

**To:** Planning Advisory Committee  
**From:** Jinlin Zhang  
**Date:** June 29, 2017  
**Subject:** Notice of Initiation of Maine (ME) Needs Assessment

This memo serves as the notice of initiation for the 2027 Maine (ME) 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 entire state of Maine.

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.”*

A ME 2023 Needs Assessment report was finalized December 2014, and an addendum report to the ME 2023 Needs Assessment report was finalized in April 2016. Efforts to develop solutions to address the ME time sensitive needs identified in the ME 2023 Needs Assessment addendum 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 ME 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 2027 ME 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 ME Needs Assessment will be posted under the Planning Advisory Committee materials on the ISO-NE external website and be posted under the

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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)

Maine Key Study Area on the ISO-NE external website. See link to the key study area on the ISO external website below:

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

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