

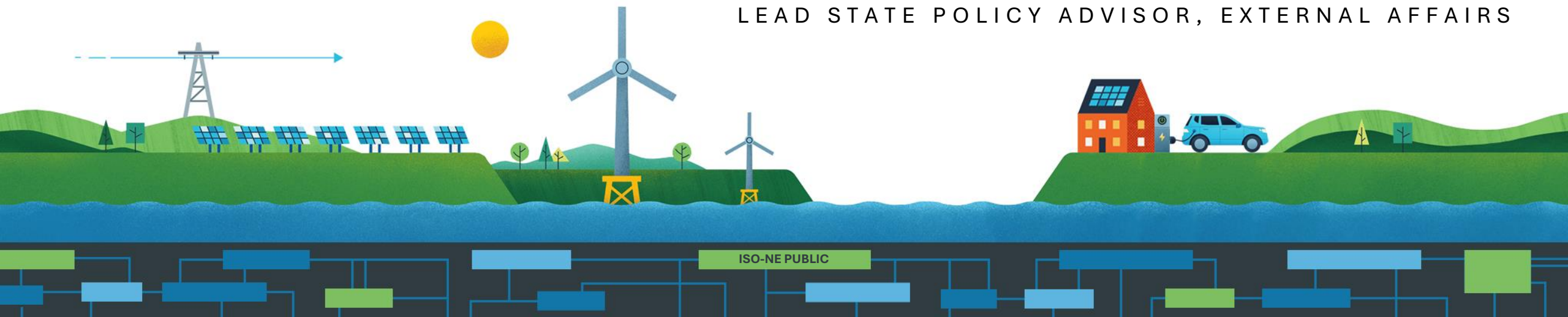
Highlight of System Planning Initiatives in New England

E2Tech Gridsilience Forum



Melissa Winne

LEAD STATE POLICY ADVISOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



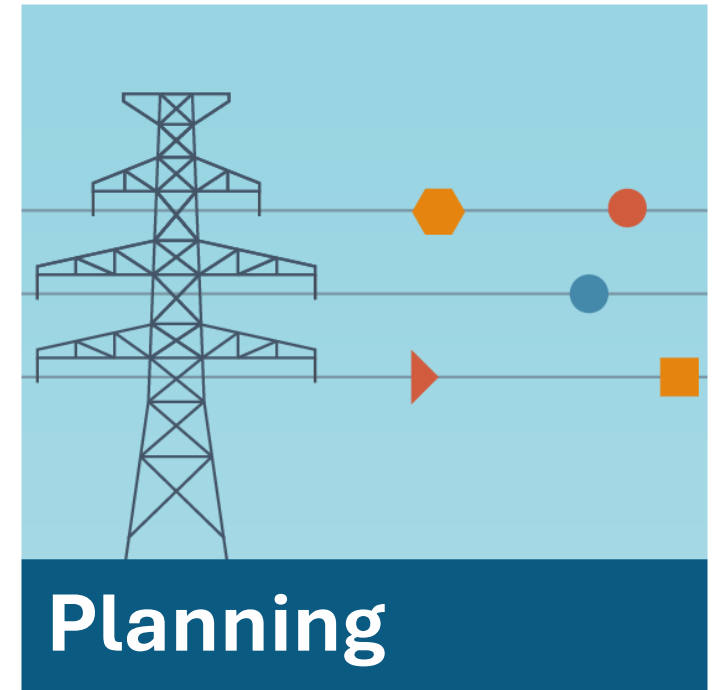
ISO New England Performs **Three Critical Roles** to Ensure Reliable Electricity at Competitive Prices



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

Overview of Transmission Planning

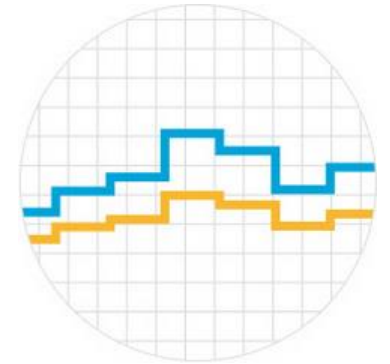
- As the **Regional Transmission Organization**, the ISO is required to identify transmission infrastructure solutions that are essential for maintaining power system reliability in New England
- Through an **open stakeholder process**, the ISO is responsible for the development of long-range plans to address future system needs over the ten-year planning horizon
 - Summarized in a **Regional System Plan (RSP)**
- The transmission planning process is governed by a **FERC-approved tariff**
- ISO-NE continuously revises the transmission planning process to comply with applicable FERC orders



[2025 Regional System Plan](#)
and [Plan Summary](#)

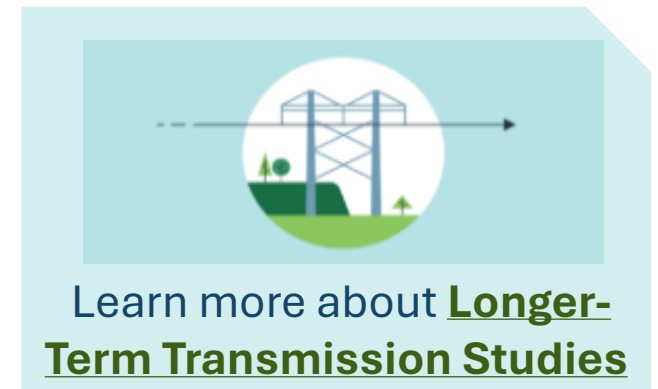
Forecasting Regional Electric Energy Use

- 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
 - ISO's 2026 CELT Report was released on May 1

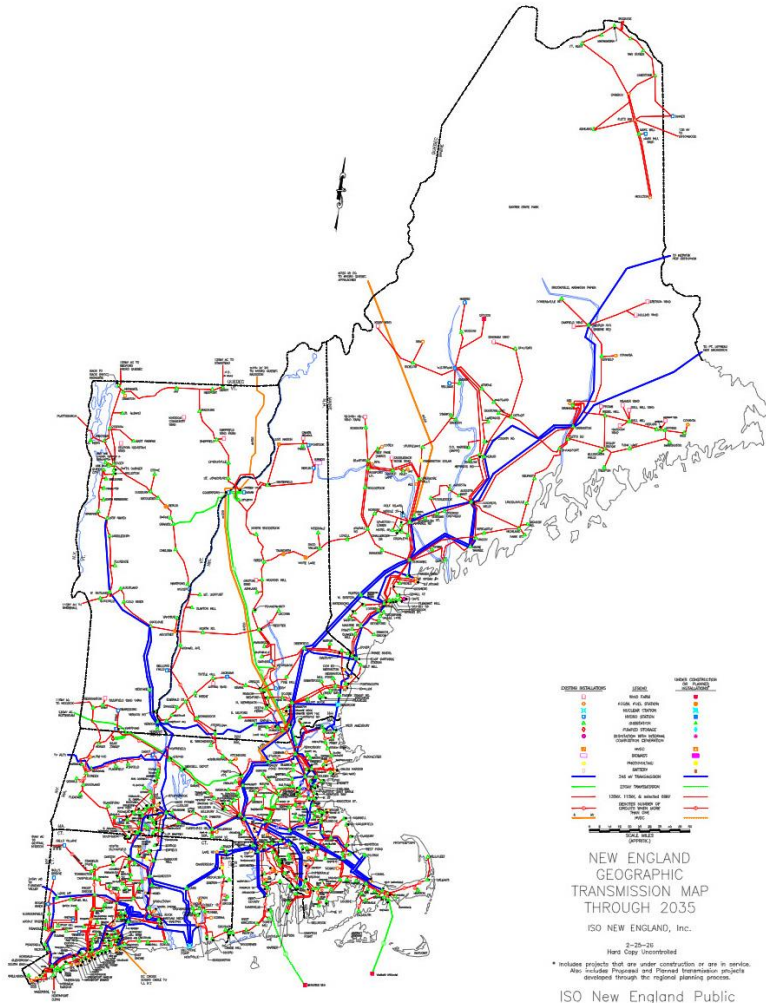


Longer-Term Transmission Planning (LTTP)

- 2020: New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE)'s [vision statement](#) recommended that the ISO work with stakeholders to conduct a **comprehensive long-term regional transmission study**
- 2024: [2050 Transmission Study](#) is the **first longer-term transmission study**
- 2025: At the direction of NESCOE, ISO issued a **request for proposals (RFP)** in March; proposals were due by Sept. 30.
 - The goal of the RFP is to upgrade transmission between northern ME and more populous regions in southern New England
 - ISO [released summaries](#) of the six proposals we received
- 2026: ISO will assess proposals and provide updates through the [Planning Advisory Committee \(PAC\)](#)
 - At the [March 24 PAC](#), ISO announced that two bids would proceed to the next step of evaluation
 - A **preferred solution** may be identified by Sept. 2026



Solving Transmission Needs: 2025 LTTP RFP

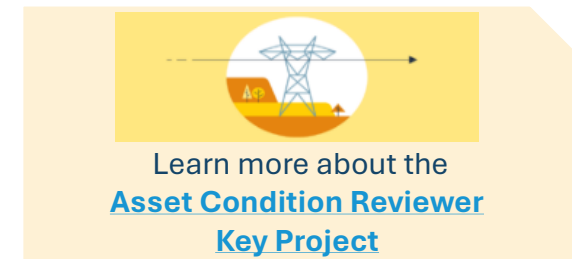


As requested by **NESCOE**, the RFP requires the following needs be addressed by Dec. 31, 2035:

- Increase the **Maine – New Hampshire** interface capability to at least 3,000 MW
- Increase the **Surowiec – South** interface capability to at least 3,200 MW
- Develop new infrastructure at Pittsfield, Maine, or at an alternate location north of the Albion Road substation, that can accommodate the interconnection of at least **1,200 MW (nameplate) of onshore wind**

ISO is Developing a New Function to Provide Oversight of Asset Condition Projects

- In response to state and stakeholder requests, with certain boundary conditions established, the ISO has committed to take on a **new advisory role** as Asset Condition Reviewer (AC Reviewer)
- Development of a framework to establish this role is a novel undertaking in the industry that will require time, resources and stakeholder engagement
 - The ISO **prioritized** this as a key project for 2026
- The new role is envisioned to provide an **independent review and opinion** of asset condition projects submitted for review by the Transmission Owners (TOs)
 - Asset condition projects are upgrades to the power grid that replace deteriorating transmission facilities
- ISO expects to finalize the framework for the role by **January 2027**



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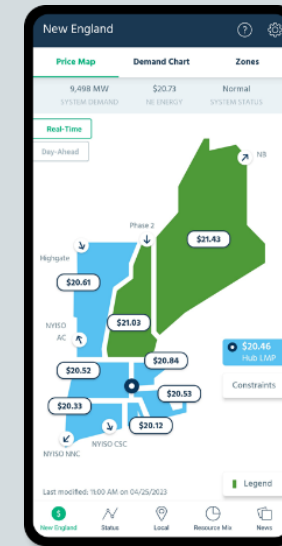


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Questions

