 855 is a wholistic design and installation standard that covers a broad range of technologies and key requirements for documentation, ventilation, explosion control, fire suppression, site layout, and other design requirements. It incorporates other standards, such as UL 9540, NFPA 68, NFPA 69, and UL 9540A, by direct or indirect reference and is generally the first point of reference in evaluating an ESS project.
2. **UL 9540:** Similar to NFPA 855, UL 9540 is an overall system-level standard that defines requirements for batteries, modules, units, racks, BMS, enclosures, and subsystems. UL 9540 system listing is required by most electrical and fire codes, as well as NFPA 855. BESS that are not listed in accordance with UL 9540 should be documented and verified as meeting the provisions of NFPA 855, where technical documentation provided shows the BESS that is proposed results in a system that is no less safe than a system meeting the construction and performance requirements of UL 9540. If non-listed equipment is to be evaluated for compliance with UL 9540, the evaluation and documentation should be provided as part of a field evaluation conducted by an approved third-party certification organization.

### **3. RFP REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.1 Required Proposal Elements**

This section outlines required elements to be included in proposals from Respondents. These requirements should be included in this order in a single, combined document. Further information detailing the formatting requirements of a Respondent's submission can be found in Section 3.2 below, including optional attachments (see Section 3.3) in addition to the required elements described in this section. Information on how to become an approved supplier can be found on the Company's website<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ameren.com/company/business-partners/suppliers>



### **3.1.1 Cover Letter**

Respondents must include a cover letter explaining the Company's response and providing key information regarding next steps in the procurement process. This component of the response may be no longer than one page. Information includes:

- Brief narrative overview on why Respondent should be considered
- Respondent's associated Company address
- Contact information for individual authorized to negotiate with the Company on behalf of the Respondent's organization with respect to this RFP
- Acknowledgement, agreement, and signature indicating acceptance of all rules and regulations stipulated in this document

### **3.1.2 Proposed Solution Description**

Respondent must include a detailed description of the proposed solution summarized via an executive summary as detailed below:

- Executive summary of proposed solution (no longer than one page)
- Description of proposed solution, what technologies may be employed, where project will be sited, how project will operate (i.e. implementation approach), etc.
- Key performance characteristics that demonstrate the capability of the proposed solution to meet the need specified (e.g., proposed amount of peak load reduction, voltage regulation, etc.)
- Detailed methodology, including supporting calculations, data, and assumptions used to determine key performance characteristics (to be included as an Appendix)
- Engineering and specification sheets associated with the proposed solution, such as one-line diagrams, if applicable (to be included as an Appendix)
- Additional considerations regarding the technology's ability to meet the Company's need in a dynamic landscape (e.g., technology readiness, scalability or limitations to scalability, technology adaptability, etc.)
- Summary of proposed solution cost (to be explained further in proposed pricing section detailed below)

### **3.1.3 Proposed Implementation Plan**

- Timeline to design, construct, and implement the solution (i.e., Level 2 Project Schedule)
- Identification of key milestones enroute to project deployment; for certain technologies this may include acquisition of site control, completion of interconnection application, construction initiation, etc.
- Staffing plan, including details on any subcontracting that will be utilized to execute project
- Operational proposal (e.g., solution dispatch plan), if solution includes a energy storage system and is not AIC-owned and controlled
- Customer acquisition and marketing plan, if applicable; letters of support from customers as needed and available
- Site-specific safety plan (or safety considerations if site unknown)
- Anticipated solution implementation challenges (i.e., risks), such as permitting or siting, and potential mitigations
- Duration of solution operability and potential ability to extend beyond the duration of the proposal and/or this solicitation
- Decommissioning approach if solution is no longer useful at the end of contract terms

### **3.1.4 Proposed Costs and Benefits**

- Proposed solution cost (associated with key phases/ milestones provided as possible)
- Total solution cost per kW, kWh provided
- Operations and maintenance cost proposal and terms, if relevant

- Proposed deal structure (fixed-price sale, revenue sharing, lease, tolling, etc.)
- Proposed ownership structure (Respondent-owned, utility-owned, or third-party-owned)
- Alternative value streams that may be available to mitigate the solution's cost
- Proposed financing mechanism, if available
- Additional benefits such as carbon reduction, job creation, etc.
- Potential community and customer impacts, including planned controls to mitigate (negative) or enhance (positive) impacts
- Measurement and verification plan to document costs and benefits as realized

### **3.1.5 Professional Background**

Respondents must include background information that indicates their experience with the proposed NWA solution, including:

- Firm history, background, and years of experience with the proposed solution
- Relevant services provided to implement proposed solution such as design, build, operate, maintain, decommission, procurement, etc.
- Examples of previous projects providing the proposed solution, including location, timing, application, duration, and result of the project
- References for applicable projects
- Biographies of key personnel and relevant organizational structure(s) (to be included as an Appendix)
- Financial statements for the past three years related to the scope of the proposed solution and/or the firm at large

## **3.2 Proposal Deliverables and Format**

### **3.2.1 Contractor Proposal Deliverables**

Respondents shall organize their proposal in the following structure to assist the Company in its evaluation:

- Cover Letter (no longer than one page)
- Body of Response
  - Proposed Solution Description
    - Assumptions Forms
  - Proposed Implementation Plan
    - Level 2 Project Schedule
    - Staffing Plan Form
    - Subcontractor Plan Form
    - Site-specific Safety Plan
  - Proposed Cost and Benefits
    - Pricing Sheet Form(s)
- Professional Background
  - Bid Qualifications
- Associated Attachments (see Section 3.3 below)

### **3.2.2 Proposal Format Requirements**

Proposals must adhere to the following formatting standards driven by Company preference and/or procurement system constraints:

- File sizes no larger than 5MB
- PDF format
- All requested documents should be submitted via Oracle as one .zip file upload and/ or via e-Mail to Sourcing Contact listed below

### 3.3 Proposal Attachments

Additional information can be provided at the discretion of the Respondent. This information should be collated in a separate Appendix document.

Attachment	Description
Engineering and Specification Sheets	Engineering and specification sheets associated with the proposed solution, such as one-line diagrams, if applicable
Performance Characteristics Supporting Documentation	Detailed methodology, including supporting calculations, data, and assumptions, used to determine key performance characteristics
Subcontractor Overview	Document(s) providing Company with insight into subcontractor(s) leveraged for proposed project; can include experience, past collaboration, key personnel, etc.
Organization and Personnel	Biographies of key personnel and relevant organizational structure(s)

### 3.4 Key Dates and Activities

Ameren anticipates the following dates in connection with review and analysis of qualified proposals:

Activity	Date
Release Request for Proposal	12/31/2024
Intent to Bid Due	1/17/2025
Company Submits Brief Questionnaire to Respondents Intending to Bid	1/24/2025
Respondents Reply to Brief Questionnaire	1/31/2025
Deadline for Submittal of Respondent Questions	1/31/2025
Company to Respond to Respondent Questions	2/14/2025
Respondent Proposals Due Through System Submission or (if not yet approved in supplier portal) via e-Mail to Ameren Sourcing Contact	3/7/2025
Company Evaluation Period	3/7/2025-7/31/2025
Vendor Selected	TBD
Contract Finalized	12/31/2025

#### 3.4.1 Proposal Deadline

In order to receive full consideration, all proposals must be received electronically via Ameren's Oracle Sourcing Tool by the due date listed above.

Proposals received after the deadline or not in compliance with these instructions may not be considered. If you have any questions, please contact Ameren (see Section 3.5).

### 3.5 Ameren Contact

The Ameren Contact for this RFP is noted below. All questions should be submitted via Oracle.

Kelly Bouckaert and Chris Knoll  
 Ameren Services  
 1901 Chouteau Avenue, MC 645  
 Saint Louis, MO 63103  
 Phone: Buyer Phone #  
 Email: [kbouckaert@ameren.com](mailto:kbouckaert@ameren.com) and [cknoll@ameren.com](mailto:cknoll@ameren.com)

## 4. PROPOSED SOLUTION EVALUATION

Respondents' proposals will be evaluated by a team of internal Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). SMEs will evaluate proposals against various criteria to screen and rank the results. A full list of evaluation factors that may be considered is included in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Potential RFP Evaluation Criteria**

Potential RFP Evaluation Criteria
Proposal content and presentation
Respondent qualifications
System needs met
Implementation strategy
Technology viability
Technology innovation
Timeliness
Execution risk
Community impact

In addition to these evaluation criteria, the Company must ensure the proposed project(s) provide net benefits. To determine this, the Company will conduct a BCA. The Company currently utilizes various tests in different forums to return these results. One such test is the Total Resource Cost (TRC) test, which is required by the Public Utilities Act (PUA). It is worth noting here that the Company is evolving its BCA as part of multiple ongoing proceedings. Changes in these forums may supersede any tests or evaluation criteria listed in this section.

## 5. RFP EXHIBITS

The Company is including the following exhibits for Respondents' use in developing proposal.

1. Sidney Substation Customer Counts
2. Additional Sidney Substation Loading Data

Additional exhibits, such as contract terms and conditions and payment details, may be included later in the RFP process.

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## 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

### 6.1 Questions, Inquiries, and Clarifications

Any questions or other inquiries concerning this RFP shall be submitted to the Ameren contact for this RFP as outlined in Section 3.5. If clarifications to this RFP become necessary as a result of questions submitted, such clarifications will be issued by Ameren to all Respondents as an amendment to the RFP via Oracle. Any contact or communications with regard to this RFP with other Ameren employees or Owner's engineer is strictly prohibited unless approved by the RFP contact in writing. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in immediate disqualification. However, conversations with respect to other current Ameren purchases or ongoing business activities must not be impeded in any manner.

### 6.2 Proposal Format

Proposals must be prepared in accordance with the format and instruction requirements in Section 3. INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS OR PROPOSALS THAT ARE NOT PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS RFP MAY BE REJECTED. Ameren reserves the right to request additional information from any Respondent submitting a proposal.

Respondents are asked to adhere to the specific format set forth in Section 3.2 to aid the evaluation team in its efforts to efficiently, fairly, and equitably evaluate all responses. Proposals that deviate from the requested format will increase the time required to review and evaluate its contents. Such proposals may be disqualified.

Responses should be tailored specifically to this RFP. High-level sales material should not be used within the body of the response. If desired, Respondents may attach such material in a separate Appendix at the end of their proposal.

### 6.3 Contract Award

Following the review of all qualified proposals, Ameren will notify each Respondent regarding the desire to conduct (or not conduct) further negotiations. Any acceptance of a proposal is contingent upon the execution of a written contract, and Ameren shall not be contractually bound to any Respondent prior to execution of the contract.

### 6.4 Form of Contract

Ameren will utilize specific terms and conditions to contract for the services referenced in this RFP. Those terms and conditions are dependent on the proposals provided and will be shared at a later date.

### 6.5 Supplier Diversity

The communities and customers Ameren serves, as well as their employees, are diverse. Ameren's commitment to supplier diversity reflects a belief that efforts to assist diverse businesses will enhance opportunities for success, while providing Ameren with needed materials and services at competitive prices.

Reinforcing this commitment is the Company's Clean and Equitable Market Development Initiative ("CE MDI"), which supports equitable access to clean energy resources, programs, and careers. Among other goals, the CE MDI will focus on increasing opportunities for diverse and local vendor participation, utilizing vendors that serve customers throughout Ameren Illinois service territory, including those who reside in EIECs. More information regarding the Company's CE MDI can be found its Refiled Grid Plan<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://icc.illinois.gov/docket/P2023-0082/documents/348085/files/607904.pdf> | Ameren Refiled Grid Plan, Section 17, pg. 340

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## 6.6 Ameren Contractor Payments

Payment details will be included later in the RFP process.

## 6.7 Non-Exclusivity/Cancellation

Ameren reserves the right to award this project at its sole discretion. Ameren (i) does not guarantee that an award of the project will be made to a single Respondent and (ii) may cancel this RFP request by written notice to the Respondents.

## 6.8 Modification of RFP

Ameren reserves the right to modify the requirements and terms of this RFP during or after proposal evaluation. Ameren may also request resubmission of or clarification to some or all items from some or all Respondents.

## 6.9 Proposal Validity

Your proposal shall remain valid for a period of sixty (60) days beyond the proposal due date.

## 6.10 Supplier Certification

Pursuant to Ameren's policy, the successful Respondent will be required to register with a third-party administrator with whom Ameren has contracted to provide Ameren with supplier compliance verification. This administrator will collect information Ameren requires, verify it against public records and private data bases, maintain accurate records, and provide Ameren with a comprehensive and consolidated report of the contractor's compliance related information.

Contractor(s) shall submit to the selected administrator a registration form, along with supporting documents, such as insurance information and certificates, licenses, accident, injury and occupational illness statistics accompanied by OSHA 300-A documents, EMR information and documentation, and existing quality, health, safety, and environmental best practices information.

## 6.11 Disclaimers

Respondent is hereby advised that Ameren is not committed to any course of action as a result of its issuance of this RFP and/or its receipt of a proposal from any Respondent. Further, Ameren reserves the right to:

- Reject any proposal that does not conform to instructions and specifications issued herein
- Not accept proposals after the stated submission deadline
- Reject any or all proposals, if it so decides
- Negotiate with one or more Respondents
- Award a contract in connection with this RFP at any time

Ameren explicitly reserves the right to contract with a Respondent for reasons other than lowest price. Contractor selection will involve several criteria, which may or may not be included as part of this RFP. Ameren will not reimburse any Respondent for any proposal preparation costs or other work performed in connection with this RFP.

## 6.12 Disclosure and Confidentiality Terms

The information contained in this RFP (or accumulated through other written or verbal communication) is strictly confidential. It is for proposal purposes only and is not to be disclosed or used for any other purpose. Information received in response to this RFP will be held in strict confidence and not disclosed to any party, other than Ameren and its agents, without Respondent's express written consent, except as may be required to comply with Ameren's regulatory requirements. Information submitted will not be returned to Respondents.