

# Consumer Liaison Group Meeting Summary

## December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

### Introduction

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The **Consumer Liaison Group (CLG)** is a forum for sharing information between ISO New England (the ISO or ISO-NE) and electricity consumers in New England. The CLG meets quarterly and attracts a diverse group of attendees at each meeting. Meetings are free and open to the public. Participants generally include consumers and consumer representatives (including state consumer and ratepayer advocates), state business and industry associations, chambers of commerce, individual businesses, trade groups, nonprofit organizations, and other end users. Several New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) members and state regulators are also regular, active participants in CLG discussions.<sup>1</sup> CLG meetings generally follow the same format:

- **Opening remarks** from a representative of the CLG Coordinating Committee;
- **Community welcome** from a member of the local community invited by the Coordinating Committee;
- **A representative from the ISO**, who provides an update on regional energy issues and initiatives that have or will be taking place at NEPOOL and ISO stakeholder meetings that can have an impact on electricity prices;
- **A keynote speech** typically from an industry or business executive, policymaker, or regulator—who provides a unique perspective on a particular topic or issue; and
- **A panel discussion**, often representing industry, the ISO, regulators, and consumer perspectives, facilitated by a moderator

The following is a brief summary of the meeting, which was hosted in a hybrid format – remotely and in-person in Boston, Massachusetts – on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**.

The Consumer Liaison Group Coordinating Committee (CLGCC) selects the topic and speakers. The meeting summary is intended to capture the general discussions that took place at the meeting; it does not necessarily reflect the views of the ISO or the CLGCC.

### December 3:

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**Meeting Objective:** To hear from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioner David Rosner and host a discussion with representatives from ISO New England’s Board of Directors.

#### Opening Remarks

**Nathan Phillips** welcomed meeting attendees and provided opening remarks. Phillips introduced John Walkey to give the community welcome.

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<sup>1</sup> NEPOOL is a group formed in 1971 by the region’s private and municipal utilities to foster cooperation and coordination among the utilities in the six-state region for ensuring a dependable supply of electricity. Today, NEPOOL members are ISO stakeholders and market participants. More information is available at [www.nepool.com](http://www.nepool.com).

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**John Walkey** reflected on community input and engagement in his welcome remarks. Using his experience as a community activist relating to the East Boston Substation, he drew a parallel between the rich history of the revolutionary-era battles in Boston, and community influence in the development of energy projects. Walkey reflected on how community movements, even if not successful in achieving their goals on one project, can apply lessons learned and have significant influence in the planning and development of future projects. He discussed the wins that Greenroots has been able to realize over the years: people in Boston neighborhoods actually thinking about the electrical grid and their electric bills; continuing education for communities about the electrical and including community perspectives in siting energy infrastructure. Walkey concluded his remarks by saying that we are at a point where technology & engineering reflect what was fought for in those original revolutionary battles: self-sufficiency, a system answerable to the people, and supporting national growth in a democratic and egalitarian manner.

### **Fireside Chat with FERC Commissioner David Rosner**

**Don Kreis**, New Hampshire Consumer Advocate and CLGCC co-chair (New Hampshire), introduced FERC Commissioner **David Rosner**, who noted his priorities are reliability and affordability. He said achieving these goals requires policies that unlock investment while maintaining strong state engagement. Rosner stressed that an “independent FERC” is a good model and fundamental to the commission’s work.

Rosner highlighted the scale of pending generation nationwide—citing 2 million MW awaiting interconnection—and explained how processes like the Large Load Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) invite broader dialogue, including state perspectives. He said that the great thing about an ANOPR is that it provides opportunities to talk about these issues, in comparison to the more formal process that follows a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR). He said the interconnection of large loads is being pursued because of economic development opportunities, but it needs to be done in way that protects consumers. Rosner thanked NASUCA (the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates) for submitting comments in the ANOPR proceeding.

Kreis asked the commissioner to reflect on FERC’s role in ISO governance. Rosner emphasized the importance of RTO governance that allows people to engage and share their views with the RTO and the board. He underscored states’ influence in RTO structures and cited FERC Order 1920, which elevates state participation in regional transmission planning. He also referenced Order 1920A when discussing cost allocation, reinforcing that states must have a voice in decisions impacting consumers.

Further discussion touched on market alignment under FERC Order 809 and emerging technologies like AI and cloud computing—again framed by the need for state collaboration to solve interconnection challenges and shape market evolution. Rosner argued that competitive markets deliver consumer savings but must keep evolving with state input. He pointed to accreditation for reliability as an example of reforms where states can help guide outcomes.

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Rosner highlighted “the power of consensus” that will ultimately get us the energy infrastructure we need, saying that “...when FERC just tells people what to do, that doesn’t work well.” He said that the way to drive change is through groups like the CLG. Rosner said that while there is always more work to be done, he expressed support for bringing more voices to the table through community engagement.

### **Discussion with Representatives of the ISO New England Board of Directors**

ISO New England Board Member **Catherine Flax** and ISO President and CEO **Gordon van Welie** provided opening remarks and then engaged the audience in a Q&A session. Flax provided an overview of the structure of the ISO Board and discussed her role as an economist serving on the Board’s Markets Committee. van Welie discussed his experience and offered insights on what he said has worked, and what has not, over the years. van Welie offered a retrospective on his time in the industry and highlighted the overall effect of the wholesale market system over the last 25 years, and how it has ultimately helped to shift risk away from consumers and onto private investors, saying that when states evaluate whether they’ve achieved their environmental policy objectives, they can point, in part, to the wholesale markets. He described the working relationship with the ISO and the states as positive, and said there is always room for improvement.

Other areas with room for improvement, van Welie said, include shielding consumers from price volatility, determining how to remove the silos between the interdependent gas and electric systems, and navigating environmental objectives.

A question-and-answer period followed and van Welie and Flax answered questions focused on the vision, governance structures and oversight of the ISO board of directors, and whether there are opportunities to be more transparent, or open certain processes, such as the process for nominating new directors to the ISO Board). Additional questions addressed demand response, the role of infrastructure, markets, capacity auction reforms, and the structure of the new role the ISO is undertaking as reviewer of Asset Condition projects, which are replacements of existing transmission facilities.

### **ISO New England Regional Update**

**Anne George**, vice president of external affairs and communications, and **Eric Johnson**, executive director of external affairs, provided [the ISO’s regional update](#), which focused on ISO news and upcoming events, ISO markets, recent grid conditions, the ISO’s 2026 budget, key projects, and public engagement.

[News, Resources & Events](#)

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- The ISO hosted the Regional System Plan 2025 public meeting on November 5. A recording of the meeting and materials are available on the [ISO Website](#). Summaries of the RSP 2025 can be found in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The final report is available [here](#).
- The ISO Board of Directors held an open board meeting on November 5. Members of the public were able to address the board directly during the listening session, and written comments were accepted prior to and after the meeting. Comments submitted to the Board prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, will be compiled and posted to the [ISO website](#).

### System Planning Update

- **Interconnection Process Transition (FERC Order No. 2023):** ISO has transitioned from a “first-come, first-served” approach to a “first-ready, first-served” cluster study process, introducing stricter financial and site control requirements and penalties for delays beyond established deadlines. The Transitional Cluster Study (TCS) is underway and scheduled for completion by August 6, 2026. It includes 26 projects—21 battery storage, 2 solar, and 3 wind—and will maintain close coordination with state-jurisdiction studies.
- **Longer-Term Transmission Planning (LTP) RFP:** ISO received six proposals—three AC transmission and three HVDC—each designed to support 1,200 MW of wind power in northern Maine. Cost estimates range from \$0.96 billion to \$4.04 billion, with in-service dates projected between Q4 2032 and Q3 2035 (target completion by December 31, 2035). Bid summaries are available on the [ISO website](#).
- **Asset Condition Reviewer Role:** Interim reviews of selected projects will begin in 2026, utilizing external consultants for technical expertise. A draft list of projects was presented at the October PAC meeting, and the ISO is soliciting stakeholder feedback to shape the permanent role. Framework discussions for the permanent AC Reviewer role will start in Q1 2026, with a summary of stakeholder feedback expected early in the year. Additional details are available on the ISO Newswire.

### Operations Update

- The [2026 Annual Work Plan](#) prioritizes **capacity auction reforms, the asset condition reviewer, LTP implementations and compliance, dynamic operating reserves, and implementation of major IT initiatives**, targeting modernization, efficiency, and risk management across markets, planning, operations, and software structures.
- ISO New England declared a Power Caution on the evening of Sunday, November 23, due to an unexpected loss of generation during the evening peak period. This was not a system emergency. ISO-NE’s highly trained system operators followed established procedures to maintain system reliability during the shortage period. See [ISO Newswire](#) for more information.

### Markets Update

- The Average Day-Ahead and Real-Time energy prices for October were \$40.28/MWh and \$40.88/MWh, respectively. Day-Ahead prices were higher than the previous month (up 18%

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from September 2025) and up 12% from the previous year (October 2024). Real-Time prices were also higher compared to the previous month (up 21% from September 2025) and higher than the previous year (up 17% from October 2024). Average Real-Time Load was down 5% compared to September 2025, and up 1% compared to October 2024

- The average natural gas price in October was \$2.41/MMBtu, up 14 % from \$2.12/MMBtu in September 2025 and up 32% year-over-year compared to October 2024. Average Natural Gas Price represents the volume-weighted average price of four ICE indices: Algonquin, Algonquin non-G, Portland, and Tennessee.

### ISO-NE Public Engagement

**Johnson** provided an update on engagement activities that ISO has undertaken in response to feedback from the CLG and suggestions for further public engagement in 2026. Johnson highlighted several areas where the ISO has taken action in response to requests from the New England States, such as:

- Conducted the first longer-term transmission study (2050 Transmission Study)
- Issued first longer-term transmission planning RFP in 2025
- Annually facilitates an open board meeting and comment submission
- Committed to development of an Asset Condition Reviewer role in 2026
- Created Policy Advisor, Environmental & Community Affairs role

ISO New England has hosted 67 CLG meetings across all six New England states over the past 16 years. A list of actions ISO-NE has taken to address feedback from the CLG can be found in the slide deck on the [CLG Webpage](#).

### **Closing Remarks**

**Regine Spector**, associate professor, University of Massachusetts Department of Political Science and CLGCC co-chair (Massachusetts) offered closing remarks and thanked everyone who helped to organize the CLG meeting. The next CLG meeting will be held on March 25, 2026, in Vermont.

A [recording](#) of the meeting is available on the [CLG page](#) on the ISO website.