

**Consultant: ESP Activity**

**Position Title: Consultant (Cybersecurity/Regulatory)**

**Location:** ESP Activity Philippine Office

## **Overview**

Energy Secure Philippines (ESP) is a multi-year program funded by the US Department of State. It aims to assist the Government of the Philippines (GPH) in promoting a more competitive power sector through investment mobilization, deployment of modern energy technologies, and support in policy reforms and regulation. Implemented by RTI International, ESP's overall goal is to enhance energy security and reliability in the Philippines. It focuses on advancing inclusive economic growth and resilient development through increased private investment, promoting advanced technology deployment, and boosting the energy sector's resiliency.

On January 20, 2025, the US Government issued Executive Order 14169 designed to revisit and realign the country's foreign assistance. Viewed through this lens, the America First policy frames U.S aid primarily as a tool to advance direct American interests and emphasizes strict alignment of assistance with U.S. national security, economic, and strategic priorities; a preference for measurable returns that make America safer, stronger, or more prosperous. Under this approach, foreign assistance is scrutinized for cost-effectiveness and political alignment, often favoring trade, investment, private-sector solutions, and cost-sharing, while reducing or restructuring programs seen as inefficient, dependency-creating, or insufficiently tied to U.S. interests.

## **Scope of Work**

Contractor will support ESP's Chief of Party and selected key personnel in advancing activities that build on the partnership between the US government, on one hand, and the Philippines' Department of Energy (DOE) and Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), on the other.

Specifically, Contractor will support in the ESP activity of assessing and strengthening the cybersecurity and cyber resilience readiness of selected Distribution Utilities (DUs) located along the Luzon Economic Corridor (LEC). The activity will be anchored on the DOE's Department Circular No. DC2025-01-0001, Institutionalizing the Energy Sector Cybersecurity and Cyber Resilience Framework, which establishes a sector-wide framework for cybersecurity and cyber resilience across energy sector stakeholders, including power generation, transmission, distribution, oil and gas, and utilization sector participants.

Additionally, Contractor will support in the ESP activity of providing technical assistance to the ERC in the performance of the latter's mandate under DOE's Department Circular No. DC2025-10-0019, Establishing the Policy Framework for the Integration of Nuclear Energy in the Country's Generation Mix for 2023–2050, to issue the required rules and regulations to integrate nuclear power plants (NPPs) into the grid. With the planned entry of NPPs into the Philippine power system, ERC must determine whether the existing grid interconnection standards under the Philippine Grid Code (PGC) and the Open Access Transmission Services (OATS) Rules are fully

applicable to nuclear technologies or require amendments to address nuclear-specific operational and safety characteristics.

## **Key Responsibilities**

Contractor's overall key responsibilities are as follows:

- Review in-depth, provide comments and recommend improvements, if any, of technical analyses and studies
- Coordinate with the team, DOE, ERC and relevant stakeholders for effective and efficient collaboration and to secure meaningful participation and consensus

Cybersecurity Readiness and Resilience Enhancement for DUs in the LEC:

- Review, comment and provide technical guidance on the assessment, findings and recommendations on DU-level compliance with applicable requirements and expectations under DOE Department Circular No. DC2025-01-0001 and other applicable standards.
- Review and comment on the design of mock cybersecurity exercises to test DU readiness for plausible cyber incidents affecting distribution operations and strategically significant customers.

Support to ERC on Interconnection Standards for NPPs

- Oversee the evaluation of NPP grid interface requirements including stability behavior, fault ride-through, protection coordination, SCADA/telemetry, power quality, and response to loss of offsite power.
- Review and comment on analyses of existing ERC interconnection and technical standards which may be applicable to NPPs, including provisions of the PGC and the OATS Rules.
- Review, comment and provide technical guidance on proposed amendments to existing ERC rules including the PGC and the OATS Rules.

## **Level of Effort:**

Anticipated level of effort is up to 80 days for the period of performance. The Contractor is expected to be flexible and sustain collaboration with ESP Activity during this time.

## **Period of Performance:**

June 22,2026 to February 28, 2027

## **Minimum Required Education & Experience**

- Master's degree in electrical engineering and 10 years work experience or bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and 15 years work experience (or other related major experience, including experience in electrical power equipment, interconnection and security and control systems).
- Extensive experience in utility operations and management, network planning, studies and application of the provisions of the PGC, engagements within the Philippine electricity distribution sector and planning and implementation of major electricity projects and programs

**Application Deadline**

All applications are due by June 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM Philippines Standard Time.