

Information Request DPU-G-1

Please provide NGRID's best estimate of (1) the increase in transfer capability into the NEMA/Boston zone upon the completion of the part or parts of the Greater Boston Transmission Project that will increase the transfer capability into NEMA/Boston, (2) when the estimate (or estimates) will be finalized such that it (each) will be incorporated into the Local Sourcing Requirement (LSR) in the Forward Capacity Auction and (3) when the relevant portions of the project will go into commercial operation.

Response

(1) The Greater Boston Transmission Study working group (the "Working Group"), of which National Grid is a member, is evaluating all component projects as part of selecting an overall solution set to transmission needs for the Greater Boston area. As ISO-NE indicated on the record during the November 8 technical conference, the impact of the Greater Boston Transmission Project will not be known definitively until the Working Group has completed its analysis. One component of the Greater Boston Transmission Project would be a new transmission line across the Boston Import interface. In National Grid's opinion, the new transmission line, if put in service, would significantly increase the transfer capability of that interface. Based on some preliminary thermal analysis, that is yet to be finished by the Working Group, it is National Grid's understanding that the increase of import capability into the NEMA/Boston zone from the new line would be in the order of 800 MW to 1000 MW. These estimates, of course, are subject to further thermal and stability analysis that will need to be completed in the ISO process. National Grid remains hopeful that more work can be completed through the ISO process before March 15, such that the ISO could provide a more definitive estimate before the Department completes its investigation in this docket.

(2) National Grid does not know when the estimate will be finalized such that it can be incorporated into the Local Sourcing Requirement (LSR) in the Forward Capacity Auction and defers to ISO-NE.

(3) We agree with ISO-NE's expected in-service date of some time in 2018 for the element of the Greater Boston Transmission Project that would cross the Boston Import Interface. We acknowledge that it is difficult to predict the in-service dates of transmission projects with reasonable certainty when the anticipated in-service date is more than five years in the future, as is the case here. However, to the extent that the project is critical to solving a capacity need in NEMA, we would expect ISO-NE and other parties to have the incentive to expedite, where necessary, the processes needed to meet any such critical deadlines. In such a case, we believe meeting commercial operation by June 1, 2018 would be achievable.