

Appendix D: Stakeholder Transparency and Review Processes for Asset Condition Projects

VERSION 2

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 2024

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Document History

This document will be reviewed and updated (if necessary) on a periodic basis. Revisions to the document will be posted on Transmission Owner Asset Management section of the ISO-NE website.¹

Rev. 0: Draft – 8/16/23

Rev. 1: Updates based on stakeholder feedback – Effective: 1/1/24

Rev. 2: Updates based on periodic review, revision to Appendix to Asset Condition Guide– Effective: 11/1/24

¹ <https://www.iso-ne.com/system-planning/transmission-planning/transmission-owner-asset-management>

Section 1 - Introduction

This document describes the postings and processes used by the Transmission Owners to provide stakeholders with information about potential asset condition-related needs on the New England Pool Transmission Facilities (PTF) and upcoming asset condition projects.

Pursuant to this document and commitments made to the PAC in 2023, the Transmission Owners annually update and post two files related to asset condition projects:

- 1) The Asset Condition Project Forecast, showing the anticipated future PTF asset condition projects over a forecast horizon of approximately five years, and
- 2) The Asset Condition Database, providing age-related information for major PTF components, including transmission lines, autotransformers, substation control houses, and circuit breakers

These postings are described in more detail in Section 2, below and are located on the [Transmission Owner Asset Management](#) section of the ISO-NE website. Additionally, ISO-NE maintains the Asset Condition List, which includes asset condition projects which have reached a sufficient level of maturity for a preferred solution and cost estimate to be presented to the PAC. The Asset Condition List is located on the [Regional System Plan and Related Analysis](#) section of the ISO-NE website.

Pursuant to ISO-NE [Planning Procedure 4](#) (“PP4”), the Transmission Owners must make presentations regarding upcoming asset condition projects to the ISO-NE Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).² An asset condition project PAC presentation is intended to explain the need for the project, alternative solutions considered during project development, and the rationale for the preferred solution. These presentations provide stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the development of the projects.

The timing recommendations for these presentations and the processes for responding to stakeholder feedback are described in Section 3, below. Appendix E to the Asset Condition Process Guide provides content guidelines for these presentations.

These guidelines establish suggested best practices for presentation content, formatting, and timing to provide a more consistent informational resource for stakeholders and are not meant to supersede or replace any ISO-NE Tariff or Planning Procedure requirements for asset condition transmission project reporting.

² “...the Planning Advisory Committee (“PAC”) shall review presentations for projects identified in the ISO-NE Asset Condition Project List (“Asset Condition Projects”) with estimated Pool Transmission Facility (“PTF”) costs greater than or equal to \$5 million prior to the submission of the associated TCA and the commencement of Major Construction.”

Section 2 – Asset Condition Project Transparency Postings

Section 2.1 – Asset Condition Project Forecast

On an annual basis, the TOs will publish a forecast of upcoming asset condition projects. At a minimum, this forecast will include all projects under development for which an asset condition need and cost range of a likely solution have been determined. The forecast will also include those currently being evaluated for a possible asset condition project, but for which no formal scope/cost estimates have been developed. It is expected that the cost and horizon of projects under development or under evaluation will evolve as their projects progress.

Section 2.2 – Asset Condition Database

On an annual basis, the TOs will publish a database of PTF assets, specifically lines, autotransformers, control houses and breakers. For each of these assets, the database includes information on asset age and inspection frequency. The database also includes information on the voltage and location of these assets. Information on breakers is provided in a CEII file, while the other information is provided in a public file.

Section 3 – Process for Stakeholder Review of Proposed Transmission Owner Asset Condition Projects

Section 3.1 - PAC Presentations

Upon completion of appropriate analysis (generally Step 4 of the Asset Condition Process Guide), the TO should provide a presentation to ISO-NE and request that the project be added to a PAC meeting agenda. Standard formats for these presentations are included as Attachments to the Asset Condition Process Guide and should be used wherever possible. Other formats are acceptable when an appropriate standard template is not available, so long as the information listed in Appendix E to the Asset Condition Process Guide is included.

The TO should use best efforts to provide a draft copy of the presentation to ISO-NE at least one month prior to the PAC meeting. The TO should then use best efforts to address any feedback received from ISO-NE prior to providing a final copy of the presentation for posting.

When practical, asset condition projects should utilize the guidance in Table 1 to determine the timing of presentations. TOs may deviate from this suggested timing, but should explain why a deviation was necessary when presenting the project to PAC. In addition to the cost estimate guidelines summarized in this table, presentations should also utilize the content guidelines provided in Appendix E to the Guide.

		Timing of Presentation	
		At least 6 Months Prior to Start of Major Construction	At Least 3 Months Prior to Start of Major Construction
Anticipated Project Cost	≥\$50M	Initial presentation with: Order of magnitude (+200%/-50%) cost estimates for all solution alternatives Request for written stakeholder comments within 15 days	Update presentation with: - Summary of initial presentation - Discussion of project changes since last presentation - Responses to any stakeholder feedback received, including feedback that led to project changes Selection of preferred alternative with Conceptual (+50%/-25%) cost estimate
	\$5M - \$50M	Initial Notification provided to PAC (Not subject to 6 months timing restriction)	Detailed presentation with: - Order Of Magnitude (+200%/-50%) cost estimates for solution alternatives not selected - Selection of preferred alternative with Conceptual (+50%/-25%) cost estimate - Request for written stakeholder comments within 15 days

Table 1: Suggested PAC Presentation Timing and Content

Section 3.2 - Update Presentation Requirements

In accordance with Section 6.4 of the Transmission Planning Process Guide,³ re-presentations are required if an estimated PTF project cost has increased by more than 50 percent of the originally presented estimate, and the increase is \$5M or greater. In addition, an updated presentation to the PAC may be requested by ISO-NE when there are significant changes in project scope.

Section 3.3 – Other Considerations

Project Consolidation

When feasible and appropriate, projects with similar needs or projects that are part of a system-wide replacement/upgrade program should be grouped into a single presentation.

Other General Guidelines

- a. Each slide should be marked with the presenting PTO's company name and logo
- b. PTOs should review presentations for information the PTO determines should be designated as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII).⁴ Any presentation containing CEII must be marked as such on each slide, including the title slide, and posted for stakeholder review following CEII handling guidelines.
 - i. If a presentation must contain CEII, then an additional redacted version of the presentation should be developed and posted publicly on the ISO-NE website.

³ https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2023/09/2023_09_08_pac_transmission_planning_process_guide.pdf

⁴ https://www.eversource.com/content/docs/default-source/Transmission/pto_ac_ceii_guideline.pdf