



# Commonwealth Hydropower Round 13

## Questions & Responses

4.25.2024

*Note that some questions have been lightly condensed and edited for clarity and conciseness.*

### **Respondent 1:**

1. *Would ongoing work be eligible under the Commonwealth Hydropower program, or would any grant funding awarded be only for future costs?*

Grant funding is intended to fund and enable new projects and is therefore only awarded to assist with future costs.

2. *Is design work applicable under this grant solicitation and if a facility received funding for design, would it be eligible to apply for additional funding under a future solicitation for construction work?*

Design work for eligible activity areas, as defined in the RFP, may also be considered eligible. Facilities that receive Commonwealth Hydropower grants are eligible for future funding rounds as well.

3. *Would any engineering costs already expended count towards cost share, or are the only eligible cost share costs those that are incurred after grant award? And, in the case that already incurred costs are not eligible, can you please confirm whether eligible costs start after notice of grant award or actual grant contract execution?*

Grant funding is awarded for future costs and is not applicable for past/existing spend. As stated in the RFP, eligible budget items must be "incurred after the execution of the grant agreement."

4. *Would a project focused on the replacement/upgrade of an existing inflatable crest gate system be eligible under the Round 13 solicitation?*

The RFP states that the listed upgrades to existing hydropower facilities are not strictly limited to the list provided. Applications for projects that are in line with the activities listed in the RFP and fulfill the program's objective to facilitate greater energy production and reduce environmental impacts from hydropower facilities will be considered.

**Respondent 2:**

1. *If we performed work to support return to service of units that haven't produced in several years, can we apply with that work if it was performed in late 2022?*

Grant funding is intended to fund and enable new projects and is therefore only awarded to assist with future costs.

2. *Is there a cap on the number of projects that we can apply for?*

The RFP does not define a cap on a number of applications per entity. The Program provides grant funding of up to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) per project. In this solicitation round, all funding awarded will not exceed \$300,000

**Respondent 3:**

1. *Do life-extension projects qualify under the "upgrade" category?*

See response to Respondent 1, Question 4

2. *With FERC licenses being 40-year (+/-) duration and with the relicensing process taking a decade or often longer, what guidance can be provided on the phrase "or will soon be engaged in the FERC relicensing process" in the RFP?*

The language in the RFP does not restrict funding from applicants with facilities nearing relicensing activities.

3. *Are project-related expenses that have been incurred by the applicant prior to application eligible for reimbursement and/or eligible to qualify as cost-share for the project if funded by the program?*

See response to Respondent 1, Question 3

4. *Are electrical upgrades considered an "upgrade of an existing hydropower facility?"*

See response to Respondent 1, Question 4

5. *Would a feasibility study that investigates the total refurbishment and re-powering of 100+ year old facilities be eligible?*

The RFP states that feasibility studies for the upgrade of existing hydro-power facilities are eligible.