



# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY ASSESSMENT OF THE VCS DRAFT METHODOLOGY FOR ACCELERATED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT RETIREMENT USING A JUST TRANSITION

July 10, 2024

### INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world's most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Verra is committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving livelihoods, and protecting natural resources by working with the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs and tools that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits.

The [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) is our flagship program. It allows vetted projects to turn their GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs). Since its launch in 2006, the VCS Program has grown into the world's largest voluntary GHG program, with over 2,200 registered projects in 95 countries that have cumulatively generated more than 1.2 billion VCUs.

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [VCS Methodology Development and Review Process, v4.4](#) (MDRP), which allows stakeholders to develop new methodologies that set out procedures to monitor and quantify the reductions and removals of new project activities, thus expanding the eligibility of project activities under the VCS Program. Such new methodologies are submitted to Verra for review before undergoing a technical assessment by an approved, accredited validation/verification body (VVB).

### SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a technical assessment of [VCS Draft Methodology for Accelerated Coal-Fired Power Plant Retirement Using a Just Transition](#) developed under the Coal to Clean Credit Initiative (CCCI) led by [The Rockefeller Foundation](#), as per Section 3.5 of the *MDRP, v4.4*.

The proposed methodology quantifies net GHG emission reductions associated with the accelerated retirement of coal-fired power plants (CFPPs) with partial or full replacement of electricity generated by the CFPP with renewable energy (RE). The methodology ensures that the accelerated retirement of the CFPP is accompanied by a comprehensive, just transition (JT) plan and, subsequently, that this plan is implemented. The JT mitigates the potential negative impacts of accelerated retirement of CFPPs, such as loss of livelihoods of workers, their households, contractors, and communities. The methodology developer will fund and manage the development and assessment process for the methodology, including the costs for the VVB assessment.

The VVB assessment will follow an alternative process per section 2.1.2 of the *MDRP, v4.4*, with the following scope of assessment:

1. **Structure and clarity of the methodology:** Assessment of whether the methodology is written in a clear, logical, and concise manner that will enable project proponents to implement projects consistently and report project results transparently.
2. **GHG quantification:** Assessment of whether the approach for calculating baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, and emission reductions is appropriate, adequate, conservative, and in conformance with VCS Program rules and requirements. This must also include an assessment of the consistency of the equations and parameters with the GHG sources in the baseline and project scenarios and with the monitoring parameters.
3. **Baseline date assessment:** Assessment of whether the approach to determine the baseline date in the associated *VCS Module for Determining the Baseline Scenario Retirement Date for a Coal-Fired Power Plant* is effective and appropriate. The module provides procedures and requirements to determine the retirement date of a coal-fired power plant in the baseline scenario. The assessment must evaluate the procedures and requirements to determine the baseline date and the relevance and accuracy of the data sources.
4. **Additionality assessment:** Assessment of whether the proposed approach for demonstrating additionality, specifically the economic analysis of operating versus decommissioning CFPPs, is appropriate, including:
  - a) Robustness of the framework for evaluating the economics of CFPPs,
  - b) The assumptions and parameters used in the economic analysis, and
  - c) The relevance and reliability of the data sources and inputs.
5. **Verifiability:** Assessment of whether the methodology is sufficiently clear and specific to allow project proponents to transparently report project results that can pass validation and verification with high confidence.

In carrying out the above tasks and responsibilities, the contractor must at all times observe and adhere to VVB Best Practice.<sup>1</sup>



## QUALIFICATIONS

Verra is seeking a VVB that complies with the requirements set out in Section 5 of the [VCS Program Guide, v4.4](#).

Verra narrows the pool of eligible VVBs to those that meet the requirements and have the most relevant expertise and experience and forwards their applications to the methodology developer for selection.

Verra will use the following criteria for evaluating proposals:

1. Scope 1 accreditation
2. Experience with methodology and project assessments, preferably in the energy sector
3. Technical subject-matter expertise (external experts may be subcontracted to meet this requirement). This includes:
  - a) Experience and/or expertise in assessing the economics of operating and decommissioning CFPPs
  - b) Experience and/or expertise in assessing grid stability
  - c) Experience and/or expertise in just transition
4. Cost
5. Availability to comply with the proposed timeline

## MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

The VVB assessment is planned to start in Q3 2024, with a duration of approximately 14 weeks. The 30-day public stakeholder consultation will occur simultaneously with the start of the VVB assessment.

An indicative timeline for meeting key milestones and deliverables follows:

Task	Timeline
TASK 1: Prepare the draft Methodology Assessment Report	4 weeks
TASK 2: Prepare the final Methodology Assessment Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First-round VVB report with findings and revisions</li></ul>	6 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subsequent rounds of VVB report with findings and revisions</li></ul>	2 weeks



- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final Methodology Assessment Report with the addressed comments</li></ul> | 2 weeks |
|---|---------|

Any constraints on the duration and timeline of the assessment must be outlined by the respondent within the proposal.

## RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit the following as part of their proposals:

- A 2–3-page narrative detailing how the VVB will execute the scope of the work and deliverables as set out in Section 6 of the *MDRP, v4.4*, including a work plan and estimated timeline for the assessment
- The total number of methodologies assessed and a list with the name of each methodology assessed, the name of the GHG program under which each methodology was assessed, the sectoral scope, and the date on which each assessment report was issued
- The total number of projects validated and a list with the name of each validated project, the name of the GHG program under which the project was assessed, the date on which the validation report was issued, and the date on which the project was registered
- Cost Proposal
- Disclosure statement of services provided to the methodology developer (conflict of interest statement) in undertaking the scope of work
- A 1-page summary of qualifications of the consultant or consulting team and separately appended resumes/CVs (not to exceed two pages each)

All application materials must be submitted to Verra by email at [methodologies@verra.org](mailto:methodologies@verra.org) with the subject "VVB Proposal for Methodology for Accelerated Coal-Fired Power Plant Retirement Using a Just Transition" by close of business on July 31, 2024. Application materials will be shared with the methodology developer. Verra and/or the methodology developer may request a 45-minute call with the applicant VVB.

Interested respondents can submit clarifying questions on any of the above information to the same email address with the subject "Clarification: VVB Proposal for Methodology for Accelerated Coal-Fired Power Plant Retirement Using a Just Transition."

### Legal Nature of RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals, and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the RFP.

Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.