

**To:** Planning Advisory Committee  
**From:** Jon Breard  
**Date:** June 29, 2017  
**Subject:** Notice of Initiation of Eastern Connecticut (ECT) Needs Assessment

This memo serves as the notice of initiation for the 2027 Eastern Connecticut (ECT) Needs Assessment. This Needs Assessment will be performed in accordance with the reliability planning process as established in Attachment K of the Open Access Transmission Tariff<sup>1</sup>. The study area will include the eastern part of Connecticut bordered by Rhode Island to the west and Massachusetts to the north.

The triggers for this Needs Assessment are:

From Section 4.1(a) of Attachment K of the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT), the ISO shall perform a Needs Assessment if:

- (i): *“a need for additional transfer capability is identified by the ISO in its ongoing evaluation of the PTF’s adequacy and performance.”*
- (v): *“as otherwise deemed appropriate by the ISO as warranting such an assessment.”*

An ECT 2022 Needs Assessment report was finalized in June 2015. Efforts to develop solutions to address the ECT time sensitive needs identified in the ECT 2022 Needs Assessment report were suspended in February of 2017 in order to accommodate a review of ISO-NE criteria, assumptions and methodologies that would likely impact the studies conducted for Needs Assessments and Solutions Studies. This review of ISO-NE criteria, assumptions and methodologies has sufficiently progressed to allow the initiation of a new Needs Assessment for the ECT study area. The Needs Assessment will examine if needs still exist for the study area, and will identify the time-sensitivity of any identified needs.

The ECT Needs Assessment will include steady-state and short circuit analysis. The objective of this study is to assess the adequacy of Pool Transmission Facilities (PTF) within the study area. This is accomplished by ensuring that the portions of the PTF within the study area meet the applicable NERC, NPCC, and ISO-NE planning criteria.

All study files, notices, and other material related to the 2027 ECT Needs Assessment will be posted under the Planning Advisory Committee materials on the ISO-NE external website and be posted under ECT Key Study Area on the ISO-NE external website. See link to the key study area on the ISO external website below:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/regulatory/tariff/sect\\_2/oatt/sect\\_ii.pdf](https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/regulatory/tariff/sect_2/oatt/sect_ii.pdf)

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<https://www.iso-ne.com/system-planning/key-study-areas/eastern-connecticut>

A separate announcement will be made when these additional items are posted.