

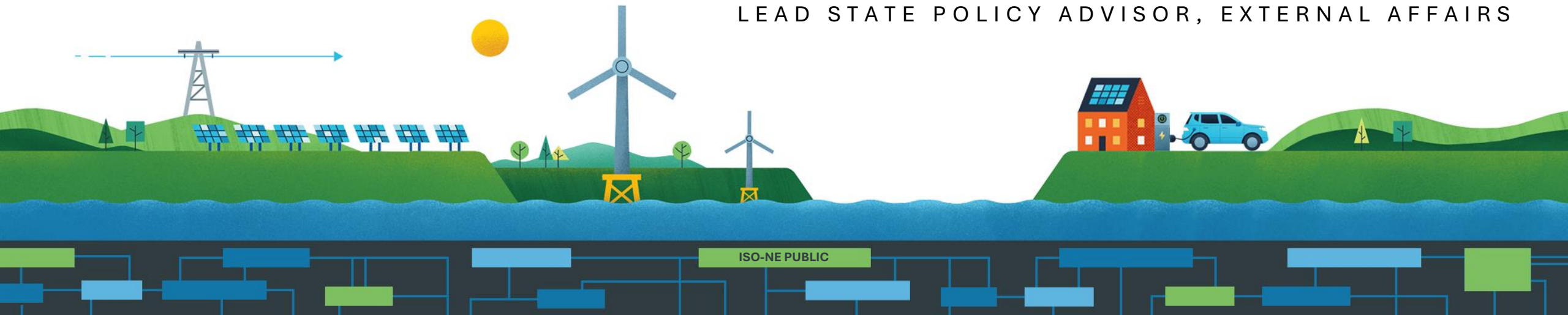
Planning for Large Loads in New England



Meeting of the Maine Data Center Advisory Council

Melissa Winne

LEAD STATE POLICY ADVISOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



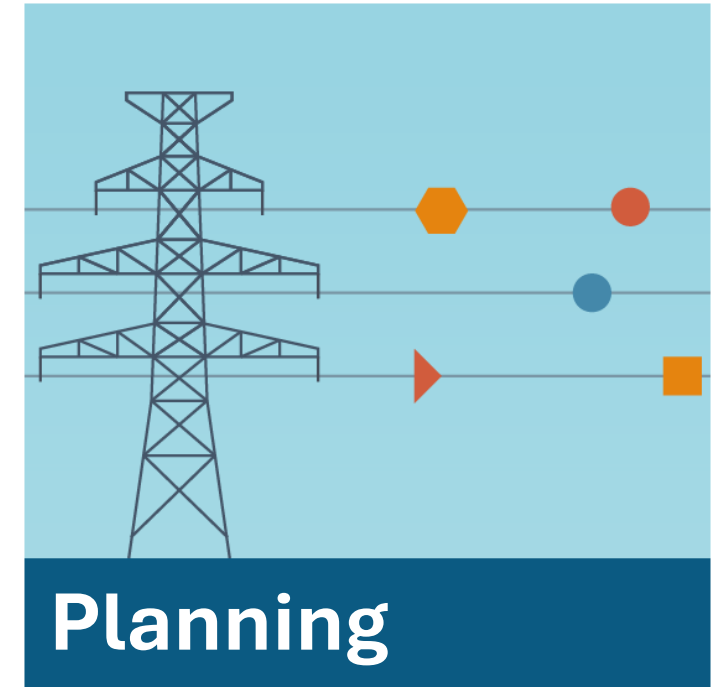
ISO New England Performs **Three Critical Roles** to Ensure Reliable Electricity at Competitive Prices



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

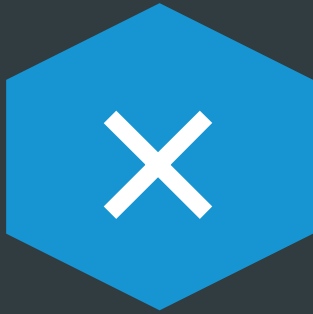


Study, analyze, and plan to make sure New England's electricity needs will be met over the next 10 years

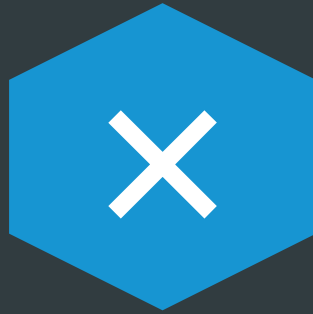
Things We Don't Do



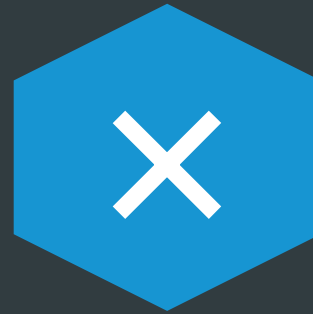
Handle
retail electricity



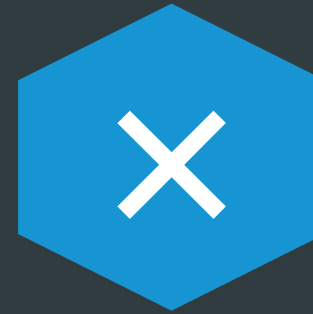
Own power grid
infrastructure



Have a stake in
companies
that own grid
infrastructure



Have
jurisdiction
over fuel
infrastructure



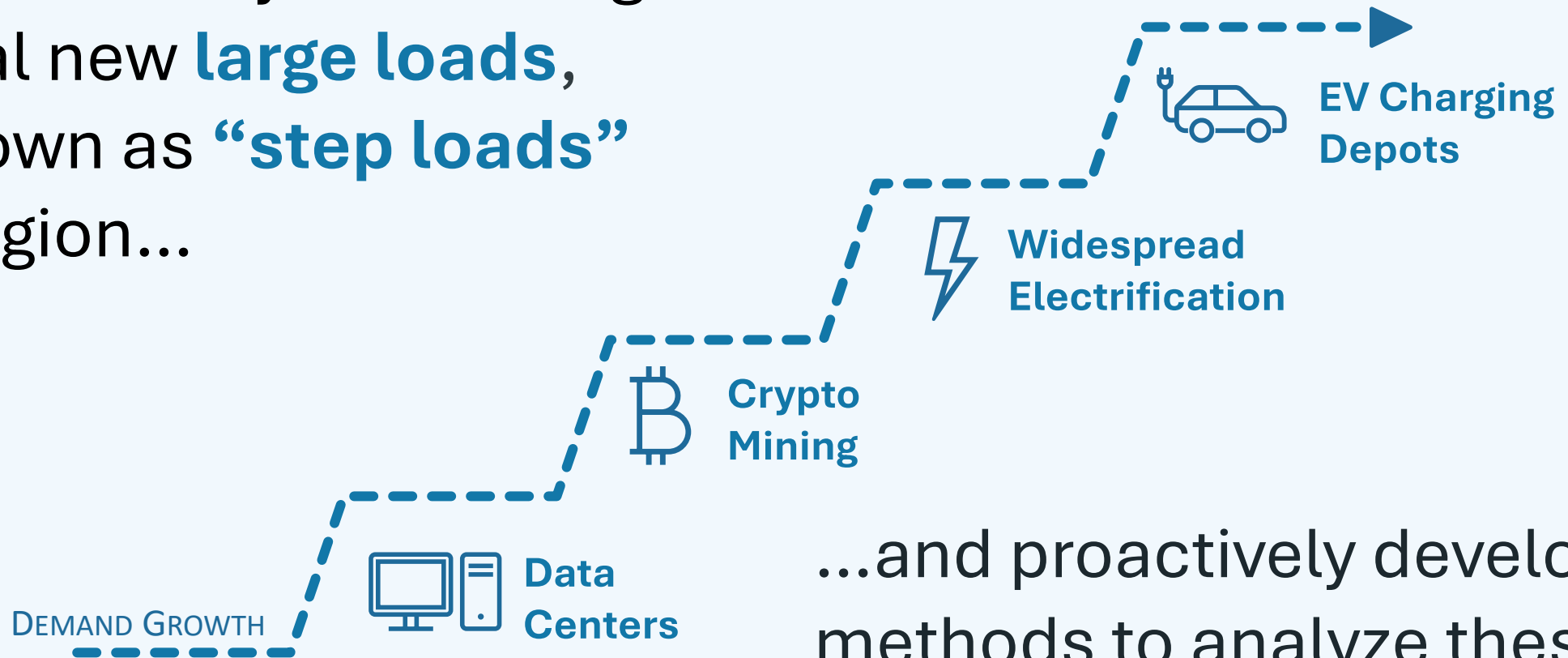
Have control
over siting
decisions



Plan the
resource mix



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-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



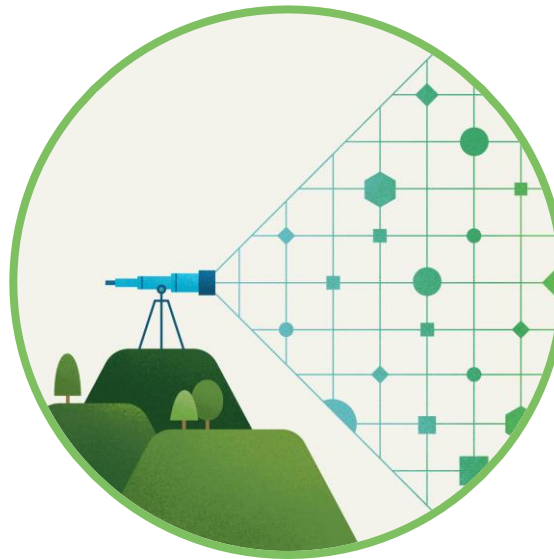
ISO-NE's 2026 CELT Includes Large Load Forecast

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: [2026-2035 Capacity, Energy, Loads, and Transmission Report](#); [ISO-NE establishes forecast framework for data centers, other 'large loads' - ISO Newswire](#)

Other Actions that Will Influence Large Load Development



On June 18, FERC issued a [show cause order](#) on large load integration

- ISO-NE and region's transmission owners intend to request a 90-day abeyance as part of compliance
- By July 20, ISO is directed to file information on resource adequacy in the context of large loads



Ongoing national conversations:

- Incremental resources needed for new large loads and resource adequacy response
- Risks of emerging large loads (NERC Large Loads Working Group)
- State priorities for managing large loads

Learn more: [ISO-NE provides update on compliance with FERC large loads order](#) – ISO Newswire (June 29, 2026)

For More Information



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Questions



About the Presenter



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