



ISO New England's 2021/2022

Winter Outlook



OVERVIEW

ISO New England expects electricity supplies to meet consumer demand this winter if the weather is mild. But certain conditions, including extreme weather, could put New England's bulk power system at heightened risk. Variables that could impact the system this season include:



Weather

Weather is the region's primary driver of energy use. Forecasters expect a warmer than average winter—but prolonged cold snaps are still a possibility.



Global Fuel Supplies

New England generators rely on the delivery of global fuel supplies to produce electricity. The pandemic's impact on supply chains is driving up prices for oil and liquid natural gas around the world—potentially making it harder for resources in New England to replenish their tanks if they run low.



Natural Gas Pipeline Constraints

For two decades, the ISO has raised concerns about the impact of fuel supply issues on electricity supply during periods of extreme cold. Pipeline system constraints limit the availability of fuel for natural gas-fired power plants, as heating customers are served first through firm service contracts.

Since 2013, **roughly 7,000 MW** of non-gas-fired resources have retired or announced plans for retirement in the coming years.

This winter, **more than 3,700 MW** of natural-gas-fired generating capacity is at risk of being unable to get fuel when needed.

BY THE NUMBERS

19,710 MW

Estimated peak demand during average winter weather (10°F).

20,349 MW

Estimated peak demand during colder than average weather (5°F).

18,756 MW

Last winter's peak demand, on December 17, 2020.

22,818 MW

Record winter peak demand, during a January 2004 cold snap.

AN ISO NEW ENGLAND ANALYSIS

To enhance situational awareness entering this winter, the ISO compared expected consumer demand levels and other system conditions with three historical weather scenarios.

In winter weather similar to:

The ISO anticipates:



2020-2021 • Mild weather, no extreme temperatures

Reliable system operations, no emergency procedures



2017-2018 • Temperatures below normal for at least 13 straight days in all major New England cities

A possibility of limited emergency procedures



2013-2014 • Several cold snaps lasting 4+ days, with one 10-day stretch at or below freezing

The implementation of all available emergency procedures is possible

The ISO would not expect emergency actions to be necessary if generators are able to replenish their fuel supplies and if there are no unexpected generator or transmission outages.

For more information, please visit ISO New England's website at www.iso-ne.com.