

ATTACHMENT N

PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL SYSTEM PLAN UPGRADES

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Part II.G of the ISO New England Open Access Transmission Tariff (the “Tariff”) (Sections II.46 – II.47~~8~~ and Attachment K) and this Procedure, the ISO shall classify upgrades as Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades during the Regional System Plan (“RSP”) process. Pursuant to established standards, that process is designed to collect and reflect broad input from all stakeholders through the Planning Advisory Committee (“PAC”). The PAC is composed of a wide variety of regional stakeholders, including Governance Participants (such as generator owners, marketers, load serving entities, merchant transmission owners and participating transmission owners), governmental representatives, public interest groups, state agencies (including those participating in the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners), retail customers, representatives of local communities, and consultants. The PAC meets regularly throughout the year.

This procedure describes the standards used by the ISO to identify Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades and the process for making such identifications pursuant to Part II.G of the Tariff.

The ISO may amend these standards and procedures from time to time, as appropriate, with input from the Reliability Committee and PAC.

II. STANDARDS FOR IDENTIFYING RELIABILITY TRANSMISSION UPGRADES AND MARKET EFFICIENCY TRANSMISSION UPGRADES

A. Identification of Reliability Transmission Upgrades

Reliability Transmission Upgrades are those upgrades necessary to ensure the continued reliability of the New England Transmission System based on applicable reliability standards. In applying the applicable reliability standards, some of the considerations that will be taken into account are as follows:

- available supply and transmission (*i.e.*, known resource changes, which includes anticipated transmission enhancements (considering Elective Transmission Upgrades and Merchant Transmission Facilities), demand side resources, and new, retired or unavailable generators);
- load growth;
- acceptable stability response;
- acceptable short circuit capability;
- acceptable voltage levels;
- adequate thermal capability; and
- acceptable system operability and responses (e.g. automatic operations, voltage changes).

To identify the transmission system facilities required to maintain reliability and system performance consistent with the applicable reliability standards, the ISO shall:

- determine whether the above factors are met using reasonable assumptions for certain amounts of forecasted load growth, and generation and transmission facility availability (due to maintenance, forced outages, or other unavailability); and
- rely on Good Utility Practice, applicable reliability standards, and the ISO System Rules.

A Reliability Transmission Upgrade is not an Upgrade required by the interconnection of a generator except to the extent determined under the terms of Schedule 11 to the Tariff. A Reliability Transmission Upgrade may also provide market efficiency benefits.

B. Identification of Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades

Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades are upgrades designed primarily to provide a net reduction in total production cost to supply the system load. Proposed Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades shall be identified by the ISO where the net present value of the net

reduction in total cost to supply the system load, as determined by the ISO, exceeds the net present value of the carrying cost of the identified transmission upgrade.

An upgrade identified as a Reliability Transmission Upgrade may qualify for interim treatment as a Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade if market efficiency is used to influence the schedule for the implementation of the upgrade. Such opportunities shall be identified by the ISO when the net present value of the reduction to total production cost to supply the system load, as determined by the ISO, exceeds the net present value of the Reliability Transmission Upgrade after it is advanced less the net present value of the upgrade for when it is projected to be needed for reliability.

1. Base Economic Evaluation Model

In making a determination of the net present value of bulk power system resource costs, the ISO shall take into account applicable economic factors that shall include the following projected factors:

- energy costs;
- capacity costs;
- cost of supplying total operating reserve;
- system losses;
- available supply and transmission (*i.e.*, known resource changes, which includes anticipated transmission enhancements (considering Elective Transmission Upgrades and Merchant Transmission Facilities), demand side resources and new, retired or unavailable generators);
- load growth;
- fuel costs;
- fuel availability;
- generator availability;

- release of bottled generating resources;
- present worth factors for each project specific to the owner of the project;
- present worth period not to exceed ten years; and
- cost of the project.

Analysis may include utilization of historical information such as may be included in market reports as well as special studies and should report cumulative net present value annually over the study period.

2. Other Data Provided to Stakeholders

Although not used to evaluate the net economic benefit of the system Upgrade, analysis may be provided to illustrate the net cost to load with and without the transmission upgrade – considering additional factors such as locational ICAP, congestion costs, and impacts on bilateral prices for electricity.

Summary

Based on information provided through such analysis and pursuant to the factors listed in (1) above, the ISO, in consultation with the PAC, will identify Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades to be included in the RSP. If however, during the course of their analysis, the ISO determines that without the project the applicable reliability standards will not be met, then the project will be designated as a Reliability Transmission Upgrade and included in the RSP as such.

III. PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING RELIABILITY TRANSMISSION UPGRADES AND MARKET EFFICIENCY TRANSMISSION UPGRADES

A. ISO Identification of Needs for Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade

1. An assessment of the adequacy of the region's electric system.

On a regular and on-going basis, the ISO shall conduct studies to identify the location and nature of any potential problems on the New England Transmission System. These assessments shall be conducted to identify those factors relevant to the standards for identifying needs which might be solved or mitigated by Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades, as specified in Section II of this Procedure.

The ISO will publish its identification of such relevant factors on the New England Transmission System on its website and to the PAC, thereby providing market signals for generation, merchant transmission and load responses to develop and implement market-based solutions for the relief of actual and projected system reliability concerns, transmission constraints and market inefficiencies. The ISO will also present the results of its assessments in appropriate market forums to facilitate market responses to those needs. Market responses having met appropriate milestones pursuant to ~~Attachment K~~Section II.48.3(b) of the Tariff will be included in studies to assess the effects of such market responses on the identified problems with reliability and market inefficiencies.

Based on input and feedback provided by the PAC, the ISO shall refer to the Markets Committee and Reliability Committee issues and concerns identified by the PAC for further investigations and consideration of potential changes to rules and procedures.

2. Adequacy of the market responses, and as necessary, adequacy of Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades

The ISO shall assess the adequacy of proposed market responses in addressing identified system needs. The ISO shall also ensure that there are no significant adverse effects associated with such market responses, pursuant to Section I.3.9 of the Tariff and Planning Procedure 5-3, "Guidelines for Conducting and Evaluating Proposed Plan Application Analysis".

If the market does not respond with adequate solutions to address the system needs identified by the ISO, the ISO shall present a coordinated transmission plan in the RSP that identifies appropriate projects for addressing both reliability and market efficiency needs.

This coordinated plan is updated by the ISO as market responses to identified problems are developed. Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades are implemented only after market solutions have been given first consideration.

3. Periodic Updates to the RSP

A Reliability Transmission Upgrade or Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade may be added to the RSP at any time in a given year, and in doing so the ISO shall consult with and consider input from the PAC and the Reliability Committee, within the scope of their respective functions.

The time required to implement transmission projects, however, is often longer than that needed for market-based solutions. Thus, the RSP process recognizes that a new market response could result in a deferral or a significant change in the proposed timing and/or configuration of a Reliability Transmission Upgrade or Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades. Also, a needed Reliability Transmission Upgrade or Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade may become delayed due to other factors.

As a result, the ISO may remove or defer a Reliability Transmission Upgrade or Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade project from the RSP at any time in a given year, if the market responds by developing credible market-based solutions, or other circumstances arise that impact the need for the Transmission Upgrade. If market-based solutions have not met appropriate milestones prior to significant sunk transmission expense being made to provide the Reliability Transmission Upgrade or Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade, then the ISO will assess the risks and costs associated with adding or advancing a transmission project from the RSP. The ISO shall consult with and consider input from the PAC and the Reliability Committee with regard to such changes in the RSP. In the event that a transmission project is removed, deferred, added or advanced, the ISO shall promptly notify the affected Participating Transmission Owners.

IV. COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND COST ALLOCATION DETERMINATION OF RELIABILITY TRANSMISSION UPGRADES AND MARKET EFFICIENCY TRANSMISSION UPGRADES

The cost-effectiveness and cost allocation of identified Reliability Transmission Upgrades and Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrades will be determined pursuant to the Tariff, ~~Attachment K~~Section II.48; Schedule 12; and Planning Procedure 4. The level of detail needed to fulfill the requirements of the RSP process and Planning Procedure 4 will ensure that, in addition to a determination of Pool-supported PTF costs and Localized Costs, the planning and stakeholder review processes will include a comprehensive examination of all Transmission Upgrade construction alternatives and their associated costs and will thus evaluate the cost-effectiveness of each Transmission Upgrade and its potential alternatives.

Sheet Nos. 6624-6999 reserved for future use.

ATTACHMENT B

PRO FORMA ITC OPERATING AGREEMENT

[RESERVED FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE FILING BY THE ISO]

Sheet Nos. 9101-9299 reserved for future use.