



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
for
ELECTRONIC SCADA RECLOSER INSTALLATION

Proposal Issue Date: September 15, 2025

Proposal Submittal Due Date: October 10, 2025

1. Project Overview

- 1.1. Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC), a rural electric distribution cooperative with offices located in Cando and Carrington, North Dakota and 6 outposts throughout the service territory. NPEC provides service to its member across 11 counties ranging from south of Jamestown, ND north to the Canadian border.
- 1.2. NPEC is pursuing a project to install 19 sets of remote operated SCADA ready electronic reclosers and control panels in 6 distribution substations. This project involves the removal of existing hydraulic reclosers, installing new reclosers, panels and associated wiring and termination.
- 1.3. NPEC has been awarded federal grant funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to utilize for this project, facilitated via the State of North Dakota by the North Dakota Transmission Authority. NPEC may also utilize funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Applicants will be required to comply with both grant and RUS requirements as stated herein.

2. Project Details

2.1. NPEC plans to install 19 sets of NOVA NX-T reclosers and panels in 6 distribution substations throughout its service territory. The map in Figure 1 below shows the overall project area identifying the substations that are included in this project.

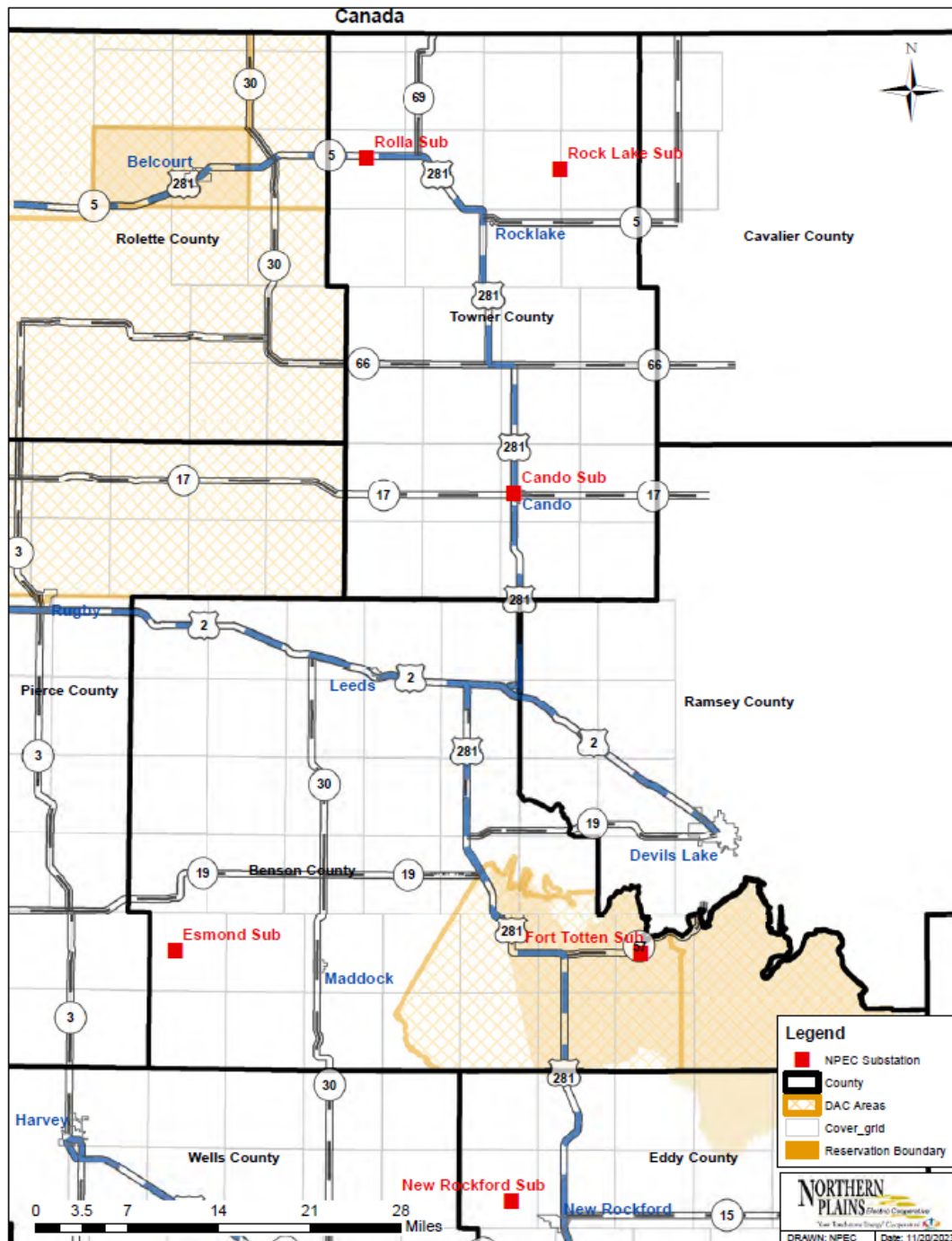


Figure 1: Project area in NPEC service area

2.2. In Table 1 below, a list of the distribution substations and quantity of SCADA ready recloser sets is provided. A summary of notes and materials are included in Appendix A, with detailed pictures of each substation and recloser location in Appendix B.

<u>Distribution Substation</u>	<u>Number of Feeders</u>	<u>Number of Recloser Sets</u>
Rolla	3	3
Rock Lake	2	2
Cando	4	4
Esmond	3	3
Fort Totten	3	3
New Rockford	4	4
	19	19

Table 1: Substations and Number of NOVA NX-T Sets

3. Owner's Scope

- 3.1. NPEC will provide all material to be utilized for construction, including NOVA NX-T reclosers, panels, termination wire, termination hardware, and communication wire. NPEC personnel will pull necessary material from inventory and provide it to the Contractor as needed during normal business hours (8am-4:30 pm Central Time). Materials utilized by the Contractor will be documented on a charge out sheet or pick list to be utilized in tracking material usage and costs.
- 3.2. NPEC will provide general construction oversights and instruction, including guidance on preferred framing, terminating of equipment. Due to the structure of the federal grant requirements, NPEC will not perform any construction activities directly—these actions must be performed by the Contractor.
- 3.3. NPEC will identify each feeder that the NOVA NX-T reclosers will be installed, providing visual flagging and lathe to mark locations. A staking sheet will be prepared for each substation/feeder detailing the required material.
- 3.4. NPEC will deenergize the substations prior to any construction activities within the substation.
- 3.5. Contractor will deliver retired materials to NPEC's yards for documentation prior to disposal. Appropriate yard (Carrington / Cando) will be specified on staking sheet.

4. Contractor's Scope

- 4.1. Contractor will provide all equipment and labor necessary to complete the construction activities.
- 4.2. Contractor will document all NPEC-supplied materials utilized for construction and return unused materials to NPEC personnel. Invoices of work performed must match quantities of material charged out.
- 4.3. Contractor will construct following RUS specifications for overhead (Bulletin 1728F-804) and underground (Bulletin 1728F-806) distribution. NPEC will provide guidance on terminations and placement of reclosers.
- 4.4. Contractor assumes work will be performed near energized lines. NPEC will coordinate scheduled outages of substations to allow construction activities.
- 4.5. Contractor will be responsible for retiring and returning existing reclosers and material as directed by NPEC. Any metal and wire material shall be returned to NPEC for documentation and recycling.
- 4.6. Contractor will follow NPEC's safe work practices which exceed or are in addition to Contractor's documented safety plan.
- 4.7. Contractor shall pay at minimum the current Davis Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements and shall submit weekly certified payroll via LCPtracker (web portal for payroll compliance).
- 4.8. Contractor is expected to work Monday-Friday work schedules and NPEC must have oversight when working within each substation. NPEC interfaces for materials and coordination to occur between 8am-4:30pm.

5. Proposal Requirements

- 5.1. Completion of Prequalification: Contractor must submit responses to prequalification criteria, which will be utilized by NPEC to determine whether a bid should be further considered for the project. The Prequalification form is included as Appendix C.
- 5.2. Summary of Project Approach: Contractor to describe proposed approach to the project, including means and methods anticipated. Any exclusions or exceptions to the scope of work, terms, or other considerations important to the Contractor must be described herein.
- 5.3. Capabilities and Key Personnel: Contractor to describe background and experience in distribution utility construction, including:
 - 5.3.1. Years the Contractor has been in business.
 - 5.3.2. Geographic areas the Contractor operates within.
 - 5.3.3. Construction capabilities of the Contractor.

- 5.3.4. Key personnel planned for the project, including resumes. Key personnel would include at minimum the person with overall responsibility for the project (typically owner or project manager) along with the field personnel with direct responsibility for construction (typically foreman, superintendent, or crew leader).
- 5.3.5. Subcontractors planned to be utilized by the Contractor, if any.
- 5.3.6. References: Minimum of three references of utilities for which Contractor has previously performed distribution utility construction services. NPEC may be listed as a reference.
- 5.4. Schedule: Following bid evaluation, successful bidder will be required to complete contract documentation, including insurance and hold harmless documentation. Following award, NPEC will complete staking sheets, resulting in the anticipated schedule to beginning project construction:
 - 5.4.1. Request for Proposals Issued: September 15, 2025
 - 5.4.2. Proposals due by 4pm, October 10, 2025.
 - 5.4.3. Contract completion, initial staking completed by October 24, 2025.
 - 5.4.4. With construction assumed to begin October 27, 2025, Contractor to provide a proposed schedule for installation of substation reclosers. Due to NPEC oversight required at all substations, coordination and scheduling of efforts will be required for all activities.
 - 5.4.5. Completion of construction shall be by April 30, 2026.
- 5.5. Price: Proposal fees shall be submitted on a fixed lump sum basis, inclusive of all labor, expenses, and subcontractor fees.
 - 5.5.1. NPEC intends to award this contract to the Contractor that it deems most responsive and will provide the most comprehensive and high-quality service to Cooperative inclusive of fee considerations. Cooperative reserves the right to accept other than the lowest price offer and to reject all proposals that are not responsive to this request.
- 5.6. Acknowledgement of Terms: Contractor is subject to “flow-down” requirements of the terms of federal grant funds allocated to NPEC. These terms will be incorporated into the final contract of the successful bidder. Terms of note for Contractor to acknowledge are as follows:

- 5.6.1. All construction labor to be compliant with Davis Bacon Act requirements, including prevailing wages and weekly certified payroll. Contractor is responsible for submitting payroll information via LCPtracker software.
- 5.6.2. All materials utilized for the project are subject to Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions. NPEC is providing all material and is responsible for compliance with BABA provisions for NPEC-supplied project materials.
- 5.6.3. Contractor is an equal opportunity employer and abides by Department of Labor regulations prohibiting discrimination.
- 5.6.4. Contractor shall provide general commercial and automobile liability insurance at minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$5,000,000 aggregate per coverage period. Contractor shall provide worker's compensation coverage as required by law.
- 5.7. Questions regarding the RFP should be submitted via email by October 3, 2025, to:
Chris Pierson
Engineering Manager
Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
chrisp@nplains.com
- 5.8. Submission Requirements: All responses must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 10th, 2025. Mail, deliver or email proposals to:
Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
c/o Chris Pierson
PO Box 180
Carrington, ND 58421
chrisp@nplains.com

6. Evaluation Criteria

- 6.1. Bids will be evaluated by NPEC on the following criteria (40 points max):
 - 6.1.1. Satisfaction with prequalification requirements (5 points max)
 - 6.1.2. Experience of Key Personnel, including any subcontractors (5 points max)
 - 6.1.3. Thoroughness of bid requirements met by proposal documents (10 points max)
 - 6.1.4. Proposed schedule (5 points max)
 - 6.1.5. Price (10 points max)
 - 6.1.6. Acknowledgement of terms and conditions (5 points max)

7. Submittals

7.1. Prequalification Form

7.2. Proposal, including details of the following:

7.2.1. Summary of Approach

7.2.2. Key Personnel – Subcontractors - References

7.2.3. Proposed Schedule

7.2.4. Price

7.2.5. Acknowledgements of Terms – RUS, Grant (DBA)

Appendix A: Summary of notes and materials

Rolla Substation Material

- Mount 3 Sets of NOVA-NXT reclosers and Panels
- Terminate:
 - 36 – Shear Bolt 2 Hole Spades
 - 75 ft of 4/0 USE Cu
 - Ground Wire
- Installation of 75 ft of 12-2 USE (existing conduit)
- Installation of 75 ft of Cat-5 ethernet (existing conduit)
- Removal of 3 Hydraulic OCRs and 2 VWE reclosers with stands

Rock Lake Substation Material

- Mount 2 Sets of NOVA-NXT reclosers and Panels
- Terminate:
 - 24 – Shear Bolt 2 Hole Spades
 - 50 ft of 4/0 USE Cu
 - Ground Wire
- Installation of 50 ft of 12-2 USE (existing conduit)
- Installation of 50 ft of Cat-5 ethernet (existing conduit)
- Removal of 6 Hydraulic OCRs

Cando Substation Material

- Mount 4 Sets of NOVA-NXT reclosers and Panels
- Terminate:
 - 48 – Shear Bolt 2 Hole Spades
 - 100 ft of 4/0 USE Cu
 - Ground Wire
- Installation of 50 ft of 12-2 USE (existing conduit)
- Installation of 50 ft of Cat-5 ethernet (existing conduit)
- Removal of 4 VWE reclosers with stands

Esmond Substation Material

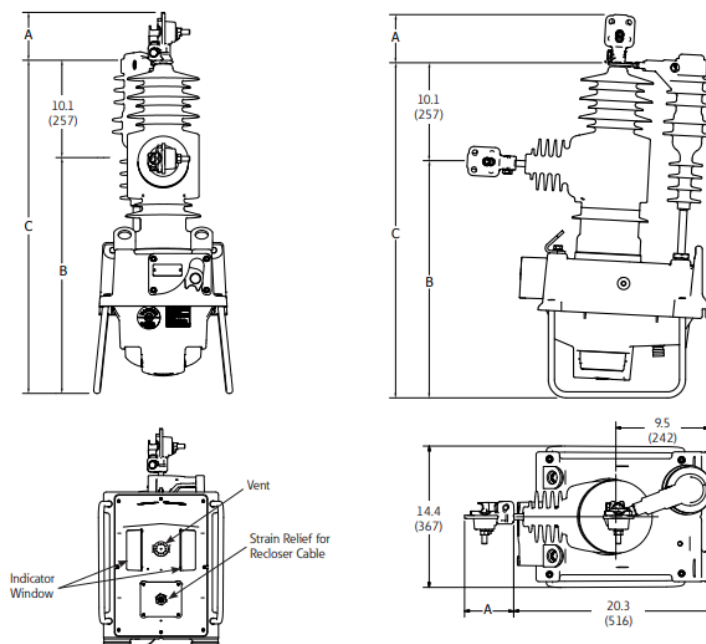
- Mount 3 Sets of NOVA-NXT reclosers and Panels
- Terminate:
 - 36 – Shear Bolt 2 Hole Spades
 - 75 ft of 4/0 USE Cu
 - Ground Wire
- Installation of 50 ft of 12-2 USE (existing conduit)
- Installation of 50 ft of Cat-5 ethernet (existing conduit)
- Removal of 1 VWE recloser with stands and 3 Hydraulic OCRs

Fort Totten Substation Material

- Mount 3 Sets of NOVA-NXT reclosers and Panels
- Terminate:
 - 36 – Shear Bolt 2 Hole Spades
 - 75 ft of 4/0 USE Cu
 - Ground Wire
- Installation of 75 ft of 12-2 USE (existing conduit)
- Installation of 75 ft of Cat-5 ethernet (existing conduit)
- Removal of 3 VWE reclosers with stands

New Rockford Substation Material

- Mount 4 Sets of NOVA-NXT reclosers and Panels
- Terminate:
 - 48 – Shear Bolt 2 Hole Spades
 - 100 ft of 4/0 USE Cu
 - Ground Wire
- Installation of 50 ft of 12-2 USE (existing conduit)
- Installation of 50 ft of Cat-5 ethernet (existing conduit)



NOVA-NXT Recloser (Single Unit)

Appendix B: Pictures of Substation Recloser and Locations

Rolla Substation



Rock Lake Substation



Cando Substation



Esmond Substation



Fort Totten Substation



New Rockford Substation



Appendix C: Prequalification of Contractor

The following questions are required to be completed by the bidder for proposals to be considered by NPEC. Falsification of responses will result in exclusion of bids.

1. Is your organization a licensed contractor in good standing in the state of North Dakota?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ No, but able to be licensed and in good standing by the time of contract award
2. Does your organization have distribution utility construction experience with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ No, but have worked with electric cooperatives in the past.
3. Does your organization have a documented safety program?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ No, but able to provide by time of the contract award
4. Is your organization able to perform distribution utility construction within a substation (substation to be considered deenergized)?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Yes, but under the following conditions (attach additional sheets as needed):
5. Does your organization have familiarity with the installation of Eaton NOVA NX-T Triple-Single Recloser and associated operating panel?
☐ Yes
☐ No
6. Does your organization have at least one journeyman line worker on staff?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ No, but will have at least one journeyman line worker on subcontractor staff
7. Does your organization meet Davis Bacon requirements of meeting prevailing wages and weekly payroll?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ No, but will meet Davis Bacon requirements for this project

8. Does your organization possess the equipment necessary to complete the project?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ No, but will obtain the equipment directly or via subcontractors for this project

9. Is your organization presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Yes, but can be resolved by the time of the contract award

I hereby certify these answers are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am an authorized representative of the organization to attest to these statements.

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Organization

Date