Regional System Plan (RSP)

Planning Advisory Committee

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Background

- Attachment K of Section II of the ISO Tariff describes the regional system planning process conducted by the ISO, as well as the coordination with transmission-owning entities in, or other entities interconnected to, the New England Transmission System and neighboring systems to ensure the reliability of the New England Transmission System and compliance with national and regional planning standards, criteria and procedures, while accounting for market performance, economic, environmental, and other considerations, as may be agreed upon from time to time.
- Pursuant to Attachment K, the ISO shall develop the RSP based on periodic comprehensive assessments (conducted not less than every third year) of the PTF systemwide needs to maintain the reliability of the New England Transmission System while accounting for market efficiency, economic, environmental, and other considerations, as agreed upon from time to time.

What is Required to be in the RSP

As Described in Attachment K

The RSP shall, among other things:

(i) describe, in a consolidated manner, the assessment of the PTF system needs, the results of such assessments, and the projected improvements;

(ii) provide the projected annual and peak demands for electric energy for a five-year to ten-year horizon, the needs for resources over this period and how such resources are expected to be provided;

(iii) specify the physical characteristics of the physical solutions that can meet the needs defined in the Needs Assessments and include information on market responses that can address them; and

(iv) provide sufficient information to allow Market Participants to assess the quantity, general locations, operating characteristics and required availability criteria of the type of incremental supply or demand-side resources, or merchant transmission projects, that would satisfy the identified needs or that may serve to modify, offset or defer proposed regulated transmission upgrades.

Development of the RSP

- Every two years, the ISO has been developing the RSP with the intention of providing a comprehensive document describing the New England regional system planning process
  - The ISO-NE Board of Directors approved the 2019 Regional System Plan and it was posted on October 31, 2019
- Development of the RSP takes nearly a year and much of the information included in the document is already posted on the ISO-NE website
  - Includes numerous stakeholder meetings (e.g., PAC)
  - Culminates with a Public Meeting held in the September timeframe
- On May 23, 2019, Grid Transformation Day was held as a special PAC meeting to present and discuss the technical challenges presented by a hybrid grid and the potential solutions for addressing many of the changes our industry is facing
  - This PAC meeting exceeded expectations and attendance

Observations

- New England stakeholders are engaged and willing to participate in the planning process
  - Strong attendance by stakeholders at PAC meetings
- New England stakeholders are inquisitive and enjoy opportunities to learn
  - Strong attendance by stakeholders at “special” PAC meetings
    - Wind Day, Grid Transformation Day, Load Forecast Day, etc.
- The ISO has evolved in the way they communicate with stakeholders
  - Greater use of the web and ISO app
    - See Transmission Study Key Areas of the ISO-NE website
  - Greater transparency through the use of Planning Guides and Planning Procedures

RSP Improvements

- Prior to developing the next RSP, the ISO would like input from stakeholders
- In Q1 2020, the ISO will send out a survey to PAC members and other stakeholders to seek input on how to improve the RSP
- Goals:
  - Increase usability of the RSP
  - Focus on content that stakeholders are interested in
  - Find new ways to keep the RSP forward looking
  - Streamline the development process
  - Increase visibility of the regional system planning process

Questions