HEET | May 2026

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Geothermal Energy Network (GEN) Electric Grid Impact Study

Flagg Loop Framingham Massachusetts

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Purpose and Introduction

The potential for Geothermal Energy Networks (GENs) or Thermal Energy Networks (TENs) to provide significant support to the electric grid has been proposed by numerous researchers and industry advocates (Buonocore, et al., 2022; Rodriguez et al., 2025, Simpson et al., 2025, Liu et al., 2023). To move to the next phase of quantifying the ability of these Networks to support the electric grid, HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team) in partnership with Eversource Gas are launching a study to measure these grid impacts under a grant from the US Department of Energy. The grant, for which HEET is the primary recipient, is titled "DE-EE0010662.0002 Home Energy Efficiency Team Utility-Managed Geothermal Pilot in Framingham, Massachusetts", and its main purpose is to install and deploy an ambient-loop geothermal network that will deliver building heating and cooling needs to a site in the Framingham neighborhood. The proposed distribution loop will be the first utility-led geothermal network that will connect to an adjacent operating geothermal network. The existing operating distribution loop, located on Concord St is referred to as the 'Concord Loop' and the proposed distribution loop will be referred to as the 'Flagg Loop', as it is located over Flagg Dr.

HEET is accepting proposals from qualified industry consultants primarily to measure, and to develop a robust methodology to measure, these electric grid impacts. Additionally, the proposals should identify pathways to monetize these electric grid impacts. The awarded federal grant includes the following scope of project objectives (SOPO) regarding the Grid Impact Study for this project,

Subtask 12.3 Develop, Implement and Execute Monitoring Program to Determine Electric Grid Impacts of the Framingham Geothermal Loops

Summary: HEET will work with the Deployment Partner (Eversource Gas) and an external consultant subcontractor to design and implement a monitoring plan to study and analyze grid effects from the Framingham Geothermal Loops. The goal is to collect the data needed, such as power flow and voltage measurements, on the electric distribution system to analyze and quantify the impacts of networked geothermal systems on the grid and compare those with other electrification scenarios to identify potential grid benefit opportunities. Additionally, this effort would involve creating a standard approach to quantify and monetize any grid benefits, including at the ISO level. HEET proposes engaging with a measurement and verification

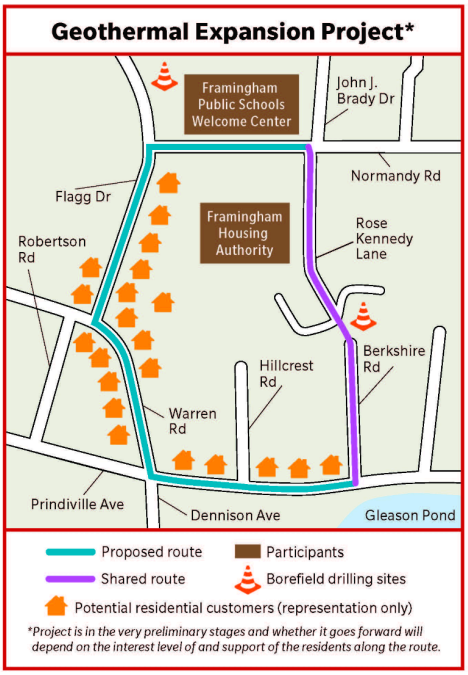
consultant with extensive electricity distribution industry experience, trusted by ISO, for the independent study, based on this monitoring and data, that quantifies the impacts (both for this loop and for such systems at scale) on the electric grid. Any available existing electric grid data that is able to be used from the Deployment Partner will be leveraged.

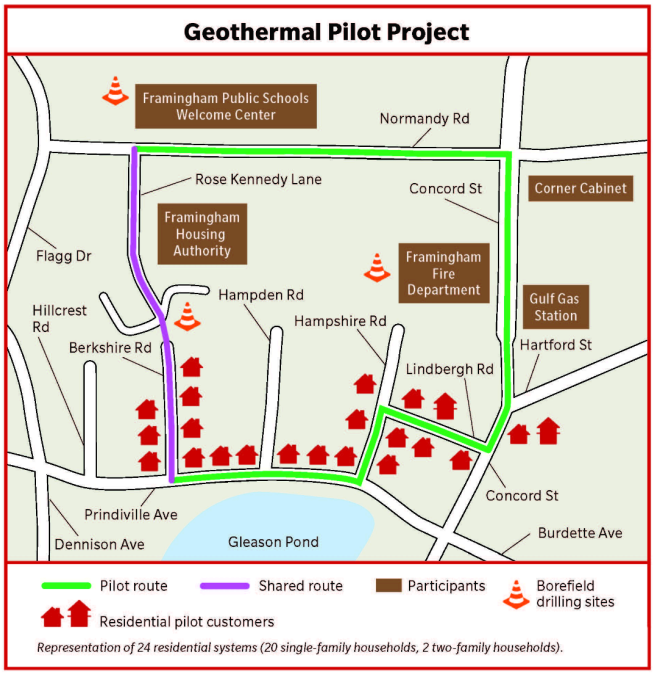
Flagg Loop Geothermal Network

The Flagg loop (expansion) project, which is dependent on approval by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), would be located directly adjacent to the existing geothermal network pilot neighborhood installed by Eversource.

The Flagg loop is designed to include:

- 37 buildings with
    - 23 single and multi-family homes along Flagg Dr, Warren Rd and Prindiville Ave
    - 13 Framingham Housing Authority units along Rose Kennedy Lane
    - one school building.
- Estimated capacity of 295 tons, roughly doubling the size of the existing loop capacity
- One additional borefield
- 0.61 miles of additional main pipe





Fuels used for Heating

- 20 of the single and multi-family homes use gas for heating. The three remaining homes use delivered fuels for heating.
- The 8 of Framingham Housing Authority (FHA) buildings use gas for heating and 5 use electric resistance heating. Each of these buildings has 8 to 12 one-bedroom apartments.
- The school building uses gas for heating.

If completed, this would be the first utility geothermal network loop to connect to an adjacent operational loop, establishing guidelines for network growth.

Billing

The payments for this award will be done by reimbursement on a monthly basis. Payment terms are Net 30. Invoices to be sent to accountspayable@heet.org. The Financial Proposal and invoices should include specific personnel and associated hourly rates times number of hours to corroborate basis of cost. After the award is granted, the Financial Proposal will not be increased. Submit any proposed equipment budget separately.

Milestones

Task	Completion Window
Kick-off Meeting	July 30, 2026
Measurement Design	Sept 30, 2026
Develop Alternative Electrification Scenarios (for instance Air Source Heat Pump conversion). These scenarios need to be compared to geothermal network grid impacts in the Final Report	Sept 30, 2026 (at request of multiple potential responders) this date is now Nov 30, 2026
Implement Measurement Protocol	Oct 30, 2026
Collect and Analyze Data	Oct 30, 2026 to end of Project
Create Initial Standard Approach to measuring and monetizing grid impacts in a “Playbook” for other	Nov 30, 2026

programs to follow	
Regular Quarterly Review of Results	Ongoing until Final Report
Initial Report and Final Draft Playbook	Nov 30, 2027
Final Report and Finalized Playbook	Nov 30, 2028

RFP Timeline

Date of Issue	May 14, 2026
Public Forum for Questions *Register for webinar here:* *https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/iAWBq-I6SXiB9h5-palaLQ*	May 28, 2026, 12 PM ET
Response Due	June 19, 2026
Award Notification	June 30, 2026
Signed Agreement	July 15, 2026

Publication Protocol

None of the work procured under this RFP will be considered “intellectual property” nor will it be treated in any confidential or proprietary manner as the intention is to further promulgate GENs as electric network resources.

It is the expectation that learnings from this work will be published in different formats to be shared with multiple audiences, including technical conferences and journals, as well as plain language publications to reach wider audiences. All publications and presentations regarding any of the work related to this RFP will be developed in collaboration with HEET. All publications will require HEETs approval. A detailed publication protocol will be shared with the award recipient.

Criteria of Award

HEET encourages as much creativity and outside-the-box thinking as necessary to successfully complete this project. **Attachment 1** at the end of this document contains the Response Template that needs to be submitted by the respondents for consideration in this RFP. The evaluation team will use the following criteria to score the responses to this request for proposals:

Criteria	**Total Points**
Team Qualifications and Technical Capabilities	20
Project References	20
Proposed Study and Playbook Development	30
Applicability and Innovation	15
Financial Proposal	15

The evaluation team will grade each of these criteria for each proposal. HEET reserves the right to interview the respondents prior to awarding. Proposals are requested to be a fixed sum bid.

Attachment 1: Response Template

1. Responses must not exceed twelve (12) pages
2. Responses must be inserted into the format provided below and submitted as a PDF document and uploaded to: *forms.gle/QQ534aFARqD5syVq9*
3. Responses after the due date June 19, 2026 will not be accepted.

1. Respondent Contact Information

Company name _____
Address _____
Phone number _____
Tax ID # _____
Primary contact name_____
Preferred contact email _____
Responsible signatory _____

2. **Team Qualifications and Technical Capabilities** *(include qualifications, skills, experience of team leaders, team, relevant projects completed). Project References (summary of previous work relevant to this study) should be submitted as an attachment to this application and don't count towards the 12 pages).*

Please insert response here

3. Preliminary Proposed Study Design

Please insert response here

4. Potential Metering and Other Measurement Hardware Requirements

Please insert response here

5. Proposed Approach to Data Analytics

Please insert response here

6. Proposed Publication Strategy

Please insert response here

7. **Approach to Playbook Development**

Please insert response here

8. Project Management Approach

Please insert response here

9. Financial Proposal Please insert response here
10. Other Considerations Please insert response here

Please download this template and fill it out for your response.