

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
Public Notice of Successful Bidders and Average Prices

Illinois Power Agency
March 2018 Initial Forward Procurement of Renewable Energy Credits from
New Utility-Scale Solar and Brownfield Site Photovoltaic Projects

March 21, 2018

On March 15, 2018, the Illinois Power Agency's procurement administrator, NERA Economic Consulting, received bids for the sale of renewable energy credits ("RECs") to Ameren Illinois Company ("Ameren"), Commonwealth Edison Company ("ComEd"), and MidAmerican Energy Company ("MEC") derived from new utility-scale solar projects and new brownfield site photovoltaic projects. The bidding process was monitored for the Commission by Bates White. On March 21, 2018, voting in open session, the Commission approved the procurement administrator's selection of winning bids.

The March 2018 solar procurement is only the third long-term procurement (contract terms greater than 5 years in duration) undertaken by the IPA and is a result of Public Act 99-0906, also known as the Future Energy Jobs Act, which was signed into law in December 2016 and became effective June 1, 2017. The new law requires: (1) an initial forward procurement for the delivery of one million renewable energy credits annually from new utility-scale wind projects; and (2) an initial forward procurement for the delivery of one million renewable energy credits delivered annually from new utility-scale solar projects and brownfield site photovoltaic projects. While a single procurement event is contemplated by the statute for new utility-scale wind projects, multiple procurement events can be held for the procurement of RECs for new solar projects (utility-scale solar projects and brownfield site photovoltaic projects). In August 2017, a procurement event secured the delivery of one million annual RECs from new utility-scale wind projects and a portion of the one million annual RECs from new utility-scale solar projects and brownfield site photovoltaic projects.

The statute defines a utility-scale solar project as an electric generating facility that generates electricity using photovoltaic cells and that has a nameplate capacity greater than 2,000 kilowatts. A brownfield site photovoltaic project means photovoltaics that are interconnected to an electric utility, a municipal utility, a public utility or an electric cooperative and that are located at a site that is regulated by an appropriate program. Projects must be located in Illinois or in a state adjacent to Illinois. If in a state adjacent to Illinois, the project must satisfy the public interest criteria specified in Section 1-75(c)(1)(I) of the IPA Act. Projects must be "new" and thus, projects that commenced operations on or before June 1, 2017 are not new.

Delivery of the RECs for each procurement begins no later than June 1, 2021 and continues for a 15-year period. The RECs acquired through this RFP will help the utilities meet their obligations under the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS"). A REC represents all the environmental attributes corresponding to one MWh of energy generated from renewable energy resources. Projects selected in this RFP are agreeing only to supply RECs. Energy and capacity from the projects may be sold to other parties or into the PJM and MISO wholesale markets.

In accordance with Section 16-111.5(h) of the Public Utilities Act (“Act”), this public notice announces the names of the successful bidders and the average winning bid price for each contract type and for each contract term. 220 ILCS 5/16-111.5(h). In accordance with previous Commission orders, quantity information is only provided when the number of successful bidders is greater than two.

Average Winning Price

	Solar RECs
Average Winning Price (\$/REC)	6.07

Winning Suppliers

Suppliers
Big River Solar, LLC
Dressor Plains Solar, LLC

The winning bids were allocated to Ameren (29.33%), ComEd (70.34%), and MEC (0.33%) in proportion to its renewable resource budget using 2019-2020 as the reference delivery year.

For more information on the Initial Forward New Utility-Scale Wind and Solar Procurements or their implementation, see the following web sites:

Illinois Power Agency: <http://www.illinois.gov/ipa/Pages/default.aspx>

Illinois Power Agency RFPs: <http://ipa-energyrfp.com/>