

**Question and Answer Log | DE-FOA-0003605 – Restoring Reliability: Coal Recommissioning and Modernization.**

**Question 1 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Are private individuals to include graduate researchers, permitted to apply as a prime awardee or team member?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Funding Opportunity/Eligibility/Eligible Applicants.” The section describes the eligibility requirements for both the prime awardee and team members. Per the BAA, private entities (individuals) may only participate as a project team member as long as all eligibility criteria set forth in the BAA are met.

**Question 2 | Topic: Other**

Q. Is a webinar or information session planned?

A. A webinar or information session is not planned at this time. If DOE elects to conduct such an event for this BAA, the event will be announced on the Exchange website, and the BAA will be amended.

**Question 3 | Topic: Other**

Q. What steps should I pursue in submitting a proposal?

A. Please refer to the BAA, specifically 1-3.

**Question 4 | Topic Other**

Q. Can I contact DOE personnel to discuss this funding opportunity?

A. DOE personnel will only communicate about this BAA through the question and answer process.

**Question 5 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Is construction of a new coal-fired generation facility eligible in topic areas 1 and 2?

A. Yes, new coal plant construction is an eligible activity under this BAA. The BAA will be amended to ensure clarity with respect to new construction activities.

**Question 6 | Topic: Subrecipients**

Q. How will project participation by an FFRDC be handled?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Funding Opportunity/Eligibility/Eligible Applicants” for limitations regarding FFRDC project participation. "For non-DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, the

Federal Agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The use of the FFRDC must be consistent with its authority under the award. For DOE/NNSA FFRDCs, the cognizant Contracting Officer for the FFRDC must authorize in writing the use of the FFRDC on the proposed project and this authorization must be submitted with the application. The funding for the FFRDC will flow through the prime recipient. The following wording is acceptable for this authorization: "Authorization is granted for the Laboratory to participate in the proposed project. The work proposed for the Laboratory is consistent with or complimentary to the missions of the Laboratory and will not adversely impact execution of the DOE assigned programs at the Laboratory." The BAA will be amended to clarify FFRDC application requirements.

**Question 7 | Topic: Other**

Q. Will the BAA include multiple rounds?

A. The BAA is planned for a single round with a single close date.

**Question 8 | Topic: Other**

Q. What are the references to GenIII and/or SMR in the BAA?

A. These are typos that will be corrected in a future BAA amendment. Please disregard these references.

**Question 9 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Can I share my project's technical approach with you to obtain an eligibility determination prior to submitting an application?

A. The DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants prior to the date on which applications to this BAA must be submitted. The decision whether to submit an application in response to this BAA lies solely with the applicant.

**Question 10 | Topic: Tech Topics**

Q. How is rural or remote community defined in topic area 2?

A. Per the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40103(c)(1), "rural or remote area means a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants."

**Question 11 | Topic: Other**

Q. Can the award period of performance exceed 6 years for Topic 1 or 4 years for Topic 2?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Funding Detail/Expected Award Project Periods” regarding maximum award periods.

**Question 12 | Topic: Budget/Costs**

Q. Is there a maximum or average award size targeted for awards under this BAA?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Funding Detail” regarding plans for award funding. The BAA does not identify anticipated maximum, minimum, or average Federal award amounts.

**Question 13 | Topic: Cost Sharing**

Q. Does the 50% cost share requirement apply to all award phases and activities?

A. Please refer to Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information /Milestones and Costs regarding the minimum cost share contribution required for costs incurred at any time during the award.

**Question 14 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Will a generation unit scheduled to shut down after January 1, 2032 be eligible under Topic 1?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Basic Information/Eligibility/Eligible Applicants” and “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Program Description/Purpose” regarding the latest allowable date for the scheduled facility retirement. Per the BAA, generation units scheduled for retirement after January 1, 2032, are not eligible for an award under this BAA.

**Question 15 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Do both topics have the inactive or scheduled retirement prior to 2032 requirement?

A. No, see eligibility requirements for Topics 1 and 2.

**Question 16 | Topic: Tech Topics**

Q. Could these funds be used for existing coal facilities that we have plans to convert to gas at a later date?

A. No, projects that do not include a long-term plan for coal fired generation unit retention or demonstrate long-term economic viability beyond the project period are not requested.

**Question 17 | Topic: Other**

Q. Could you provide examples of clean coal technology energy goals?

A. The DOE cannot provide clean energy goals for specific organizations. Generally, coal generation unit clean energy goals typically range from pollution controls that reduce nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and/or particulate matter when compared to plants without controls to larger reductions that may be realized through carbon capture technologies.

**Question 18 | Topic: Other**

Q. The BAA technical evaluation criteria references consideration of a "Techno-Economic Analysis," but the analysis is not requested as part of the application.

A. A Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) will be added to the application requirements in a future BAA amendment. The Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) will assess the long-term financial viability of the proposed technology using generally accepted accounting principles. The TEA should be conducted with the best available information for the proposed technologies, systems, and infrastructure and should incorporate prior testing data if available. Applicants should plan for TEA updates for the duration of the project period.

**Question 19 | Topic: Other**

Q. The cover page template (pg. 54) and Responsiveness Review (pg. 65) reference “Gen III + SMRs” as a requirement for application. Can you please explain or confirm?

A. See response to question #8.

**Question 20 | Topic: Other**

Q. The instructions for this application list the Foreign Entity/Work Waiver under Post-award documentation. However, in order to submit an application, the portal requires an upload for the Waivers.

A. The application portal has been updated, and the Foreign Entity/Work Waiver is now optional.

**Question 21 | Topic: Tech Topics**

Q. Is Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) required for both Topic 1 and 2?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Funding Detail. CCUS is required for Topic 1 only.

**Question 22 | Topic: Tech Topics**

Q. Can a Topic 1 project include coal-fired generation asset efficiency upgrades during the award period of performance and CCUS after the project period?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Funding Detail. Applications to Topic 1 that do not include a plan for CCUS as part of the project scope will be deemed noncompliant and not forwarded for merit review.

**Question 23 | Topic: Other**

Q. Is the conversion of a coal fired generation unit to natural gas considered modernization?

A. No, see the response to question #16.

**Question 24 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Can I provide information regarding my organization and proposed project prior to the BAA close date to obtain an eligibility determination?

A. See response to question #9.

**Question 25 | Topic: Tech Topics**

Q. Are projects that involve numerous upgrades or enhancements to a coal-fired generation unit acceptable?

A. Please refer to “Step 1: Review the Opportunity/Basic Information/Funding Detail.” The topic areas do not limit the number of proposed upgrades or enhancements.

**Question 26 | Topic: Other**

Q. How do I respond to the request for my organization's clean energy goals in the technical volume requirements?

A. See response to question #17.

**Question 27 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Is a coal-fired generation facility scheduled for conversion to natural gas prior to January 1, 2032 eligible under Topic 1?

A. Yes, the project is eligible. As noted in Step 1 / Basic Information / Executive Summary, this BAA is primarily focused on ensuring a reliable energy supply and protecting the integrity of the Nation’s electric grid. While natural gas offers similar reliability and dispatchability benefits as coal, projects centered on converting coal plants to natural gas

are unlikely to be prioritized for investment. Instead, Topic Area 1 places particular emphasis on projects that preserve existing coal infrastructure while integrating carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies to enhance grid reliability and advance emissions reduction goals. Additionally, DOE realizes that in order for these plants to retrofit with CCS, the plants themselves are in need of maintenance and upgrades to enable CCS retrofit, and also to reduce the parasitic load associated with those retrofits in order to preserve and enhance overall project economics and enable further investment.

**Question 28 | Topic: Others**

Q. How is the rurality of a location defined?

A. See response to question #10.

**Question 29 | Topic: Budget/Costs**

Q. What is the anticipated technical scope of projects under this BAA?

A. Per the Step 2/Application Contents and Requirements/Financing, the project technical scope and costs should include all planned activities through start-up and operations.

**Question 30 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. For topic area 2, can census tract population be used to determine this eligibility or is it based on population within the assigned city address?

A. "The benefited area with not more than 10,000 inhabitants must be (a) ""a city, town, or other incorporated municipality"" or (b) ""a Census Designated Place (CDP), Census County Division (CCD), or similarly discreet and identifiable community that is not located within an incorporated municipality."" Zip code tabulation areas (five digit) (ZCTA5), census tracts, and other similar census geographic entities are not discrete and identifiable communities.

Projects ideally should be sited within the rural or remote area they are designed to benefit. Projects proposed to be built outside of a rural or remote area may be considered for funding but must clearly define the rural or remote area(s) of not more than 10,000 inhabitants receiving the benefits. All areas identified as directly benefitting from the proposed project must meet the definition of rural or remote area.

DOE will not make eligibility determinations for potential applicants until after the application deadline.

The BAA will be amended to ensure clarity with respect to rural or remote area eligibility."

**Question 31 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. I have a detailed question regarding the eligibility of my organization, my proposed technical approach, and the anticipated duration of my proposed project under this BAA?

A. See response to question #9.

**Question 32 | Topic: Other**

Q. Is the Technical Volume separated into distinct PDF files and does the page limitation apply to all files combined?

A. Yes. In addition, the “Application Contents and Format” section for both topic areas must include a Project Narrative, Financing, Techno-Economic Analysis, and Construction Strategy for a total limit of 40 pages. The BAA will be amended to ensure clarity regarding application documents and the overarching page limitation.

**Question 33 | Topic: Other**

Q. The line spacing for application documents is not specified, can we assume the documents must be single spaced.

A. Yes, application documents must be single spaced. The BAA will be amended to ensure clarity with respect to application document line spacing.

**Question 34 | Topic: Eligibility**

Q. Are both coal-fired power plants and carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) required within the scope of Topic 1?

A. See response to questions #21 and #22.

**Question 35 | Topic: Other**

Q. The BAA indicates that the projects support high-priority loads such as defense installations, semiconductor fabs, AI/data centers, and industrial clusters, and residential areas. Are projects that support other types of loads of interest?

A. The BAA provides examples of high priority loads that may be supported and is not intended to be comprehensive. Projects that support loads other than those included in the example are not precluded.

**Question 36 | Topic: Other**

Q. The BAA indicates that award negotiations may take several months. Is there a planned timeframe that applicants can use when planning an award start date?

A. The timeframe from selection to award is anticipated to be 4-5 months. Please note that the timeframe is largely dependent upon the responsiveness of selectees during award negotiation. The BAA will be amended to ensure clarity with respect to the anticipated negotiation timeframe.

**Question 37 | Topic: Other**

Q. Where do I find instructions for submission of an application?

A. Please refer to "STEP 3/Submission Requirements and Deadlines".

**Question 38 | Topic: Cost Sharing**

Q. For topic area 2, can funds from the Rural Utilities Service core electric loan program be used for applicant cost share?

A. Cost share includes project costs that are not paid by Federal funds or contributions. Per 2 CFR § 200.403(f) and 2 CFR § 200.306(b), an allowable project cost must not be included in any other federally-financed program unless specifically authorized by statute. Project costs funded under a Department of Agriculture (DOA) Rural Utility Service (RUS) loan are not eligible as a project cost or as cost share.

**Question 39 | Topic: Other**

Q. Are all project activities required to be complete within the award period of performance?

A. See 2 CFR § 200.1 regarding the definition of award period of performance. Yes, the award period of performance must include all project tasks and activities

**Question 40 | Topic: Other**

Q. Will the BAA application due date be extended?

A. The BAA application due date has been extended to December 8th. This will be reflected in the upcoming BAA amendment.



**Question 41 | Topic: Other**

Q. Who should I contact with questions regarding the time to register in SAM.gov, Infrastructure Exchange, and Fedconnect?

A. Please refer to "STEP 3/Submit Your Application/Submission Requirements and Deadlines/Submission Instructions" regarding registration requirements and other information to assist in the registration process.

**Question 42 | Topic: Other**

Q. I believe my project is responsive to both Topic Areas, can I submit a single application to both or should I tailor my application based upon the unique requirements set forth in each topic area.

A. Applicants must submit an application to each individual topic area to be considered. Please refer to "STEP 1/Review the Funding Opportunity/Eligibility/Limitation of Number of Applications Eligible for Review" for information regarding submission of multiple applications.

**Question 43 | Topic: Other**

Q. For topic area 1, are projects required to complete a CCUS pilot or demonstration within the prescribed period of performance? What criteria does the DOE have for completion of the pilot or demonstration?

A. Yes, all project tasks and activities must be complete within the award period of performance, to include the pilot or demonstration. The BAA will result in milestone-based Other Transaction (OT) awards and per "STEP 1/Milestones and Costs", applications must propose milestones with defined work scope and related milestone payments. The "STEP 4/Application Review Information/Technical Review Criteria/Criterion 4: Workplan and Execution" includes specific milestone evaluation criteria. Validation test milestones must be proposed in the application for evaluation. The proposed milestones should represent outcomes based upon a meaningful test duration that addresses the full spectrum of performance conditions and technical performance targets. The validation data must confirm the technical feasibility, economic and commercial viability, and potential for future scale up of the CCUS technology.

**Question 44 | Topic: Other**

Q. If a potential applicant leases a unit from the owner and contracts another company for physical operation of the plant on their behalf, who should be the prime applicant?

A. For the purposes of the BAA, the “owner” is the legal entity, including the real property lessee, that exercises control over management and record keeping functions related to a building or facility. The “operator” is the entity responsible for facility operations. Per the BAA, the prime applicant must be either the owner or the operator. The owner or operator whose role in the project most aligns with the definition of “recipient” contained in 2 CFR 200.1 would be the best candidate as the prime applicant, however the decision regarding which entity is best suited as the prime applicant resides with the applicant team.

**Question 45 | Topic: Budget/Costs**

Q. Are project activities that were initiated prior to award but executed during the award eligible for reimbursement?

A. Please refer to "STEP 1/Review the Funding Opportunity/Program Description/Pre-Award Costs". Pre-award costs are not authorized under this BAA. The DOE cannot make determinations regarding the allowability of project costs absent review of a complete application.

**Question 46 | Topic: Other**

Q. The BAA mentions that an SF-LLL may be required; however there is no place on the Upload and Submit tab for this document in eXchange.

A. Exchange has been updated to include a placeholder for the SF-LLL form if applicable..

**Question 47 | Topic: Other**

Q. I am trying to apply for the BAA in grants.gov but the Help Desk indicated that the BAA is not a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and there are different application procedures as a result.

A. BAA application documents must be submitted in Exchange. The procedures for submission of BAA application documents to eXchange are provided in the BAA. Please refer to “STEP 2: Get Ready to Apply” and “STEP 2: Submit Your Application”. The process for submission of BAA application documents are identical to those of a NOFO.

**Question 48 | Topic: Other**

Q. How will I be notified of changes to the BAA.

A. Please refer to the second page of the BAA (Amendment Page). Applicants registered to this BAA in Grants.gov will automatically receive notifications when BAA amendments are posted.

**Question 49 | Topic: Other**

Q. Is the use of levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) required for the Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA)?

A. See response to question 18. The TEA should provide an assessment of the project's economic value proposition when considering constraints and opportunities in current and forecasted future markets using standard GAAP principles and approaches that consider the projected cost of production over the lifetime of the project. The derivation of an organization's business case and economic rationale lies solely with the owner or operator of the facility. An organization may elect to provide a TEA using standard organizational processes based on GAAP principles that do not consider typical LCOE metrics. The decision regarding the content of the TEA lies with the entity submitting the application. Applicants should note that the TEA is subject to a technical merit review with respect to economic rationale among other items.

**Question 50 | Topic: Other**

Q. Amendment 000001 formally added the Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) requirement for both Topic 1 and Topic 2 technical narratives but only increased the Topic 1 Technical Volume page limit to 40 pages. Will the page limit for the Topic 2 Technical Volume also be increased to 40 pages?

A. Yes, the Technical Volume page limit for Topic Area 2 is increased to 40 pages in alignment with Topic 1 to accommodate the TEA addition. The BAA will be amended in the near future to address this error. Applicants should observe the 40 page limit for both Topic 1 and 2 Technical Volumes.

**Question 51 | Topic: Other**

Q. Can you provide a template or additional information that can assist with development of the Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA)?

A. The Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA) must comply with the requirements set forth in "Step2: Get Ready to Apply/Application Contents and Format". The DOE is not prescribing specific content or format for the TEA, however the following NETL links provide information that would be helpful: "Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Plants Volume 1: Bituminous Coal and Natural Gas to Electricity" (<https://www.osti.gov/biblio/2580491>) and "Performing a Techno-economic Analysis for Power Generation Plants" (<https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1513274>)

**Question 52 | Topic: Other**

Q. Can we update the prime applicant during the negotiation phase before a final award is made (if selected for award)? Or, at what stage in the application/negotiation/award/post-award process can the prime applicant/awardee change (if at all)?

A. Teaming arrangements are expected to be firmly established at the time of application submittal. The DOE evaluation and selection process is predicated upon these established relationships. It would be highly unusual for DOE to entertain a proposed change in the prime applicant during the pre-award phase. Post award a formal novation is possible but not meant to facilitate what is being asked – switching out who is the Prime once the award is executed. All Novation's are subject to Agreements Officer (AO) approval.

**Question 53 | Topic: Other**

Q. What is meant by "long term generation availability" criteria and what level of commitment is expected for Topic Area 2?

A. The referenced criteria is one of several within “Step 4 Selection/Application Review Information/Technical Review Criteria/Financial and Market Viability”. The criterion assesses the extent of time that the project is anticipated to be economically viable and does not provide a specific threshold or target as a result.

**Question 54 | Topic: Other**

Q. Has the DOE identified limits on the number of coal-fired generation unit upgrades, enhancements, or the purchase of long lead equipment?

A. The BAA does not include a limitation regarding the number of coal-fired generation unit upgrades or the purchase of long lead equipment.

**Question 55 | Topic: Application/Format**

Q. The techno-economic analysis for Topic Area 2 mentions carbon capture, is carbon capture required in topic area 2?

A. See response to question #21. Please refer to “STEP 1/Eligibility/Eligible Applicants” regarding eligible projects. Please also refer to “STEP 2/Application Contents and Format/Application”. The reference to carbon capture is an example of other items to consider in the balance of plant and is not a requirement of Topic Area 2.

**Question 56 | Topic: Other**

Q. If the proposed prime applicant does not have an active SAM registration, can another team member submit the prime application?

A. Please refer to “STEP 3/Submission Requirements and Deadlines/SAM.gov”, applicants must be registered in SAM.gov. Also, please refer to “STEP 1/Eligibility/Eligible Applicants” regarding prime applicant eligibility requirements. All prime applicants must meet these requirements to be considered.

**Question 57 | Topic: Other**

Q. Does the definition of coal-fired unit (also referred to as coal unit) include coal mining?

A. Please refer to “STEP 1/Program Description/Terminology. The coal-fired unit definition does not include scope for coal mining.”

**Question 58 | Topic: Budget/Costs**

Q. If a project site is looking to obtain tax credits after the project has commenced, how should that be documented in the application? As part of the budget or referenced as a possibility in the narrative sections?

A. Please see “Step 1/Milestones and Costs” regarding “realized” tax credits and their use as project costs. Please also note that “Step 4/Application Review Information/Technical Review Criteria/Criterion 2” includes evaluation of non-Federal cost share commitments and contingency planning. Tax credits that are not yet realized would not be considered an allowable cost share source for the application.

**Question 59 | Topic: Other**

Q. Where and how should applicants disclose existing work or relationships with National Laboratories?

A. Applicants should disclose pre-existing work or a relationship with national laboratories that is prior to this BAA’s application and that is or may be relevant to the BAA application in the project narrative.

**Question 60 | Topic: Other**

Q. Regarding Transparency of Foreign Connections, page 43 of the BAA states that applicants must "include a separate disclosure for the applicant and each proposed team member." There does not appear to be a disclosure form on the eXCHANGE portal; however, DOE's Office of International Affairs lists a "Transparency of Foreign Connections Disclosure and Certification," last updated in May 2025, located here: <https://www.energy.gov/ia/transparency-foreign-connections>. Is this the proper form that each project partner should submit to satisfy the Transparency of Foreign Connections requirement? Or should applicants transcribe the "disclosure information" table on page 44 of the BAA into a separate document and submit it as a PDF?

A. The BAA "STEP 2 Get Ready/Application Contents and Format" does not include a template or specific format for collection of Transparency of Foreign Connections information. The use of publicly available templates is acceptable if responsive to specific data requested within the BAA. While the applicant is not required to use the form, the same substantive information, a signature, date, and certification statement provided at Transparency of Foreign Connections template is required.

**Question 61 | Topic: Other**

Q. Tab 5 of the Infrastructure eXCHANGE submission portal requests the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for the proposed technology for both the current state of the proposed technology and the expected TRL at the end of your R&D effort. Since the Topic Area 1 projects include both Coal-Fired generation technologies as well as Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), which technology area should be the basis for the TRL submission?

A. The tab refers to the TRL level of: (i) both the coal-fired technology and CCUS technology proposed in Topic Area 1, and (ii) the coal-fired technology in Topic Area 2.

**Question 62 | Topic: Other**

Q. For topic area 1, is carbon capture for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) considered compliant or non-compliant?

A. Please see "Step 1/Eligibility/Eligible Applicants/Topic 1", "projects that include carbon utilization are preferred over approaches that solely implement carbon capture and storage." EOR is considered acceptable for Topic Area 1.

**Question 63 | Topic: Other**

Q. Which “SF-424 Application for Financial Assistance” from Grants.gov should I use for my application.

A. The “SF-424: Application for Financial Assistance” is referred to as “SF424 Mandatory Form” on grants.gov. Upon selection of the “SF424 Mandatory Form” on grants.gov, the “SF-424: Application for Financial Assistance” will be available for use in completing applications.

**Question 64 | Topic: Other**

Q. Is a Current and Pending Support” certification form required for each covered individual or can a consolidated statement be submitted.

A. See “Step 2/Topic 1 / 2: Application Contents and Format/Application/Current and Pending Support”, each covered individual must submit a separate certification statement listing the required information.

**Question 65 | Topic: Other**

Q. Is a BAA amendment required to confirm the increase of the Topic Are 2 technical volume page increase from 25 to 40 pages?

A. See response to question #50. Applicants should observe the 40 page limit for the 2 Technical Volume. A formal BAA amendment is not required to confirm this BAA change. All responses to this Administrative Question and Answer Log supplement the BAA text and do not require further confirmation.

**Question 66 | Topic: Other**

Q. My project site does not appear to be located near any tribal lands or areas with tribal interests. Is a tribal notification still required when the project site is not located near any tribes?

A. See “Step 2/Topic 1 / 2: Application Contents and Format/Application/Impacted Indian Tribe Documentation”. The DOE cannot make determinations regarding potential Indian Tribe impacts absent review of the full application. Decisions regarding the application submitted in response to this BAA reside solely with the applicant.