

To: Planning Advisory Committee
From: Andrew Kniska
Date: June 29, 2017
Subject: Notice of Initiation of WCMA Needs Assessment

This memo serves as the notice of initiation for the 2027 Western and Central Massachusetts (“WCMA”) 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 Tariff¹. The study area will include the area south of the Vermont and New Hampshire borders, north of the Connecticut border, and west of the Boston Import interface.

The trigger for this Needs Assessment is:

- Section 4.1(a) (v) of Attachment K of the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) that states that the ISO shall perform a Needs Assessment if “otherwise deemed appropriate by the ISO as warranting such an assessment.”

A Needs Assessment shall be performed for the WCMA area since a Needs Assessment has not been completed in the WCMA area recently with the exception of the Pittsfield/Greenfield and Greater Springfield Reliability Project studies. The Needs Assessment will examine if the needs are present in the study area, and will identify the time-sensitivity of any identified needs.

The 2027 WCMA 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 WCMA Needs Assessment will be posted under the Planning Advisory Committee materials on the ISO-NE external website. A new Western and Central Massachusetts Key Study Area has been created on the ISO-NE external website and materials will also be posted there. The new Western and Central Massachusetts Key Study Area can be found at:

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

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

¹ https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/regulatory/tariff/sect_2/oatt/sect_ii.pdf