

To: New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE)
From: New England Transmission Owners (NETOs)
Date: March 2, 2023
Subject: Response to your February 8, 2023 letter regarding Asset Condition Projects and Process and Improvements
CC: ISO-NE; Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

The New England Transmission Owners (“NETOs”) thank NESCOE for its letter dated February 8, 2023. We agree that Asset Condition projects are essential to the safe and reliable operation of our power system, and an effective and efficient implementation of these projects is essential to guarantee system reliability across all timeframes. Not only do these projects allow us to reliably operate the transmission system today, Asset Condition projects also ensure a strong foundation for future system needs and changing generation mixes driven by state policy goals.

The robust performance record of New England’s transmission infrastructure shows the benefit of this investment. This is especially true at a time when the nation’s transmission infrastructure is beset by extreme weather events and other stressors at a rapidly increasing rate. These stressors show the centrality of efficient and effective investment in transmission asset conditions for a reliable grid.

In New England, transparency and collaboration among ISO New England, NESCOE, the NETOS, and the rest of the regional stakeholder community has long been a cornerstone of the planning process for both regional reliability projects and Asset Condition projects. This transparency has been appropriately iterative, with many enhancements made over the past two decades in response to stakeholder feedback. The NETOs continue to be committed to addressing stakeholder requests in a fair, efficient, and effective manner. We also understand that transparency demands not only the provision of a sufficient quantity of information, but also that such information be both timely and provided in an accessible format to allow interested parties to draw meaningful and accurate conclusions from the information provided.

Accordingly, the NETOs agree that now is an appropriate time to review the planning process for Asset Condition projects and look for further improvements. Specifically, we agree that there is an opportunity to better integrate Asset Condition planning with longer-term planning for transmission to meet future system needs. We look forward to working with NESCOE and the rest of the regional stakeholder community to improve our Asset Condition project processes. Accordingly, and so that we can clearly understand your concerns, the NETOs request a meeting with NESCOE, so that NESCOE may clarify its requests and the NETOs can begin working on addressing these pressing issues.