

## Texas co-op group seeks power supplies

GFS Electric Cooperative, a newly formed group representing three distribution co-ops in central Texas, on Monday issued a solicitation for up to 200 MW of intermediate capacity and energy deliverable starting on June 25, 2016. Bids are due October 21.

The request for proposals was issued on GFS Electric Cooperative's behalf by Atlanta-based EnerVision, which serves as the energy consultant for GFS members Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative of Gonzalez, Fayette Electric Cooperative of La Grange and San Bernard Electric Cooperative of Bellville.

Taken together, the three co-ops posted peak demand of about 612 MW last year. Each holds a full-requirements contract with the Lower Colorado River Authority that expires on June 24, 2016, and each has provided notice to LCRA that its deal with the agency will not be extended.

The three co-ops already have procured most of their base-load requirements for the post-June 24, 2016 period, and expect to evaluate and procure their peaking needs at a future date, said Greg Shepler, principal consultant at EnerVision.

In the RFP, GFS Electric Cooperative noted that it "is acting as agent on behalf of the [three co-op] members and is coordinating the process and evaluation of proposals for this RFP. Each GFS member will be party to their own contract(s) for any products or services that may be procured as a result of this RFP."

The co-op group is seeking "any and all types of intermediate power supply proposals including, but not limited to, unit contingent power, blocks of power (including load shapes), and renewable resources," the RFP said. GFS Electric Cooperative said that it prefers proposals for a minimum of five years, although shorter terms will be considered. Proposals are to be priced-based on markets of October 19, 2011.

EnerVision said that the co-ops expect to identify a short list of finalists and begin negotiations with them by November 11.

The RFP is available at the "Active Power Supply RFP's" section of EnerVision's website, [www.enervision-inc.com](http://www.enervision-inc.com). The primary contact for RFP-related questions is EnerVision's Shepler; he can be reached by email at [greg.shepler@enervision-inc.com](mailto:greg.shepler@enervision-inc.com), or by telephone at 678-510-2921 (office) or 678-525-2017 (mobile).

The Guadalupe Valley, Fayette and San Bernard co-ops are among four co-ops and six municipal utilities in Texas that opted not to extend their full-requirements power supply contracts with LCRA. LCRA's 33 other co-op and muni customers decided to extend their deals with the agency for another 25 years past June 24, 2016.

The fourth co-op is Central Texas Electric Cooperative; the six munis serve the cities and towns of Kerrville, Seguin, Georgetown, Boerne, Yoakum and New Braunfels.

Like the Guadalupe Valley, Fayette and San Bernard co-ops, the others decided to secure wholesale power on their own because they believe they can do so at a lower cost than LCRA, and can also minimize the volatility of their power costs over the long term.

—Housley Carr