Date Filed: October 05, 2026

Witness: Rice, Brian J
Request from: Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Question:

Order No. 19 Compliance, July 30, 2026. In calculating a proposed nonrefundable application fee, the EDCs assumed that NRES bid review and tariff agreement processing takes six months of each staff member's time. Is this assumption based on actual recorded staff time dedicated to NRES Program administration? If not, explain how the six-month assumption was determined and provide the actual amount of staff time spent on NRES bid review and tariff agreement processing in 2025.

Response:

The six-month assumption is not based on a time study of recorded staff hours for individual NRES bid review and tariff agreement processing activities. Rather, the estimate was developed based on the overall duration and administrative requirements of the NRES solicitation cycles.

Each NRES RFP cycle is approximately 100 days in duration. With two RFP cycles, the combined solicitation period is approximately 200 days, or roughly six months. Throughout the RFP cycles, EDC staff are engaged in activities including responding to bidder questions, processing assurance payments, and monitoring the bid portal for potential issues. Following closure of the bid portal, staff begin the bid screening and review process, which continues through tariff agreement awards and related processing.

The six-month assumption is therefore intended to represent the period over which staff resources are engaged in administering the NRES solicitation and award process. The EDCs consider the six-month assumption to be a reasonable and potentially conservative basis for estimating the staff resources associated with these activities. In addition to the two approximately 100-day RFP cycles, administration may include pre-RFP webinars, post-RFP processing and return of assurance payments, and, where applicable, multiple rounds of project selection.

Accordingly, the six-month assumption should not be interpreted as six months of full-time effort by individual staff members, but rather as the approximate period over which staff resources are required to support the NRES solicitation, bid review, and tariff agreement award and processing activities.