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FAQ

NEW ENGLAND EAST WEST SOLUTION

Frequently Asked Questions on the New England East-West Solution Projects

Q. What are the New England East-West Solution Projects?

A. The New England East-West Solution (NEEWS) projects are significant upgrades to several sections of the southern New England transmission network to meet regional and national reliability standards. The upgrades include new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, along with related 115-kV line and substation upgrades.

Q. Why are these projects needed?

A. An analysis by the operator of New England’s bulk power system, ISO New England (ISO-NE), of the high-voltage transmission network in southern New England showed that the system needs to be upgraded to improve reliability and performance.


Q. What areas in New England need to be upgraded?

A. Based on ISO-NE’s assessment, the 345-kV transmission network needs to be upgraded in multiple ways:

- > Loop around the Springfield, Massachusetts, area’s 115-kV transmission network – a major interstate transmission hub which can experience voltage problems and overloads.
- > Improve the ability to move power from east to west across the New England power grid and within Connecticut.
- > Increase the transmission connections among Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- > Reduce Rhode Island’s dependency on single transmission lines or autotransformers to serve consumers’ electricity needs.



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FAQ CONTINUED

Q. How will these transmission upgrades help the region?

A. A more robust transmission system in southern New England is needed to ensure reliability so the power's there when customers need it. In addition, the needed upgrades will work in concert with high-voltage transmission projects that currently are under construction in New England to strengthen the electric grid.

Q. What are the four NEEWS transmission projects planned to solve the basic grid bottlenecks?

- A.** The projects are:
- > Greater Springfield Reliability
 - > Interstate Reliability
 - > Central Connecticut Reliability
 - > Rhode Island Reliability

Q. How will these projects lower the cost of electricity for customers?

A. Reinforcing the transmission network in an integrated manner enables competitively priced electricity located elsewhere to move more efficiently across and within the state and the region. Having access to competitively priced power relieves some of the congestion charges and payments to generators that are imposed on customers through their electric bills.

Q. How will the projects affect the environment?

A. The projects will provide a more flexible transmission system that reduces reliance on older, less-efficient power plants, thereby improving environmental quality and providing enhanced access to clean energy in New England.

Q. What is the timetable for these projects?

- A.** Planning for the regional reliability projects continues, and ongoing work includes:
- > Completing technical feasibility studies;
 - > Continuing dialogues with federal, state and municipal officials; and
 - > Finalizing siting plans and preparing siting application materials.

Major state siting applications are expected to be filed beginning in 2008, with construction lasting through 2013.