



Asset Condition Review

List of Projects for Interim Review

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ISO as the New England AC Reviewer

- Strong desire in the region to have an independent entity, such as ISO New England, serve as the region's Asset Condition Reviewer (AC Reviewer)
- The ISO has agreed to take on this role, subject to the following limitations, which have been accepted by all New England TOs*:
 - The transmission owners will indemnify the ISO for any liability related to the ISO's reviewer role on asset condition projects, except for the ISO's gross negligence or willful misconduct;
 - The "Asset Condition Reviewer" role is advisory. It will not make decisions about whether to proceed with specific asset condition projects, nor will it be the petitioning party in any local, state or federal regulatory or siting proceeding concerning an asset condition project; and
 - The "Asset Condition Reviewer" will not make a legal finding on or issue an opinion on the question of whether the costs of any given asset condition project are prudent.

*On May 15, 2025, ISO New England shared via memo to NEPOOL, NECPUC, and NESCOE, its necessary requirements should it take on this role.

AC Reviewer: Vision

- Development of a framework to establish a new AC Reviewer role for the ISO is a novel undertaking in the industry and will require time, resources, and stakeholder engagement
 - The ISO has prioritized this as a key project for part of 2025 and 2026
- Under this new structure, New England TOs would continue to plan, develop, own and maintain transmission facilities for asset conditions in their service territory
 - The ISO does not currently propose, fund, or select these projects, and this would not change under this proposal
- The new function is envisioned to provide an independent review and opinion of asset condition projects submitted for review by the TOs
 - The review is intended to help better inform states and stakeholders, including Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) attendees

Plan Overview

- The ISO held an initial discussion at the September 2025 NEPOOL Participants Committee Meeting (see pdf pages 157-169)
- Additional discussion at the October PAC meeting
- As part of assuming the role as the AC Reviewer, the ISO will need to develop the internal structure to support the task, along with hiring additional staff with these specialized skills and knowledge, and will need to develop the documentation to support the responsibility
 - The current timeline to complete this task is approximately Jan 2027
- Due to the time required to develop a permanent structure vs continued asset condition projects (ACPs) being initiated by the Transmission Owners, stakeholders have requested that the ISO begin reviewing ACPs in an interim capacity in parallel with developing the role

Interim Reviews

- In response to stakeholder requests to begin assuming the AC Reviewer role as soon as possible, the ISO will be reviewing selected projects while permanent processes are in development*
 - Allows for lessons learned to be incorporated into the permanent process
- The ISO will utilize consultants to provide the necessary expertise to perform the interim reviews

*The ISO has already submitted data requests to Eversource on two asset condition projects

Approach for Interim Reviews

- The ISO has developed a proposed list of projects for stakeholder review
- The initial goal was to select approximately 10* projects that would:
 - Have significant potential cost, approximately \$50M or greater
 - Be of interest to stakeholders
 - Allow the process to be exercised for both overhead and underground transmission circuits
- The initial goal strikes a balance between starting the review process, staff availability, and budget
- These interim projects will be reviewed in 2026, as the TOs bring those selected projects forward to present and discuss at the PAC
- **ISO will discuss its project review findings at PAC**
 - The ISO is targeting a 3-month review period for each project, except for the Underground Cable Modernization Plan

*The first phase of the UCMP consists of numerous projects

Final List of Projects Subject to Interim Review

Project	Type	Conceptual Cost Estimate	Location	TO
Line 1670/1771	Line Rebuild	>\$120M	Central CT	Eversource
West Medway/West Walpole Corridor	Line Rebuilds	>\$75M	Southeast MA	Eversource
Underground Cable Modernization Plan	Multiple Cable Replacements	>>>\$50M	Eastern MA	Eversource
New Haven LPFF	Cable Replacements	>\$100M	Southern CT	Avangrid

Final List of Projects Subject to Interim Review

Project	Type	Conceptual Cost Estimate	Location	TO
Line 332	Line Rebuild	>\$75M	RI	Rhode Island Energy
I-135/J-136N	Line Rebuild	>\$200M	Western MA	National Grid
Line 394/397	Partial Line Rebuild	>\$100M	Northeast MA	National Grid
Line F206:	Partial Line Rebuild	>\$50M	VT/NH	VELCO
Highgate Converter replacement	Facility Replacement	>\$500M	VT	VELCO

Status and Next Steps

- Line 323 rebuild project was included in the initial list presented at the October PAC
 - The Transmission Owner has replaced this with the I-135/J-136N project
- ISO did not receive any additional comments on the interim list
- Reviews have begun on two of the items listed
 - Eversource, Line 1670/1771
 - Eversource, UCMP, first 5 projects
 - 346/365 cable pair (Woburn - N. Cambridge)
 - 351/358 cable pair (N. Cambridge - Mystic)
 - 329-530/531 cable pair (Brighton - Belmont)
 - 329-512/513 cable pair (Brighton - Carver St)
 - 496-528/529 cable pair (Baker St - Hyde Park)
- Reviews will begin on other projects as 2026 proceeds
- ISO will present the results of the reviews to PAC
- Lessons learned from the interim reviews and stakeholder feedback will be used to inform the development of the permanent AC Reviewer role

Questions



About the Presenter

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