

Planning for Large Loads in New England



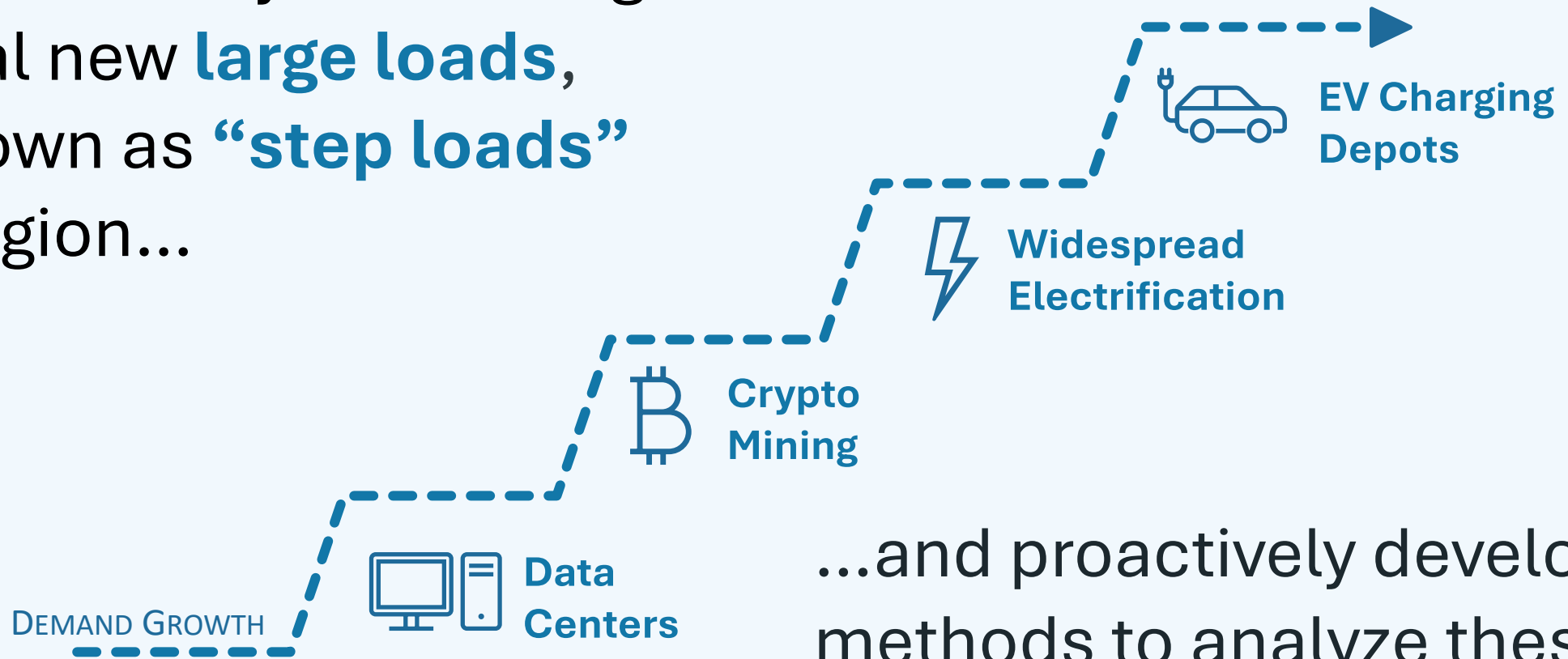
Consumer Liaison Group Meeting

Victoria Rojo

SUPERVISOR, LOAD FORECASTING



ISO-NE is closely monitoring potential new **large loads**, also known as “**step loads**” in the region...



...and proactively developing methods to analyze these potential loads' impact on **future demand**

ISO New England
has observed
three main
phases of large
load project
development



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

Formal Service application
and System Impact Study
Agreement



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

ISO-NE's 2026 CELT Includes Large Load Forecast



2026-2035 Capacity, Energy, Loads, and Transmission Report

*Large load forecast includes
projects ≥ 20 MW with formal
transmission study agreements*

**Proactively gather information on prospective
large loads in coordination with TOs**



**Determine derate factors and develop effective
project nameplate values**



Develop nameplate forecast



**Develop hourly profiles based on high-level
usage patterns, reflecting daily demand and
calendar effects**

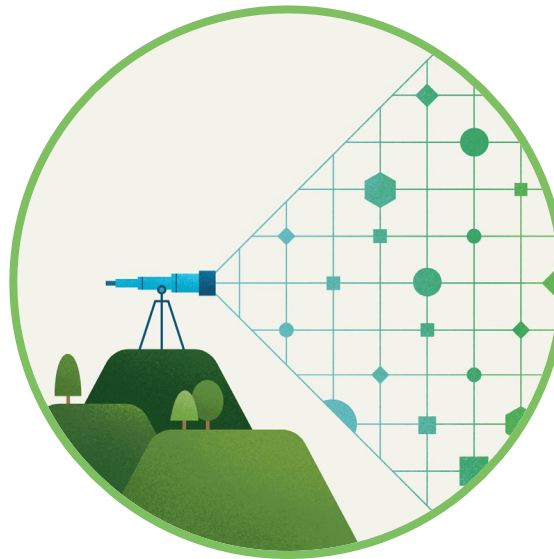
Key Takeaways: Large Load Outlook in New England

Current Status

- Limited, but potential for growth
- Only a few projects in formal study (<300 MW)

Near-Term Impact

- Minimal impact before **2027-2028**



Long-Term Outlook

- **~110–130 MW** impact to peak demand by 2030s–2040s
- Large loads expected to consume **~800 GWh** from 2030 to 2035, rising to **~1,000 GWh** in the 2040s

Large loads are **not yet a major driver of load growth in New England**, but **ISO-NE is proactively planning** for potential acceleration

Learn more: [ISO-NE establishes forecast framework for data centers, other 'large loads' - ISO Newswire](#)

Key Challenges & Planning Implications

Uncertainty in timing and realization

- Difficult to know which projects are viable
- Forecast depends on screening criteria

Unique operational and reliability risks

- Large loads can be:
 - Sudden (“step”) additions
 - Highly concentrated geographically

Potential mismatch between load growth and infrastructure timelines

- Large loads can come online in 1–2 years
- Transmission and generation take many years to develop

Potential System Impacts:



Resource Adequacy



Transmission Congestion



Voltage Stability

ISO-NE is preparing for the potential of large load additions, including through:



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

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

Research of methods and data sources to understand the potential magnitude, timing, and likelihood of future impacts of step loads in New England

