



Forecasting Large Loads

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

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STATE POLICY ADVISOR



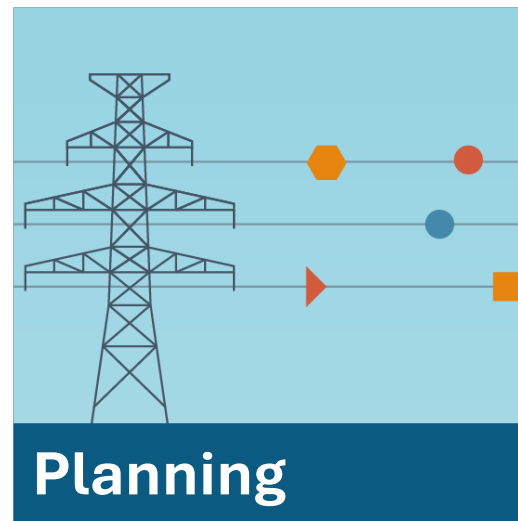
ISO New England Performs **Three Critical Roles** to Ensure Reliable Electricity at Competitive Prices



Coordinate and direct the flow of electricity over the region's high-voltage transmission system



Design, run, and administer the billion-dollar markets where wholesale electricity is bought and sold



Study, analyze, and plan to make sure New England's electricity needs will be met over the next 10 years

Things We Don't Do



Handle
retail electricity



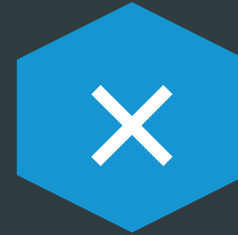
Own power grid
infrastructure



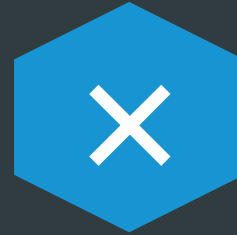
Have a stake in
companies
that own grid
infrastructure



Have
jurisdiction
over fuel
infrastructure



Have control
over siting
decisions



Plan the
resource mix



Overview of New Step Loads in New England

Phases of project development

1

Initial contact with Transmission Owner/Distribution Company with high level discussion of feasibility

2

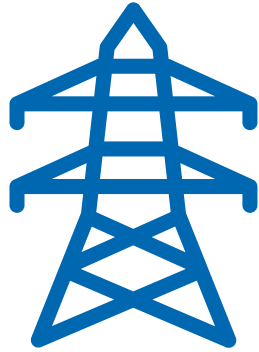
Formal Service application and System Impact Study Agreement

3

Commitment to proceeding with construction, with associated contracts and required construction payments

For more information, please see [ISO New England Correspondence with FERC Chairman David Rosner on Large Load Forecasting](#)

Preparations for Potential Large Load Additions



Engagement with **New England Transmission Owners (TOs)** regarding potential large load interconnections



Communication with **state policymakers, legislators and regulators** to understand incentives for data centers

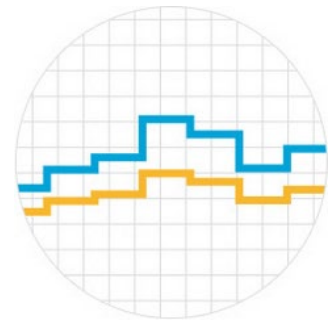


Research to understand the potential magnitude, timing, and likelihood of future impacts in New England

For more information, please see [ISO New England Correspondence with FERC Chairman David Rosner on Large Load Forecasting](#)

Forecasting Regional Electric Energy Use

- ISO New England is responsible for planning the regional transmission system over a 10+ year planning horizon
- Forecasting how much electricity the region will use in the future requires ISO system planners to weigh multiple variables
 - **Economic** activity and outlook
 - **Weather** and **load** patterns
 - Federal and state **policies reducing** electricity demand
 - Energy efficiency (EE) initiatives and distributed generation
 - Federal and state **policies increasing** electricity demand
 - Electrification of transportation and heating
- The [Capacity, Energy, Load, and Transmission](#) Report (CELT) is the foundational resource for the ISO's system planning and reliability studies
 - The forecast looks out 10 years and ISO updates the report annually in May



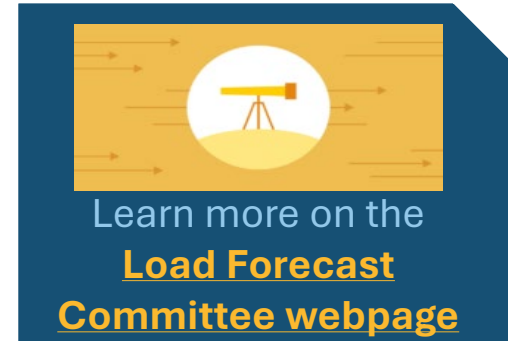
Prospective Large Loads in New England Are Limited in Number and Scale

- Large loads can be data centers, crypto mining facilities, industrial agriculture, EV charging depots, biotechnology labs and more
 - These loads are often highly uncertain in terms of relative timing to build out and their electric demand characteristics
- To date, New England has not witnessed the scale of data center proposals seen in other regions of the country
 - Recent data collected from TOs suggests that there are a couple hundred MW of large loads in the formal study phase



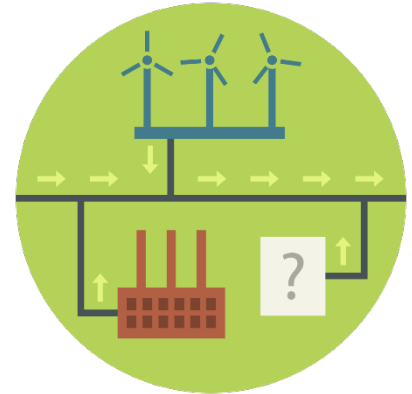
CELT 2026 Will Incorporate a New Large Loads Forecast

- ISO staff are actively participating in internal discussions, communications with other ISOs, and industry task forces and working groups to support ongoing data and knowledge acquisition
- The ISO is surveying TOs quarterly to collect information on prospective large loads
 - Survey responses will help the ISO proactively characterize and incorporate large loads into the long-term load forecast
 - Needed data sources and information are still being collected and researched



Forecasting Large Loads Has Challenges

- Most prospective large loads are seeking to connect at the retail level
 - At this time, ISO processes have limited visibility into detailed project information
 - ISO is working with the TOs to gain earlier visibility into prospective projects, including the new quarterly survey
- The ISO has very limited information on operational characteristics



Questions



About the Presenter



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