



memo

To: Planning Advisory Committee
From: ISO Transmission Planning
Date: June 12, 2019
Subject: Notice of Initiation of Upper Maine (ME) 2029 Needs Assessment

This memo serves as the notice of initiation for the Upper Maine (ME) 2029 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 Pool Transmission Facilities north of the Coopers Mills and Mason stations in the state of Maine will be considered when identifying reliability needs in this Needs Assessment.

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.”*
- (iii): *“constraints or available transfer capability limitations that are identified possibly as a result of generation retirements...in the New England Control Area.”*
- (v): *“as otherwise deemed appropriate by the ISO as warranting such an assessment.”*

The ME 2027 Needs Assessment scope was finalized in March 2018². Newly published load forecasts and Forward Capacity Auction results have resulted in significant changes to the study assumptions used for the ME 2027 Needs Assessment, as discussed at the March 2019 PAC meeting³. The Upper ME 2029 Needs Assessment will incorporate these latest changes in assumptions, will examine if needs still exist for the study area, and will identify the time-sensitivity of any identified needs. A Needs Assessment will be initiated for the rest of ME when sufficient information on the New England Clean Energy Connect project is obtained to proceed with the study.

The Upper ME 2029 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.

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

² https://smd.iso-ne.com/operations-services/ceii/pac/2018/03/final_ceii_2027_maine_na_sow.pdf

³ <https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2019/03/a6 Updating Needs Assessment to Reflect Latest Assumptions.pdf>

All study files, notices and other material related to the Upper ME 2029 Needs Assessment provided in the future will be posted under the Planning Advisory Committee materials on the ISO-NE external website and under the 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/>

Separate announcements will be made when these additional items are posted.