

From: [Daniel Berkowitz](#)
To: NESCOEstates@gmail.com; [PAC Matters List](#)
Subject: Bekaert Comments - Potential Transmission Needs for a Longer-term Transmission Planning RFP
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Dear NESCOE Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Potential Transmission Needs for a Longer-term Transmission Planning RFP. We appreciate NESCOE's proactive approach in addressing the critical objectives of strengthening the connection between northern and southern New England and facilitating the integration and deliverability of additional affordable generation resources located in northern Maine beyond Surowiec.

1. Strengthening the Connection Between Northern and Southern New England

To achieve this objective, we recommend the consideration of advanced steel core conductors, such as Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported/Trapezoidal Wire (ACSS/TW). These conductors offer several advantages:

- **High Capacity and Efficiency:** [ACSS/TW conductors can operate at higher temperatures without significant sag, allowing for increased current-carrying capacity and improved efficiency in power transmission¹.](#)
- **Reduced Line Losses:** [The advanced design of ACSS/TW conductors minimizes electrical losses, enhancing the overall efficiency of the transmission network².](#)
- **Enhanced Reliability:** [The robust construction of ACSS/TW conductors provides greater resistance to environmental factors, reducing the likelihood of outages and maintenance requirements².](#)

2. Facilitating the Integration and Deliverability of Additional Affordable Generation Resources in Northern Maine

To support the integration and deliverability of additional generation resources, we propose the following considerations:

- **Strategic Placement of Substations:** Establishing new substations in key locations can help manage the increased load and ensure stable power distribution across the region.
- **Grid Modernization:** Implementing smart grid technologies can enhance the monitoring and control of power flows, facilitating the seamless integration of new generation resources.
- **Flexible Transmission Solutions:** Utilizing flexible AC transmission systems (FACTS) can improve the stability and reliability of the grid, accommodating the variable nature of renewable energy sources.

Specific Preliminary Needs and Considerations

- **Environmental Impact Assessments:** Conduct thorough environmental impact

assessments to ensure that new transmission projects align with sustainability goals and minimize ecological disruption.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with local communities, industry stakeholders, and regulatory bodies to gather input and address concerns, fostering a collaborative approach to transmission planning.
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Perform detailed cost-benefit analyses to evaluate the economic feasibility of proposed transmission projects, ensuring that investments deliver maximum value to consumers.

Additional Feedback

- **Advanced Steel Core Conductors:** We strongly recommend the inclusion of advanced steel core conductors like ACSS/TW in the transmission planning process. [According to the Idaho National Laboratory Advanced Conductor Scan Report, these conductors can significantly enhance the capacity, efficiency, and reliability of the transmission network¹. Bekaert's white papers further highlight the advantages of steel core conductors, including their superior performance and cost-effectiveness compared to other conductor types¹.](#)

We believe that these recommendations will contribute to a successful solicitation and the development of a robust, future-ready transmission network for New England. Thank you for considering our feedback.

References:

1. **Idaho National Laboratory Advanced Conductor Scan Report:** [Advanced Conductor Scan Report](#)
2. **Bekaert White Papers on Advanced Steel Core Conductors:**
 - [Comparing Advanced Cores: Achieving Maximum Grid Capacity](#)
 - [Giga-Strength Steel White Paper](#)
 - [Reinforcing Aluminum Conductors with High Tensile Strength Beznal Coated Steel](#)
 - [Grid Efficiency: The Core Challenge](#)

Best Regards,

Daniel Berkowitz

Strategic Market Manager

Steel Wire Solutions North America – Energy & Utilities

M +1 470 764 5194

NV Bekaert SA

1395 South Marietta Parkway

Building 500, Suite 210
Marietta, GA 30067

bekaert.com

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