

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SEEA RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE FIELD STUDY RFPs FOR GEORGIA AND LOUISIANA

Number	Question	Response
1	Our understanding of the RFP is that the final deliverable to SEEA is the clean and final data collected during the on-site field visits. So the selected contractor does not need to analyze the data and submit a report on the results. Is this correct?	The final deliverables are the clean and final data delivered in the Excel data tool provided by SEEA, as well as photos and any other supporting data. The contractor will not conduct any data analysis.
2	Is SEEA interested in hiring the same or different contractor teams to cover both GA & LA?	The RFP processes for GA and LA are independent.
3	We've led a number of residential energy code studies and our sense is that the \$150,000 budget is substantially lower than the actual budget necessary to collect in-person energy code and performance testing data from 140 unique homes. Is there any flexibility to either (1) increase the budget and/or (2) reduce the scope?	The maximum budgets are based on prior experience. Building performance testing is only required for the final inspections.
4	Questions and concerns regarding access to homes for testing.	SEEA and partners will be working in each state to familiarize builders and code officials with the field studies and socialize the beneficial outcomes. As field studies have been done previously, there are several methods that will be recommended to identify prospective homes and gain entry.

5	Are the presented sampling plans fixed or is SEEA open to altering those sample locations?	The sampling plans are fixed. There has been a lot of analysis and vetting through strategic advisory committees. There are 63 required samples. It is not uncommon that there are instances in which another data point might need to be found, which is why we asked respondents to budget for 70 to allow for these instances.
6	Is this for data collection only or will the team be responsible for building recruitment as well?	A separate team member is doing a stakeholder engagement activity, they will work on creating buy-in in the community. The data collection team will be responsible for identifying specific homes and gaining entrance.
7	In the past, SEEA has had separate contractors for the field data collection and stakeholder engagement. Will there be a separate organization assisting with stakeholder engagement?	Yes, there is a separate organization in both states assisting in stakeholder engagement.
8	It seems the proposer is responsible for finding homes to conduct data collection. Is this correct? If so, is there any support or are there any resources SEEA will provide to identify homes for data collection?	Partners will work on stakeholder engagement. We also have learned through our own experience and partners, tips and tricks for identifying homes and gaining permission to access them. We will provide whatever we can to the team. In the past we have provided business cards, one-page flyers, polo shirts, clipboards, etc. Some people find these helpful, while others do not. The data collection team will work with SEEA to see what makes sense for them and the communities they are working in to gain entrance to homes.

9	Can the builder disallow taking picture/or collecting data on a specific part of the building in progress?	The builder can disallow anything, which is why it is important to convey that it is completely anonymous. In the past, by keeping things more casual, most builders are willing to allow entry, while others do not. It depends on the rapport that can be built.
10	Do you have general pitch sample to the builders or their reps to allow us into the building?	Yes! Training will be available from PNNL to the selected teams.
11	Is the data being collected exclusively through spreadsheets/field apps or is there some kind of energy modeling software being used during collection?	The data collection teams will use whatever tools they want to collect the data. We recognize many teams may use apps BUT that information needs to be translated to the spreadsheet data collection tool to be reported to SEEA. That spreadsheet is what we need. The PNNL team that does the data analysis and modeling will use the data from the Excel spreadsheet.
12	Will equipment be provided? Especially for air quality?	We are not leaving any equipment in the house. We are not measuring air quality. SEEA is not providing equipment. Our expectation is that the field staff will have calibrated blower door and duct test equipment. This is the only testing equipment that will be needed.
13	Is there a list of tools needed to take around each location?	Blower door and duct leakage test equipment

14	Can you provide a copy of the data collection spreadsheet?	It is in the process of being updated by PNNL. We can provide a copy of the spreadsheet we have previously used which is substantially similar. This will allow the respondent to understand the mechanics of it. We will put this on our website and email it out to conference attendees. Understanding it will be updated before this study.
15	Will there be a more detailed training in the future?	Yes, SEEA and PNNL will collaborate around a likely day long virtual training for the selected data collection team.
16	Just to be sure I understand... We should budget for inspections in 140 homes?	Budget for 70 pre-dry wall inspections which are walk-throughs with photos. Budget for 70 final inspections, which include walk through, photos, and blower door and duct leakage test.
17	Any assessment of ventilation strategies?	This is something SEEA will likely add. It is not a requirement but we will probably collaborate with the data teams on what that looks like in terms of what we ask for on our form. We want to first understand if the home is meeting the code, then understand if they are doing anything above code. For instance, in SC we asked if the bathrooms and kitchens had hoods/fans vented to outside.
18	Do you recommend an average # (budget) to a Team?	We do not, that is up to you.

<p>Will the remaining time be for data collection or will there be some time out of that year that needs to be spent on stakeholder meetings or other things? How much time will the data collection team really have for collection?</p>	<p>We have already started, especially in LA, socializing the project and doing the stakeholder engagement. We are a little further behind in GA. We want to get moving as quickly as possible. We will also have a team of people apart from the data collection team to conduct stakeholder engagement, it does not hurt for the data collection team to attend stakeholder engagement meetings.</p>
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<p>Will the code convention in Louisiana be before or after the data collection team has been chosen?</p>	<p>The code convening is September 18th, our hope is that we will have a data collection team selected in LA before that convening. Attendance is not mandatory.</p>
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