2026 Request for Proposals

Clean Industry Fund: Feasibility Studies

Issue Date: April 1, 2026 **Closing Date: June 26, 2026**, at 23:59

DELIVERY OF PROPOSALS: Proposals must include the Feasibility Studies Proposal Form and Feasibility Studies Budget Template in the format they were provided. All documents are available for download on the Clean Industry Fund website. Proposals must be submitted by email to the email address below.

ENQUIRIES: Enquiries related to this RFP, including any requests for information or clarification, should be directed to the Program Advisor via the email address below. The Clean Industry Fund website will be updated regularly as questions are received and responses provided. Questions submitted to the Program Advisor less than three **(3) business days** before the Closing Time may not be answered. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon. The Proponent should check the Clean Industry Fund website prior to submitting their proposal, for any updated information.

Program Advisor and Proposal Email Address:

CleanBCIndustryFund@gov.bc.ca

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1. Clean Industry Fund Overview

The Clean Industry Fund (CIF) is intended to support the province's industrial operations in decarbonizing and adopting innovative clean technologies. Funding is provided for a range of projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and stimulate investment in cutting edge technology, while supporting industrial competitiveness in British Columbia (B.C.).

CIF is available to Regulated Operations in B.C., as defined under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act (GGIRCA).* Regulated Operations are controlled by industrial operators that participate in the B.C. Output-based Pricing System (B.C. OBPS). Industry sectors that are excluded from the B.C. OBPS are also excluded from CIF, including electricity import operations, energy utilities, greenhouse growers, and waste management and remediation services. For further details regarding Regulated Operations, see Part Two of The BC Output-Based Pricing System Program and Reporting Guidance. For complete CIF Feasibility Studies eligibility requirements, see Section 3 below.

The Feasibility Studies (FS) stream funds desktop studies that help determine the operational, technical, and/or economic viability of an industrial emissions reduction project.

1.1 Program Advisor

A Program Advisor is available to support throughout the application process. This includes supplying information on requirements, including expectations of the Proposal content and eligibility criteria. They cannot however provide definitive statements about whether a given Proposal complies with these requirements.

Proponents are encouraged to contact the Program Advisor at any stage of the application process (CleanBCIndustryFund@gov.bc.ca) to address any questions or concerns related to this RFP, and prior to submitting a final Proposal.

2. Definitions

Throughout this RFP and all associated documentation, the following definitions apply:

"**Addenda**" means all additional information regarding this RFP, including amendments to the RFP;

"Associated" in relation to emissions and a Regulated Operation, means emissions, other than carbon dioxide produced from biomass listed in item 1 of Schedule C of GGERR and emissions that are captured and are not emitted to the atmosphere as stipulated under Section 3(5) of GGERR, that are not Attributable to the Regulated Operation but originate from the operation, or from mobile equipment or on-road vehicles used and owned by the Regulated Operation within B.C.;

"Attributable" in relation to emissions and a Regulated Operation, means emissions that are Attributable to the Regulated Operation under Section 3 of GGERR for the purpose of emission reporting, excluding carbon dioxide produced from biomass listed in item 1 of Schedule C of GGERR and excluding emissions that are captured and are not emitted to the atmosphere as stipulated under Section 3(5) of GGERR;

"B.C. OBPS" means the British Columbia Output-Based Pricing system;

"**Certification"** means a statement that a Proponent has certified as being true in its Proposal;

"**Closing Time**" means the closing time and date for this RFP as set out on the cover page of this RFP;

"**Compliance Obligation**" means the compliance obligation as defined under GGIRCA;

"**Compliance Report**" means a compliance report as defined under GGIRCA;

"**Eligible Expenses"** means Eligible Expenses as defined in the Feasibility Studies (FS) Funding Agreement Template;

"**Emission Reduction Quantification Guidelines"** means the Emission Reduction Quantification Guidelines set out in Section 4 of this RFP;

"**Emission Report**" means an emission report as defined under GGIRCA;

"Fiscal Year" means the period from April 1st of a calendar year to March 31st of the following calendar year;

"FS" means the Feasibility Studies stream of CIF;

"**Funding Agreement**" means the written agreement resulting from the RFP executed by the Province and a successful Proponent;

***"*Funds Available"** means funds available to be disbursed by the Province under the Funding Agreements within a Fiscal Year in accordance with all applicable appropriations, Treasury Board directions or policies of the Province;

"GGERR" means the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation, B.C. Reg. 249/2015, as amended from time to time;

"GGIRCA" means the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act,* S.B.C. 2014, c. 29, as amended from time to time*;*

"**Government Electronic Mail System**" or "**GEMS**" means the electronic mail system of the Province;

"**Greenhouse Gas**" or "**GHG**" means the gases listed in the Schedule to the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation*, B.C. Reg 392/2008, as amended from time to time;

"**Ineligible Expenses"** means Ineligible Expenses as defined in the Feasibility Studies (FS) Funding Agreement Template;

"Interconnection Study" means a BC Hydro Transmission Connection studies, which is mandatory for projects requiring a new or upgraded connection to BC Hydro's transmission system. This includes System Impact Study (Step 1 & 2) and Facilities Studies.

Maximum Amount" means the amount of funding requested in a Proposal from the Clean Industry Fund Feasibility Studies RFP (not to exceed 75% of budgeted Eligible Expenses);

"**must**," or "**mandatory**" means a requirement that must be met for a Proposal to receive consideration;

"New Entrant" means a new entrant as defined under GGIRCA;

"Notification Date" means the date on which Proponents are notified of the outcome of their Proposal;

"**Operator"** means an operator as defined under GGIRCA;

"Opted-In Operation" means an industrial operation that is designated under section 20.1 of GGIRCA as a Regulated Operation;

"Primary Contact" means the individual identified in the Project Profile section of the Proposal Form as the person responsible for Proposal submission and review;

"**Program**" means the Clean Industry Fund;

"Program Advisor" means the individual identified in Section 1.1 of this RFP, whom Proponents or potential Proponents may contact for information and support in how to respond to the RFP as well as guidance regarding RFP scope and criteria to clarify eligibility requirements;

"**Project**" means various related capital expenditures, facility improvements, or software improvements that will lead to a reduction in the quantity of GHG emissions at an eligible Regulated Operation, measured in tCO_2e;

"**Proponent**", with respect to a Proposal, means the person or entity (excluding its parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates) with the legal capacity to contract, named as the Proponent in the Proposal;

"**Proposal**" means a written response to the RFP that is submitted by or on behalf a Proponent;

"**Province**" means His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of British Columbia;

"**Recipient"** means a Proponent who has entered into a Funding Agreement;

"Regulated Operation" means a regulated operation as defined under GGIRCA;

"Request for Proposals" or **"RFP"** means the solicitation described in this document, including any attached or referenced appendices, schedules, or exhibits and as may be modified in writing from time to time by the Province;

"**should**," "**may,**" or "**weighted**" means a requirement having a significant degree of importance to the objectives of the Request for Proposals;

"**Study**" or **"Feasibility Study"** means the work undertaken by the Proponent as described in the Proposal and/or committed to in the Funding Agreement;

"Study Partner" means a person or entity who will implement the Study with the Proponent, other than a Sub-contractor;

"Study Summary Report" means the document submitted by the Proponent to the Province upon completion of the Study summarizing the results, and other knowledge gained through the Study;

"**Sub-contractor"** means a person or entity retained by the Proponent to implement some or all of the Study;

"**tCO_2e**" means metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

3. Scope and Eligibility

3.1 Program Objectives

The Feasibility Studies stream has the following objectives:

- To provide funding to support the completion of Feasibility Studies related to Projects supporting industrial decarbonization and emissions reductions at Regulated Operations.
- To remove barriers, decrease risks, clarify costs and/or support a business case for a future emissions reduction Project at a Regulated Operation.
- To support new pathways for GHG emission reductions for Regulated Operations.
- To support industry-led innovation in clean technology solutions.

3.2 Industrial Operation Eligibility

To be eligible for funding:

- The Proponent must be the Operator of a Regulated Operation. Industrial Reporting Operations that are not a Regulated Operation are not eligible.
- The Regulated Operation may not be designated as a New Entrant.
- Opted-In Operations are eligible if they have been designated as a Regulated Operation at the time of application.
- The Operator of each Regulated Operation identified in the Proposal must have submitted a GGIRCA emission report for the 2024 reporting period for the Regulated Operation. The Operator of each Regulated Operation identified in the Proposal must also have submitted a GGIRCA emission report for the 2023 and 2022 reporting periods for the Regulated Operation or must have included in the Proposal a Certification that it was, at the relevant time, either not the Operator of the Reporting Operation required to submit a report or that the operation was not a Reporting Operation during the relevant calendar year.

3.3 Study Eligibility

To be eligible for funding:

- The Study must investigate the feasibility and/or advance the concept of a potential Project that would support industrial decarbonization and emissions reductions.
- Studies must be scoped to support Projects that reduce Attributable or Associated emissions at the Regulated Operation or develop a technology that has the potential to reduce these emissions in the future.

Eligible study types may include, but are not limited to:

- Front End Engineering Design (FEED) work.
- BC Hydro Transmission Customer Interconnection Studies related to large industrial electrification projects.

Ineligible work includes, but is not limited to:

- Studies that investigate a potential implementation at greenfield facilities.
- Construction and procurement activities.

Each Proposal may describe only one Project. Multiple Proposals may be submitted for distinct Projects. A Proposal for a given Project may only be submitted to one CIF stream per funding year. If the Province determines that Proposals have been submitted for substantively the same Project to more than one funding stream, it may disqualify that Project from consideration in one or all streams.

3.4 Study Timing

- The Study must not have started.
- The Study must be scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2029.

3.5 Funding Amount

- CIF will fund at most 75% of the Study's Eligible Expenses.
- Proponents may stack funding from external sources, including the government, for up to 75% of Eligible Expenses. The Proponent and/or Study Partners must fund at least 25% of Eligible Expenses.

3.6 Funding Terms

Proponents will only be eligible to receive CIF funding after the date on which a Funding Agreement is signed with the Province and only for Eligible Expenses which are incurred after the date the Proponent is notified in writing of its success (the "Notification Date").

- Funding terms are set out in the FS Funding Agreement Template.
- Total funding will not exceed the maximum amount of Provincial funding as set out in the Funding Agreement.
- The Funding Agreement includes terms that require repayment of some or all funds if the Recipient fails to substantially complete a milestone by the milestone deadline, or if a Project is abandoned.

4. Emission Reduction Quantification Guidelines

Proponents must provide a rough preliminary estimate of potential emission reductions at the site of the Regulated Operation associated with the Project that the Study is addressing and potential emission reductions that may be achieved more broadly in B.C. through commercial adoption of the technology or process, if applicable.

Submissions should describe the method or rationale used to produce these estimates. If the purpose of the Study is to determine emissions reduction estimates for a process or technology, Proponents are required to describe the mechanism of emissions reductions that is being explored, the standard practice in their operation(s) and the industry and the potential application in B.C. The methodology employed in producing emissions reductions estimates must be conservative, comprehensible, and reproducible by technical reviewers for the Proposal to meet the minimum standards for consideration. Submissions should describe the method and/or the rationale used to produce these estimates.

5. Evaluation Process

The FS stream employs a competitive RFP process. Following the close of Proposal intake, potential projects will be evaluated and ranked based on the information provided in the FS Proposal Form.

Evaluation of Proposals will be conducted by an evaluation team formed by the Province that may include Provincial technical program staff, and other appropriate participants. As the evaluation team may include people external to government and/or the CIF program, proponents must ensure that all relevant information is clearly described in the proposal form responses for it to be considered during evaluation. Any contractors of the Province hired to evaluate Proposals will be required to sign confidentiality acknowledgements or agreements and provide conflict declarations as a condition of participation as an evaluator.

Proponents may be disqualified from competing if any relationship with a member of the evaluation team gives rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest or may give the Proponent an unfair advantage.

5.1 Mandatory Criteria

For a Proposal to be considered, a Proponent must clearly demonstrate that they meet the following mandatory criteria, which are evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. Proposals not clearly demonstrating that they meet the following mandatory criteria will be excluded from further consideration.

Mandatory Criteria	Points
The total funding requested from the Clean Industry Fund is less than or equal to 75% of the Proposal's budget of Eligible Expenses.	**Pass/Fail**
The Proposal is submitted as set out in the Instructions of the Proposal Form and in accordance with section 7.2 of the RFP.	
The Proponent certifies that the Certifications in Section 7 of the Proposal Form are true.	
The Study is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2029.	
The Study has not yet begun.	

5.2 Weighted Criteria

Proposals that meet all mandatory criteria in Section 5.1 will then be assessed using the Weighted Criteria below. The scores from each weighted criteria category will be added together to give an overall score.

Weighted Criteria	Weight
Study Summary • The Study has a defined scope and the reason for undertaking the Study is sound. • The Study addresses unknowns and/or uncertainties that could be barriers to implementing an emissions reduction Project. • The Study will help remove barriers, decrease risks, and clarify costs for future emissions reduction Projects. • Clearly articulated outcomes that would lead to the project being declared a success. This could include financial, technical performance, environmental and/or social impact metrics.	**25**
Meeting Program Objectives • The Study will support work related to a potential project that would support industrial decarbonization and emissions reductions at a Regulated Operation in B.C. • The Study demonstrates a value to the industry and support for industry-led innovation in clean technology solutions. • The Study has the potential to support new pathways for GHG emission reductions for large industrial emitters in B.C.	**30**
Project Team Credentials • The Study project team and their credentials/experience will support the successful delivery of the Study.	**10**
Study Timeline • The Study timelines and completion dates are realistic and appropriate for the scale of the Study. • Studies with earlier start and completion dates are preferred.	**5**
Potential GHG Emissions Reductions & Market Potential • Magnitude of potential emissions reductions at the Regulated Operation(s) if the Study results in a Project. • Estimates of emissions reductions at the Regulated Operation(s) (including mechanism of emission reduction, standard practice at the operation(s) and any assumptions) are clearly explained. • Potential application in B.C. through commercial adoption of the technology or process.	**30**
TOTAL	**100**

5.3 Overall Score and Ranking

Proposals will be ranked according to their overall scores out of a possible 100 points. The highest-ranking Proponents will be selected to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Province, until funding is exhausted. Proponents – successful, waitlisted, and unsuccessful – will be notified regarding the outcome of the evaluation process.

6. Reporting

6.1 Study Summary Report

Successful Proponents must provide the Province with a Study Summary Report upon completion of the Study. This report should summarize Study results, any barriers to implementation or operation encountered, and any other lessons learned which may advance the overall knowledge base for entities seeking to implement the same or similar technologies at their facilities. Information in this report may be shared publicly and will be considered non-confidential.

6.2 Feasibility Study Results

Successful Proponents must also provide the Province with the Feasibility Study Results. This report will be confidential and is expected to include:

- Original Study objective
- Scope and methodology
- Analysis
- Results

7. RFP Process Rules

7.1 Submission of Proposal does not Create Contract

Submission of a Proposal does not create any contractual or equitable rights in relation to the conduct of the RFP. Having said this, Proponents should not submit a Proposal unless they are willing to enter into a Funding Agreement.

7.2 Submission of Proposals

a) Proposals must be submitted before Closing Time to the email address indicated on the cover page of this RFP. Proposals must not be sent by fax or mail. The Proponent is solely responsible for ensuring that the Province receives a complete Proposal, including all attachments or enclosures, before the Closing Time.

b) For email Proposal submissions, the maximum size of each attachment must be 20 MB or less (Proponents are solely responsible for ensuring that email Proposal submissions comply with any size restrictions imposed by the Proponent's internet service provider).

c) Proponents should submit email Proposal submissions in a single email and avoid sending multiple email submissions for the same opportunity. If the file size of an electronic submission exceeds the applicable maximum size, the Proponent may make multiple submissions (multiple emails for the same opportunity) to reduce attachment file size to be within the maximum applicable size. Proponents should identify the order and number of emails making up the email Proposal submission (e.g. "email 1 of 3, email 2 of 3…").

d) Proponents submitting more than one Proposal should submit the Proposals separately and ensure that each respective Proposal is clearly distinguished from other Proposals of the Proponent with unique titles and descriptions.

e) For email Proposal submissions sent through multiple emails, the Province reserves the right to seek clarification or reject the Proposal if the Province cannot determine what documents constitute the complete Proposal.
f) Attachments must not be compressed, must not contain a virus or malware, must not be corrupted and must be able to be opened. Proponents submitting by electronic submission are solely responsible for ensuring that any emails or attachments are not corrupted. The Province may reject Proposals that are compressed, cannot be opened, or that contain viruses, malware, corrupted attachments, or files.
g) For email Proposal submissions, including any notices of amendment or withdrawal, the subject line of the email and any attachments should be clearly marked with the name of the Proponent, the RFP issue date and the Study title. Attachments must be labelled in accordance with instructions in The Feasibility Studies Proposal Form.
h) The Proponent bears all risk associated with delivering its Proposal by electronic submission, including but not limited to delays in transmission between the Proponent's computer and the Government Electronic Mail System.
i) While the Province may allow for email Proposal submissions, the Proponent acknowledges that email transmissions are inherently unreliable. The Proponent is solely responsible for ensuring that its complete email Proposal submission and all attachments have been received before Closing Time. If the Government Electronic Mail System rejects an email Proposal submission for any reason, and the Proponent does not re-submit its Proposal by the same or other permitted submission method before Closing Time, the Proponent will not be allowed to re-submit its Proposal after Closing Time without incurring associated late submission penalties detailed in section 7.4.

7.3 Additional Information

All Addenda will be posted on the Clean Industry Fund website or sent to Proponents at the contact information provided in the Proposal. Proponents are strongly encouraged to ensure that their contact information is up to date.

7.4 Late Proposals

Proposals will be marked with their receipt time. Only complete Proposals received and marked before the Closing Time will be considered to have been received on time. Proposals received late will be marked late and may be considered or evaluated at the Province's discretion, subject to a 5-point deduction in the Proposal's overall score. The Province reserves the right to accept or reject funding for non-compliant proposals.

In case of a dispute with respect to email Proposal submission, the Proposal receipt time as recorded in the Government Electronic Mail System email address for delivery of Proposals will prevail whether accurate or not.

7.5 Changes to Proposals

By submitting a clear and detailed written notice, the Proponent may withdraw its Proposal before or after the Closing Time. The Proponent will not be permitted to change any part of its Proposal after the Closing Time unless requested by the Province for clarification purposes. The Province will take into account the effect any change would have had on proposal eligibility, evaluation and ranking were the change included in the original proposal; the Province reserves the right to not accept any change, require changes to funding agreement terms or immediately withdraw the offer to enter into a funding agreement with the Province.

7.6 Conflict of Interest/No Lobbying

A Proponent may be disqualified if the Proponent's current or past corporate or other interests, those of an employee, director or officer of the Proponent, or a proposed Study Partner or Sub-contractor, may, in the Province's opinion, give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest in connection with the funding described in the RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement by a Proponent in the preparation of the RFP or a relationship with any employee, contractor or representative of the Province involved in the preparation of the RFP, preparation of evaluation guidelines, participating on the evaluation committee or in the negotiations or administration of the Funding Agreements. If a Proponent is in doubt about whether there might be a conflict of interest, the Proponent should consult with the Program Advisor before submitting a Proposal. By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent represents that it is not aware of any circumstances that would give rise to a conflict of interest that is actual or potential, in respect of the RFP.

A Proponent must not attempt to influence the outcome of the RFP process by engaging in lobbying activities. Any attempt by the Proponent to communicate for this purpose directly or indirectly with any employee, contractor, or representative of the Province, including members of the evaluation committee and any elected officials of the Province, or with the media, may result in disqualification of the Proponent.

The Proponent may contact the Program Advisor to discuss Study Proposals and clarify or provide guidance on the RFP requirements or process. The Program Advisor is not involved in the evaluation of Proposals.

7.7 Study Partners

The Province will accept Proposals where more than one organization or individual is proposed to deliver the Study, so long as the Proposal identifies the lead Proponent as the Operator of a Regulated Operation and that the Proponent will have sole responsibility to implement the Study under the Funding Agreement. The Province will enter into a Funding Agreement with only the Proponent, but may require additional contractual representations, warranties and covenants from other parties involved in completion of the Study, including persons who are the owners or operators of facilities or equipment where the Study includes capital expenditures, facility improvements, or software improvement at Regulated Operations that are not owned and operated by the Proponent, or in relation to equipment that is not owned and operated by the Proponent.

All Study Partners, including affiliates of the Proponent, should be clearly identified in the Proposal.

A Proponent may not enter into a partnership with a firm or individual whose current or past corporate or other interests may, in the Province's opinion, give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest in connection with the funding described in the RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement by the firm or individual in the preparation of the RFP or a relationship with any employee, contractor or representative of the Province involved in the preparation of the RFP, participating on the evaluation team or in the administration of the Funding Agreement. If a Proponent is in doubt as to whether a proposed Study Partner might be in a conflict of interest, the Proponent should consult with the Program Advisor prior to submitting a Proposal. By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent represents that it is not aware of any circumstances that would give rise to a conflict of interest that is actual or potential, in respect of the RFP. All Study Partners, including affiliates of the Proponent, should be clearly identified in the Study Proposal.

7.8 Evaluation

Proposals will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria. The Province will be under no obligation to receive further information, whether written or oral, from any Proponent. The Province is under no obligation to perform any investigations or to otherwise verify any statements or representations made in a Proposal. The Proposal

should include substantive information to allow for independent evaluation without requiring additional information. If the Province deems it necessary to verify any statements or representations made in a Proposal, the Province may take this into account in evaluating the Proposal if, in the Province's sole discretion, the information should reasonably have been provided in the submitted Proposal.

7.9 Negotiations toward Funding Agreements

a. After evaluating all submitted Proposals, the Province intends to enter into Funding Agreements with the Proponents whose Proposals receive the highest rankings. The number of Proposals selected for Funding Agreements will depend on the Province's assessment of whether sufficient funds are available in each Fiscal Year to support the maximum funding amounts requested. This decision will also consider whether the proposed payment schedules and related security arrangements are acceptable to the Province for each individual Proponent.

b. If a written Funding Agreement cannot be finalized with provisions satisfactory to the Province within thirty days of notification of a successful Proponent, the Province may, at its sole discretion at any time thereafter, or earlier if the successful Proponent is unwilling or unable to enter into or continue funding agreement finalization, terminate discussions with that Proponent.
The Province may terminate finalization with a Proponent immediately if the Proponent indicates that it is unwilling to enter into a Funding Agreement that provides for payment of the Maximum Amount structured on terms, including security provisions, acceptable to the Province.

c. If, after initial negotiations have concluded, the Province deems there is sufficient funds available, the Province may choose to fund the next highest ranked Proposal subject to the successful negotiation of a Funding Agreement.

d. If, after funding has been allocated to the highest-ranking Projects, some amount of funds remains that is less than the funding amount requested by the next highest-ranking Project, then the Project Proponent may be offered an opportunity to enter into a Funding Agreement for the remainder of the funds available.

e. If, subsequent to offering Funding Agreements that provide for a reduction in overall funding below levels that would otherwise apply, the Province determines that there are additional Funds Available, the Province will offer to Proponents with the highest ranked Proposal that were offered an opportunity to enter into a Funding Agreement that provides for a reduction in overall funding, and have not entered into such an agreement, the opportunity to enter into a Funding Agreement for funding with what the Province considers commensurate with Funds Available;

f. Funding Agreements will include provisions generally described in EP Funding Agreement Template and include such other terms and conditions to be finalized to the satisfaction of the Province, if applicable.

g. A Proponent will not acquire any legal or equitable rights or privileges relative to funding from the Fund by virtue of having been identified as a successful Proponent to the RFP.

7.10 Proponents' Expenses

Proponents are solely responsible for their own expenses in participating in the RFP process, including costs in preparing a Proposal and for subsequent finalizations with the Province, if any. The Province will not be liable to any Proponent for any claims, whether for costs, expenses, damages, or losses incurred by the Proponent in preparing its Proposal, loss of anticipated profit in connection with any final Funding Agreement, or any other matter whatsoever.

7.11 Limitation of Damages

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent releases the Province from any claim for damages, for whatever reason, relating directly or indirectly to the competitive process set out in this RFP but excluding any claims based on breach of Funding Agreements.

7.12 Liability for Errors

While the Province has used considerable efforts to ensure the information in the RFP is accurate, the information contained in the RFP is supplied solely as a guideline for Proponents. The information is not guaranteed or warranted to be accurate by the Province, nor is it necessarily comprehensive or exhaustive. Nothing in the RFP is intended to relieve Proponents from forming their own opinions and conclusions concerning the matters addressed in the RFP.

7.13 No Commitment to Award

The RFP should not be construed as an agreement to provide funding. The RFP does not commit the Province in any way to award a Funding Agreement.

7.14 No Implied Approvals

Neither acceptance of a Proposal nor execution of a Funding Agreement will constitute approval of any activity or development contemplated in any Proposal that requires any approval, permit, or license pursuant to any federal, provincial, regional district or municipal statute, regulation, or by-law.

7.15 Legal Entities

The Province reserves the right in its sole discretion to:

- disqualify a Proposal if the Province is not satisfied that the Proponent is clearly identified;
- before entering into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent, request that the Proponent confirm the Proponent's legal status (or in the case of a sole proprietorship, the Proponent's legal name and identification) and Certification in a form satisfactory to the Province that the Proponent has the power and capacity to enter into a Funding Agreement;
- not enter into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent if the Proponent cannot satisfy the Province that it is the same legal entity that is the Operator of the Regulated Operation; and
- require security screenings for a Proponent who is a natural person, Study Partners, Sub-contractors and key personnel before entering into a Funding Agreement and decline to enter into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent or to approve a Sub-contractor or key personnel that fail to pass the security screenings to the Province's satisfaction.

7.16 Reservation of Rights

In addition to any other reservation of rights set out in the RFP, the Province reserves the right, in its sole discretion:

a) to modify the terms of the RFP at any time before the Closing Time;

b) to cancel the RFP at any time before entering into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent;

c) in accordance with the terms of the RFP, to accept the Proposal or Proposals that it deems most advantageous to itself;

d) to waive any non-material irregularity, defect or deficiency in a Proposal;

e) to request clarifications from a Proponent with respect to its Proposal, including clarifications as to provisions in its Proposal that are conditional or that may be inconsistent with the terms and conditions of the RFP, without any obligation to make such a request to all Proponents, and consider such clarifications in evaluating the Proposal;

f) to reject any Proposal due to unsatisfactory references or unsatisfactory past performance under contracts with the Province, or any material error, omission or misrepresentation in the Proposal;

g) to reject any Proposal where the Operator of the Regulated Operations associated with the Study is out of compliance with GGIRCA or is determined not to be a Regulated Operation;

h) to reject any Proposal which the Province determines in its sole discretion contains a false Certification;

i) at any time, to reject any or all Proposals; and

j) at any time, to terminate the competition without the award and provide funding by other means or do nothing.

7.17 Ownership of Proposals

All Proposals and other records submitted to the Province concerning the RFP become the property of the Province and, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the RFP, will be held in confidence. For more information on the application of the Act, go to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (gov.bc.ca).

7.18 Copyright

This document is subject to copyright and may be used, reproduced, modified and distributed to the extent necessary for the Proponent to prepare and submit a Proposal.

7.19 Collection and Use of Personal Information

Proponents are solely responsible for familiarizing themselves and ensuring that they comply with the laws applicable to collecting and disseminating information, including resumes and other personal information concerning employees and employees of any Sub-contractors. If the RFP requires Proponents to provide the Province with personal information of employees who have been included as resources in response to the RFP, Proponents will ensure that they have obtained written consent from each of those employees before forwarding such personal information to the Province. Such written consents should specify that the personal information may be forwarded to the Province for the purposes of responding to the RFP and used by the Province for the purposes set out in the RFP. The Province may, at any time, request the original consents or copies of the original consents from Proponents. Upon such request being made, Proponents will immediately supply such originals or copies to the Province. For more information, Proponents may contact the Program Advisor.

7.20 Sub-contractors

A Proponent may not subcontract to a firm or individual whose current or past corporate or other interests may, in the Province's opinion, give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest in connection with the funding described in the RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement by the firm or individual in the preparation of the RFP or a relationship with any employee, contractor or representative of the Province involved in the

preparation of the RFP, participating on the evaluation committee or in the administration of the Funding Agreement. If a Proponent is in doubt about whether a proposed Sub-contractor might be in a conflict of interest, the Proponent should consult with the Program Advisor before submitting a Proposal. By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent represents that it is not aware of any circumstances that would give rise to a conflict of interest that is actual or potential, in respect of the RFP.

7.21 GGIRCA Compliance

Prior to entering into a Funding Agreement, the Operator of each Regulated Operation identified in the Proposal must be in compliance with GGIRCA, unless waived at the discretion of the Province.

If any documents required under GGIRCA have not been submitted, then the Province may terminate negotiations with the successful Proponent as described in Section 7.9 (Negotiations Toward Funding Agreements).

7.22 Proposal Eligibility for Government Funding Opportunities Beyond the Scope of this RFP

In exceptional circumstances, including if future funding becomes available, the Province may award funding outside of the scope of this RFP to a submitted Proposal. In such an instance, the Province reserves the right to publish Study information, funding amount and the basis for providing the Study funding. The intent of awarding funding in this manner is to allow submitted Proposals to be eligible for other funding opportunities that may be time-limited and/or unanticipated when this RFP was issued.

8. Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions

The Province intends to enter into Funding Agreement negotiations with the Proponents whose Proposals meet all mandatory criteria and receive the highest total scores. Proponents should carefully review the terms and conditions described in FS Funding Agreement Template.

As a condition of finalization of the Funding Agreement, a successful Proponent must ensure that the documents required under Section 7.22 (GGIRCA Compliance) have been submitted to the Province.