



memo

To: Planning Advisory Committee
From: ISO-NE Transmission Planning
Date: September 10, 2020
Subject: Notice of Initiation of Lower Maine (ME) 2030 Needs Assessment

This memo serves as notice of initiation for the Lower Maine (ME) 2030 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.¹ The Pool Transmission Facilities south 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:

- Assess compliance with reliability standards and criteria (including those established by the ISO, NERC, and NPCC) consistent with the long term needs of the system.
- Assess the adequacy of the transmission system capability, such as transfer capability, to support local, regional and interregional reliability.
- Examine short circuit performance of the system.
- Address system performance in consideration of de-list bids and cleared demand bids consistent with sections 4.1(c) and 4.1(f) of Attachment K.

The Upper ME 2029 Needs Assessment was completed in March 2020.² Lower Maine was not the focus of the Upper ME Needs Assessment study. The Lower ME Needs Assessment is being initiated since sufficient information is now available to model the New England Clean Energy Connect Project and its required transmission system upgrades. The Lower ME 2030 Needs Assessment will incorporate assumptions based on the 2020 CELT report and FCA 14 results. This assessment will examine whether needs exist for the study area, and will identify the time-sensitivity of any identified needs.

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/2020/03/final_ceii_ume_2029_na.pdf

The Lower ME 2030 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 Lower ME 2030 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. Please see the 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.