

To: NEPOOL Markets and Reliability Committees (MC, RC)

From: Mariah Winkler, MC Chair; Emily Laine, RC Chair; Robert Stein, RC Vice Chair; and William Fowler, MC Vice Chair

Date: June 25, 2020

Subject: Future Grid Study: July Meeting Purpose and Preparing for Analysis/Scenario Assumption Proposals

The future grid study is a collaborative effort amongst regional industry stakeholders, the New England states, and ISO New England to further assess and explore potential reliability and operational issues in light of evolving state energy and environmental policies.

The initial joint MC/RC meetings on this effort have been focusing on highlighting existing analyses, and those in development, relating to the upcoming transition. Presenters have been noting available modelling capabilities and discussions are beginning to focus on proposed study objectives, including how to structure the study and develop assumptions. Several participants have noted a desire to proceed quickly and streamline the development of assumptions, scenarios, and results for this assessment. Therefore, in the coming months, we will be focusing on efficiently developing these assumptions and scenarios based on proposals from the stakeholders and states.

At the July 1 meeting, several stakeholders will share information about relevant, ongoing studies, and potential study frameworks and desired outputs for the future grid study. We recommend that the members of the committees focus on how these studies and frameworks can be best utilized to achieve Future Grid goals. In order to facilitate the development – and natural consolidation – of proposals, we have developed the attached draft form as a template for collecting requests. We will discuss the form on July 1 and seek feedback on refinements. We plan to distribute the final form a few days after the July meeting with the objective of having stakeholders propose their analysis/scenario assumptions by populating this form ahead of the August meeting (homework, if you will). Individual organizations may submit completed charts for committee consideration or entities with common interests may choose to work together offline to prepare a joint submission.

We also need to consider how detailed workflow will be managed between meetings. For example, some have suggested hiring an independent consultant to manage these efforts, designating a small representative working group of individuals willing to commit time towards managing study details, or similar. We would like to discuss this at the July 1 meeting as well.

In order to prepare the other committee members as much as possible and allow time for NEPOOL Counsel to consolidate the submissions into a format that can be used for discussion at the August 4 meeting,

submissions should be sent to the MC Secretary by no later than **July 17, 2020**. At the August 4 meeting, stakeholders will review the compiled analysis proposal submissions and we will begin developing a consensus study scope. We will also turn to discussion of who can perform the work as well as target completion dates.

In alignment with the study chart discussed at the March 2020 Participants Committee, once the operational/reliability needs of the future are identified, we anticipate a gap analysis will need to be performed. This will help identify any market deficits that may need to be addressed to assure the continued reliable operation of the system.

As indicated by the NEPOOL Chair (Nancy Chafetz) at yesterday's Participants Committee meeting, in parallel with this current effort at the MC/RC, separate meetings will be held to explore and learn about potential (market) frameworks for New England's future grid. We encourage members who are interested to participate in upcoming meetings and discussions on that broader topic, the first of which will be held via teleconference at the August 6 Participants Committee meeting.