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Center



ELM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE
OF MASSACHUSETTS



NEW ENGLAND
FOR OFFSHORE WIND

Bridging the Power Gap




How Bidirectional Clean Energy Benefits the US
Northeast and Eastern Canada

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Boston, MA • Hartford, CT • New York, NY • Providence, RI • Rockport, ME



About the Convenors and Panelists



BRIDGING THE POWER GAP: HOW BIDIRECTIONAL CLEAN ENERGY BENEFITS THE US NORTHEAST AND EASTERN CANADA


Wednesday, October 9, 12PM - 1:15PM
Zoom Webinar




Jamie Dickerson
Senior Director,
Climate and Clean
Energy Programs
Acadia Center




Emil Dimanchev
Research Affiliate
MIT Center for Energy
and Environmental
Policy Research



Adrienne Downey
Principal Engineer and
Country Manager for
the US and Canada
Hexicon



Hannes Pfeifenberger
Practice Leader,
Electricity Wholesale
Markets & Planning
The Brattle Group



Senator Ed Markey
U.S. Senator,
Massachusetts and
Senate Author of the
Green New Deal

WHO IS ACADIA CENTER?



MISSION

Acadia Center's mission is to advance bold, effective, and equitable clean energy solutions for a livable climate and a stronger, more equitable economy.

PROGRAMS

Acadia Center focuses on eight areas of climate and clean energy, within which we prioritize consumer benefits, public health, economic growth, and equitable distribution of benefits:

- Energy Efficiency and Building Decarbonization
- Clean Energy and Grid Reform
- Utility Innovation and Accountability
- Transportation and Mobility
- Climate, Energy, and Equity (CLEAN-E) Analysis
- State and Regional Climate Policies
- Equity, Environmental Justice, and Outreach
- Public Engagement and Communications

SUPPORT

Acadia Center is funded by foundation grants and individual donations. It does not accept corporate or government funding.

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide showing several offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water is dark blue with some white foam from the waves.

Bidirectional Clean Energy

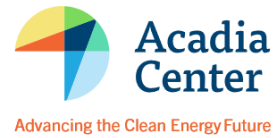
What it is, and why it matters

- Canada and the US share **aggressive carbon reduction goals**, will experience a doubling of demand by 2050
- Bidirectional clean energy – a transmission network that can **deliver energy ‘north and south’ between the US and Canada** - optimizes the benefits of onshore and offshore wind, hydropower, storage, and other clean energy resources
- Canada & US share a **deep history of joint infrastructure** planning and development
- **NPCC** – Northeast Power Coordinating Council, already serves as regional reliability entity under/with NERC



Northeast Grid Planning Forum (NGPF)

The purpose of NGPF is to create an inclusive structure that facilitates joint planning, coordination, and effective decision-making, for a next-generation power network that will safeguard the economic competitiveness and energy resilience of the entire region.



Northeast Grid Planning Forum

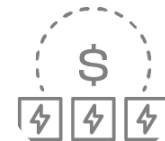
Three Roundtables



**Interregional
Planning**



**Environmental
Justice &
Community
Mobilization**

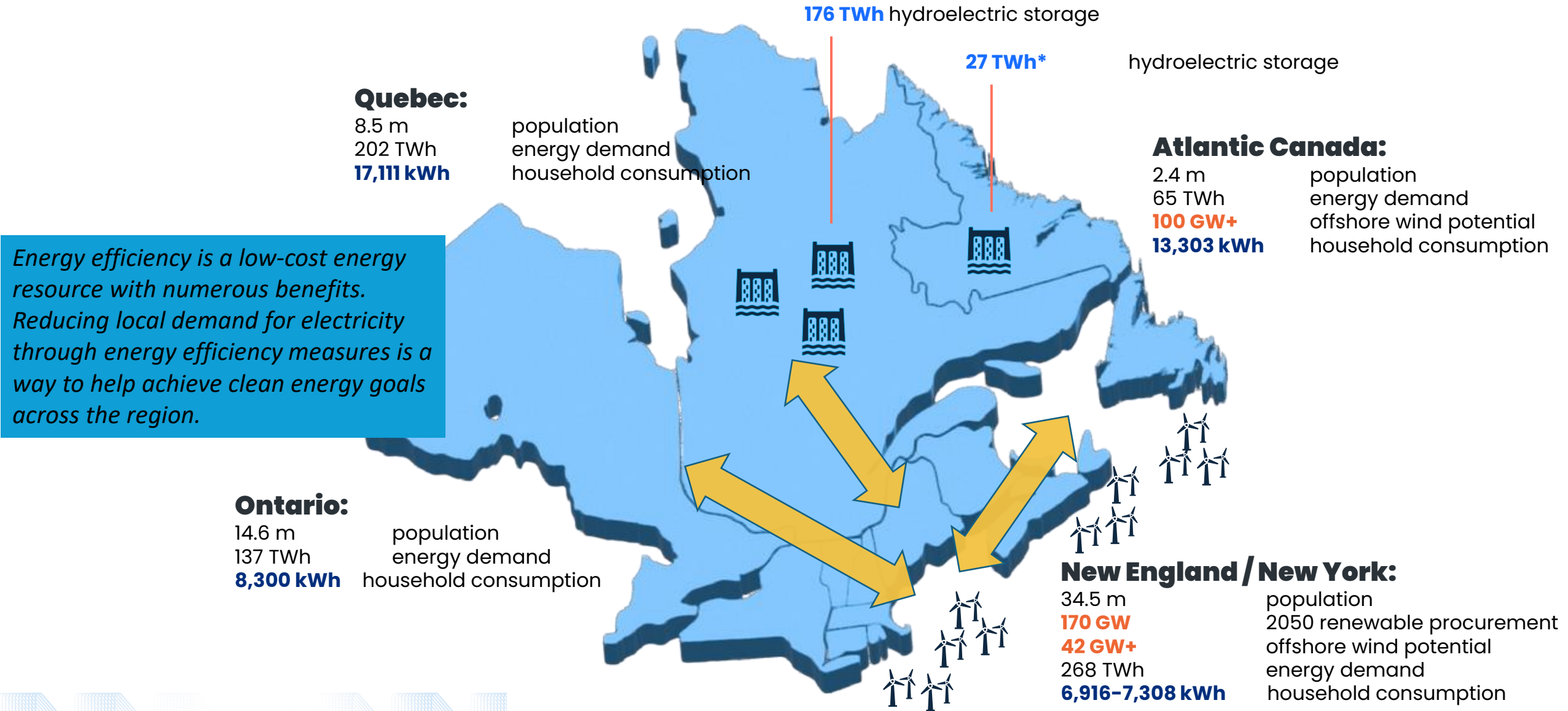


**Clean Energy
Markets &
Procurement**

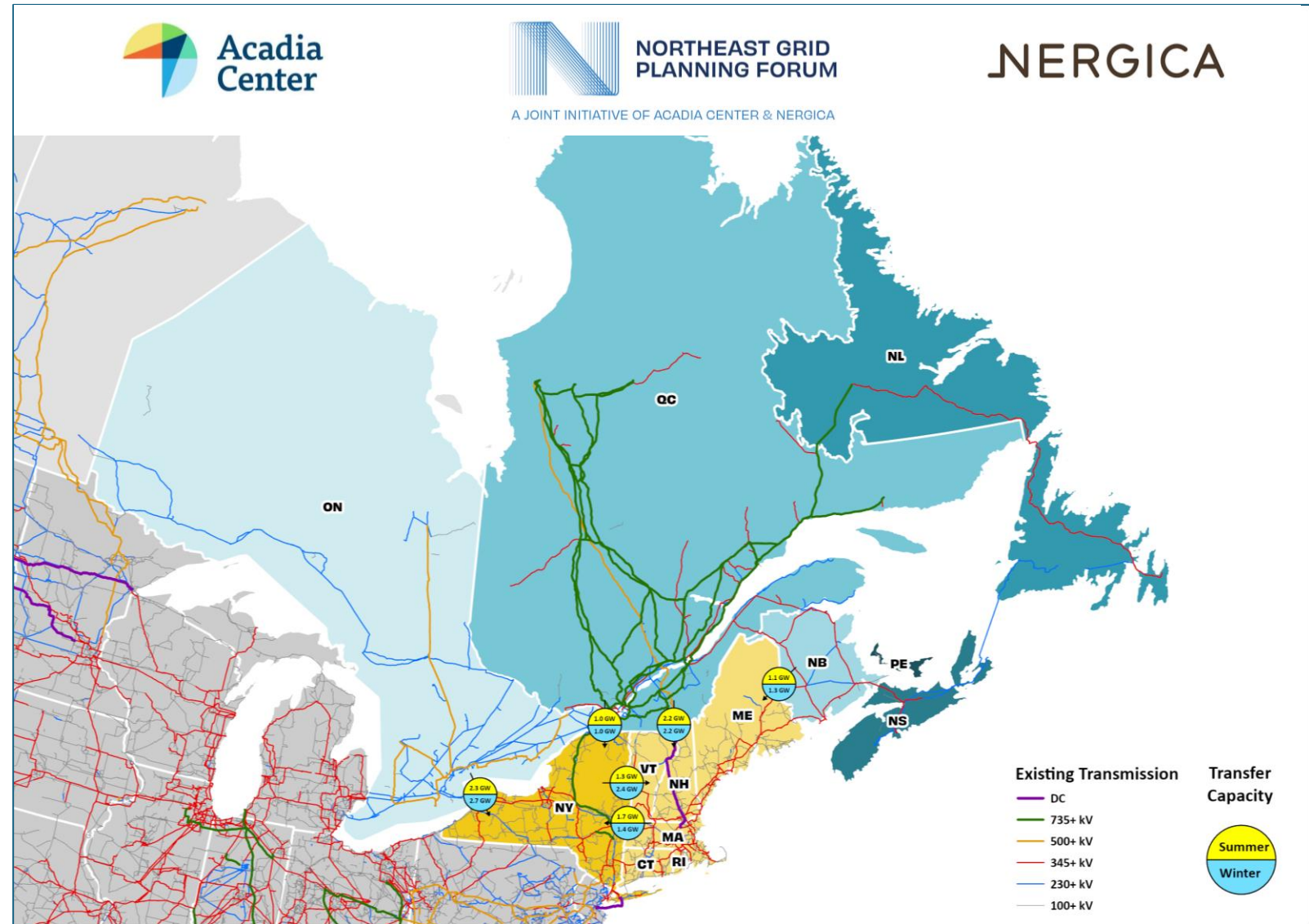
Framing Paper: <https://acadiacenter.org/resource/the-northeast-grid-planning-forum-framing-paper/>

Northeast Grid Planning Forum

Connecting clean energy resources for bidirectional trade



Connections Between US and Canadian Energy Systems Exist, But Must Be Strengthened





Why Bidirectional Energy Matters for Offshore Wind and Other Energy Resources

Expands the market for US and Canadian offshore wind, ensuring a place for power to travel on the grid

Optimizes cost sharing and the procurement of energy across multiple jurisdictions

Reduces curtailments, congestion, price 'cannibalization'

Balances offshore wind output with complementary resources to create clean firm capacity

Helps both regions meet their clean energy and reliability goals across different resource types

“Expanded transmission capacity...[is] important in all pathways....In the near term, these lines were used to import carbon-free electricity from Quebec, largely from new onshore wind projects. In the long term, the lines were used to allow bi-directional power flow for balancing a high renewables power system throughout the Northeast region.”

“New inter-regional transmission was a critical part of all pathways because of its importance as a balancing strategy in high renewables systems. Its value stems from three factors: weather diversity across zones, complementary resource endowments, and the flexibility of the Quebec hydro system.”



How We Secure Bidirectional Transmission: Ensure it is a part of Regional and Interregional Planning

Regional planning

- > ISO-NE 2050 Transmission Study
- > Long Term Transmission Planning Process (LTTP)
 - > FERC Order 1920

Interregional planning

- > Northeast States Collab. on Interregional Transmission
 - > NEG-ECP commitments
 - > Northeast Grid Planning Forum (NGPF)





National/Int'l planning

- > NERC Internal Transfer Capability Study
- > DOE National Transmission Planning Study
 - > Additional modeling

Canadian planning


- > Atlantic CAN OSW Grid Int. and Tx Study
- > Ongoing provincial/utility planning processes
 - > New C-49 OSW law

Panel Introductions




BRIDGING THE POWER GAP: HOW BIDIRECTIONAL CLEAN ENERGY BENEFITS THE US NORTHEAST AND EASTERN CANADA


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Senator Ed Markey
U.S. Senator,
Massachusetts and
Senate Author of the
Green New Deal

Energy efficiency alternatives to building new generation

Quebec:

17,111 kWh

1g / kWh

5.1¢

household consumption

carbon intensity

cents / kWh

Atlantic Canada:

13,303 kWh

171g / kWh

11.9¢

household consumption

carbon intensity

cents / kWh

Energy efficiency is a low-cost energy resource with numerous benefits. Reducing local demand for electricity through energy efficiency measures is a way to help achieve clean energy goals across the region.

Ontario:

8,300 kWh

26g / kWh

7.8¢

household consumption

carbon intensity

cents/kWh

New England:

7,308 kWh

220g / kWh

24.1¢

household consumption

carbon intensity

cents / kWh

New York:

6,916 kWh

186g / kWh

23.7¢

household consumption

carbon intensity

cents / kWh



CEEPR

MIT Center for Energy and
Environmental Policy Research

Synergies between Offshore Wind and Bi-directional US-Canada Transmission

Emil Dimanchev

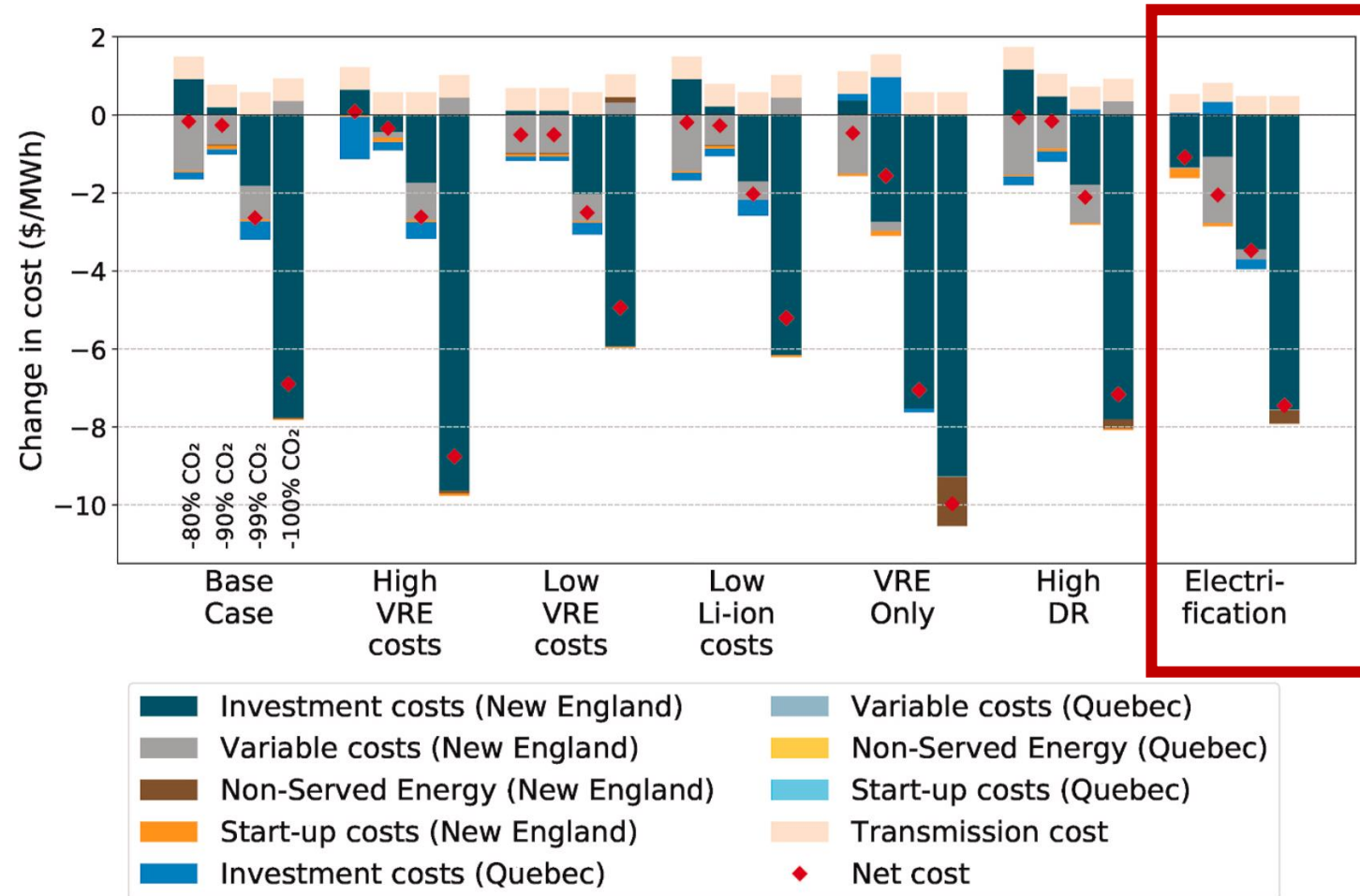
- October 9, 2024



ceepr.mit.edu

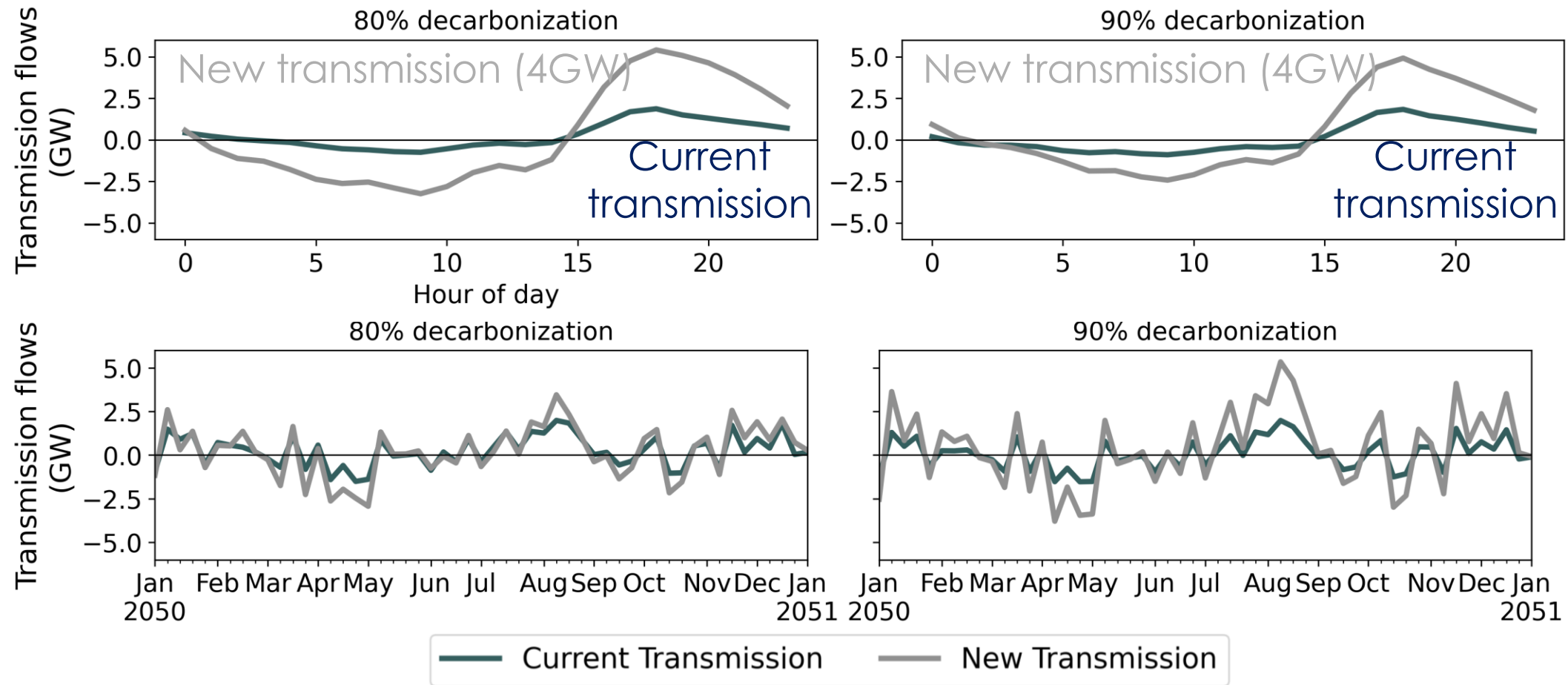
Increased bi-directional transmission lowers electricity costs

Estimated 2050
economic effects
of new
transmission b/n
New England and
Quebec



Source: Dimanchev, Hodge, Parsons. 2021. The role of hydropower reservoirs in deep decarbonization policy. Energy Policy 155.

It will be optimal to use transmission with Quebec bi-directionally to balance renewable variability



Source: “Electrification” scenario in Dimanchev, Hodge, Parsons. 2021. The role of hydropower reservoirs in deep decarbonization policy. Energy Policy 155.

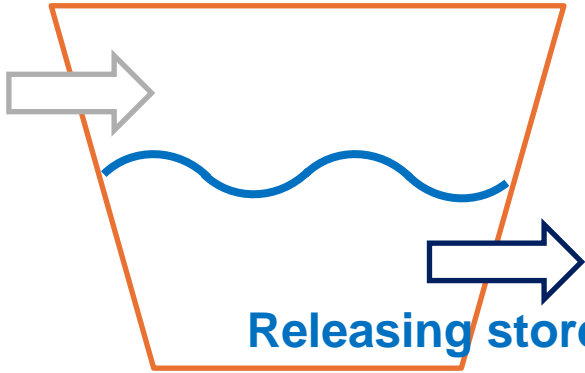
+ values: flows to New England
- values: flows to Quebec

How does bi-directional energy exchange work?

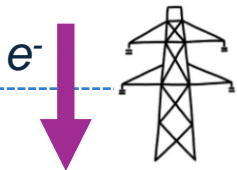
Period 1: Low wind & solar output

Period 2: High wind & solar output

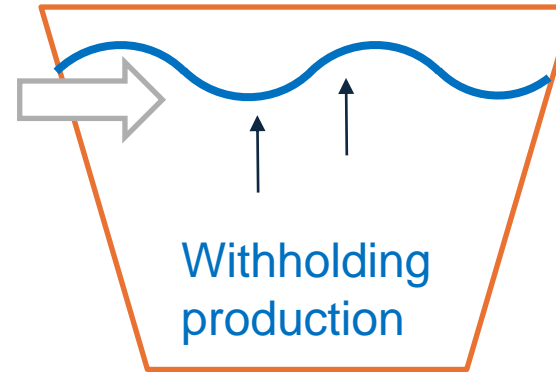
Natural
inflows



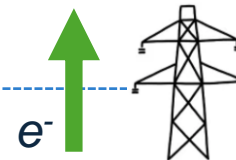
Releasing stored water



Natural
inflows



Withholding
production



Quebec

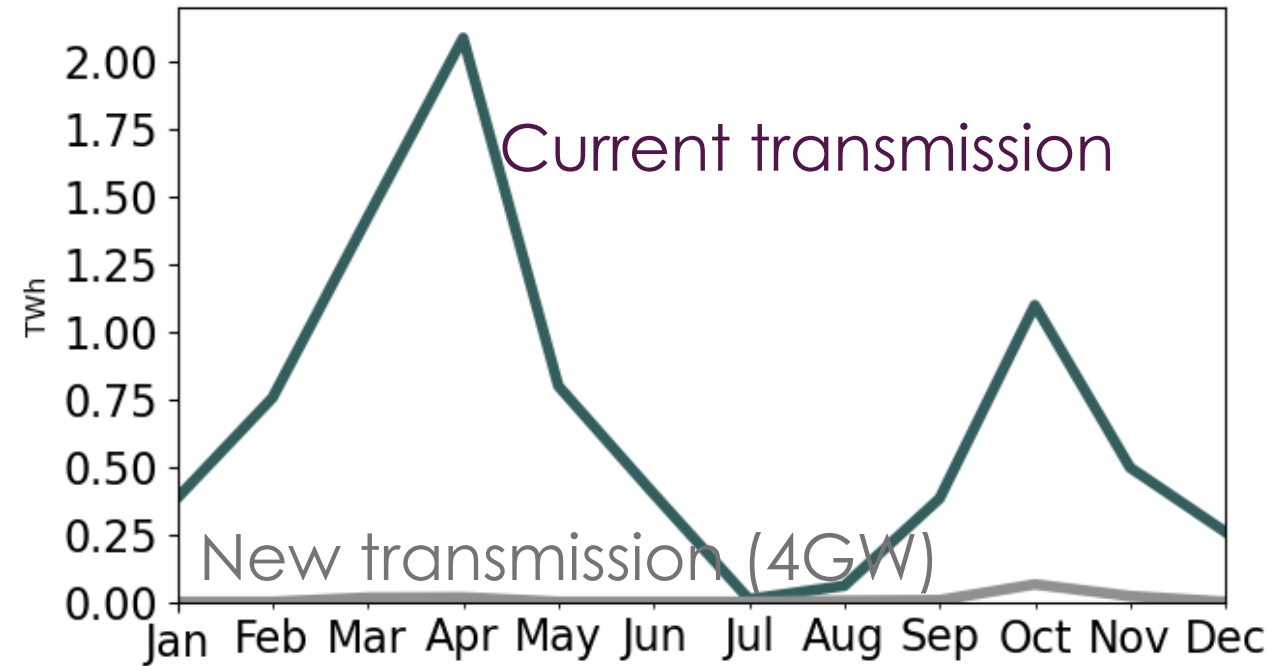
New
England

Icons: Nicole Kelner

Increased bi-directional transmission benefits the region in several ways

- Lower electricity costs
- Reduced dependence on natural gas
- Lower CO₂ emissions
- Less curtailment of renewables

New England wind curtailment *

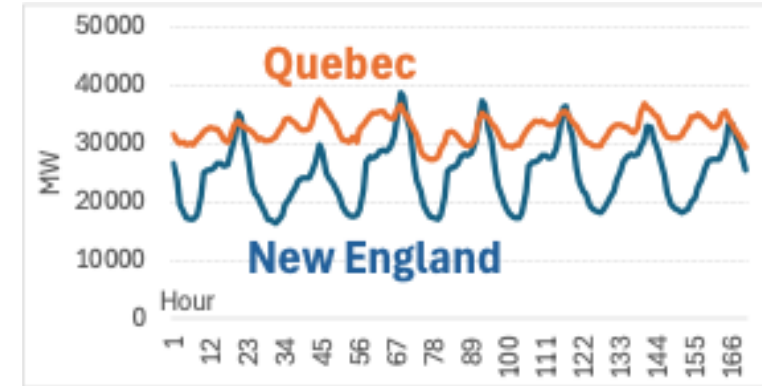


* Source: "Electrification" 80% decarbonization scenario in Dimanchev, Hodge, Parsons. 2021. The role of hydropower reservoirs in deep decarbonization policy. Energy Policy 155.

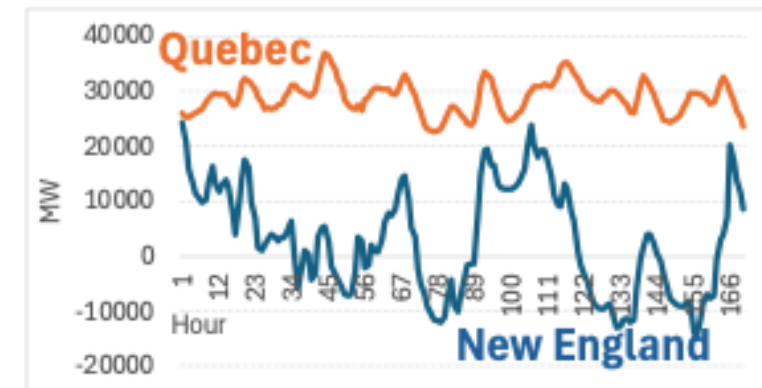
Benefits of cooperation persist in a future of demand growth

Example - last week of December 2050:

Demand (correlation coeff: 0.5)



Net demand* (0.25)



- Electrification makes hourly demand more correlated
- However, net-demand correlation remains relatively low
- Thus, continued synergy from bi-directional trading

* Demand minus renewable output. Assuming New England has 25GW offshore wind, 5GW onshore wind, 30 GW solar; QC has 10GW wind, 5GW solar

Cost-Effective Transmission between Canada and the US Northeast

PREPARED BY

Johannes Pfeifenberger
Kailin Graham

PRESENTED AT



Acadia
Center



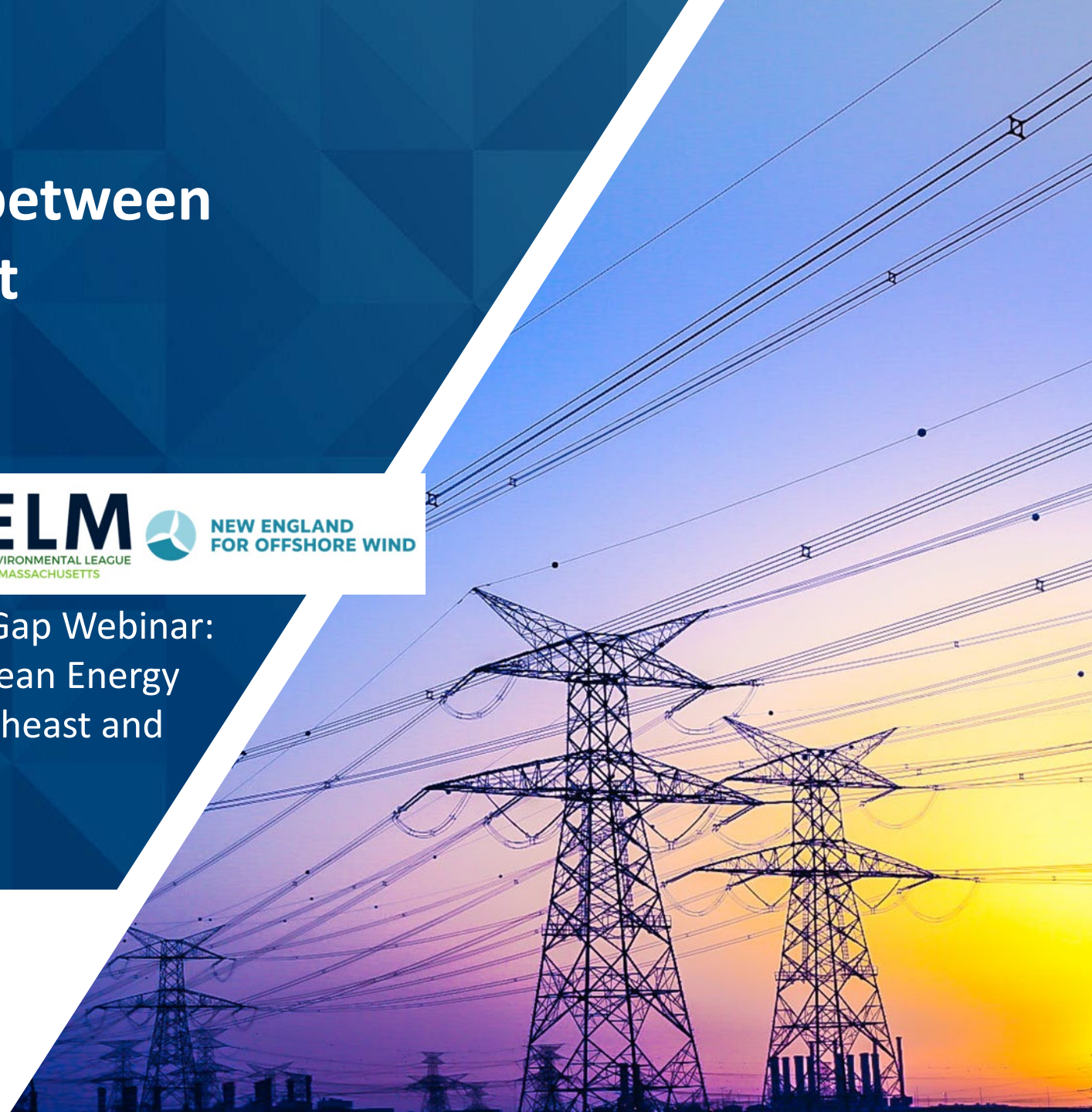
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Bridging the Power Gap Webinar:
How Bidirectional Clean Energy
Benefits the US Northeast and
Eastern Canada

October 9, 2024



The Urgency of Starting to Plan for OSW Transmission Now

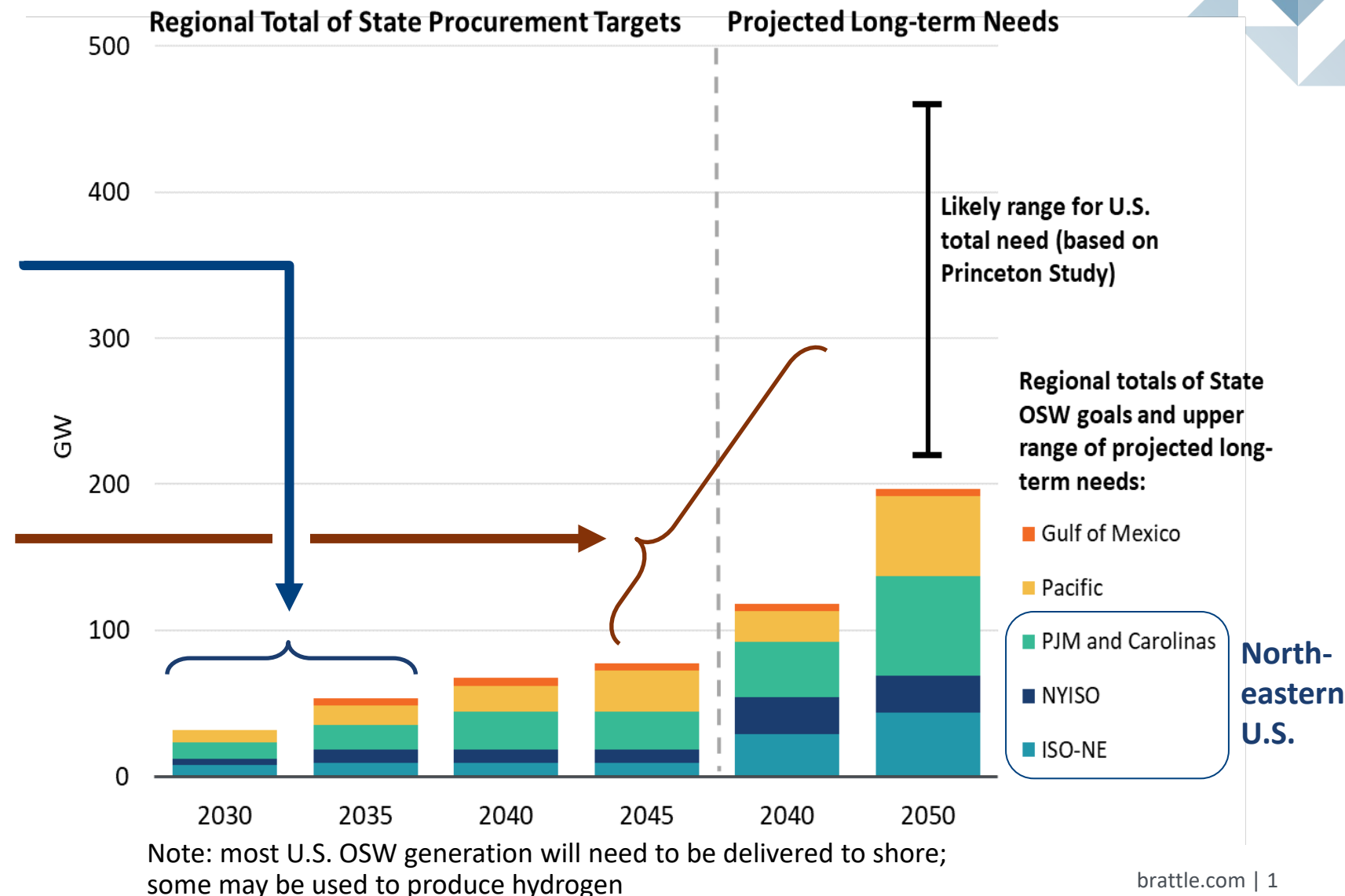
The Northeastern US and neighboring regions need to urgently plan transmission

1. 30-50 GW of OSW by 2030-35, 9 GW in both ISO-NE and NYISO, 15 GW in PJM

while also considering

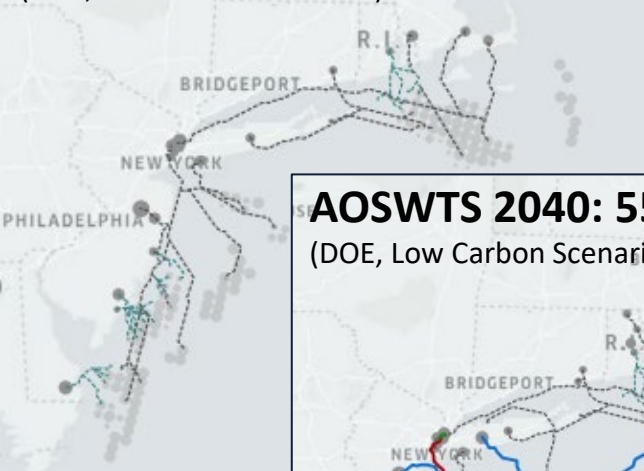
2. The much higher longer-term needs of 200-450 GW of U.S. OSW by 2050, with 20-40 GW in each RTO

Though increased costs and supply chain disruptions will delay reaching 2030 goals by several years, long-term goals are still achievable

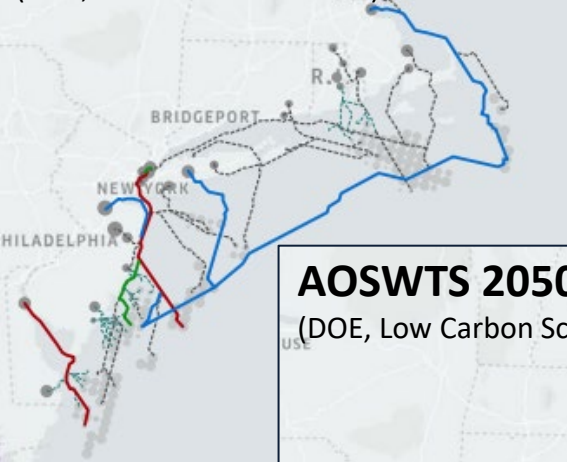


Regional and Interregional Transmission for OSW Generation

AOSWTS 2030: 30 GW (DOE, Low Carbon Scenario)



AOSWTS 2040: 55 GW (DOE, Low Carbon Scenario)



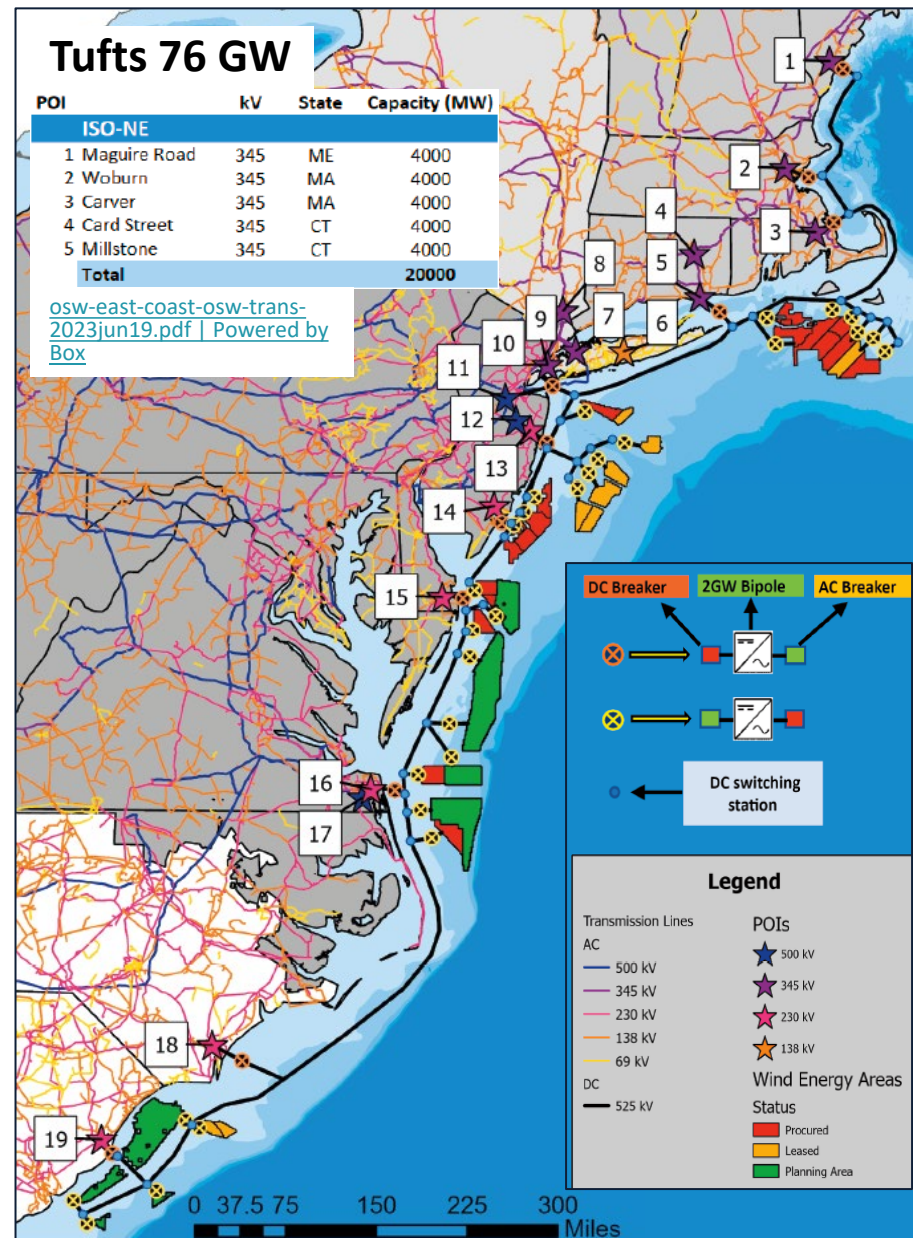
AOSWTS 2050: 110 GW (DOE, Low Carbon Scenario)



Studies by **DOE (AOSWTS)** and **Tufts** point to the value of combining OSW generation interconnection (and necessary onshore upgrades) with new interregional (mostly offshore) transmission links.

These studies do not currently take into account attractive new links with Canada.

Analyses show additional 4-7 GW of interties likely will be cost-effective for New England. Same additions for NY.

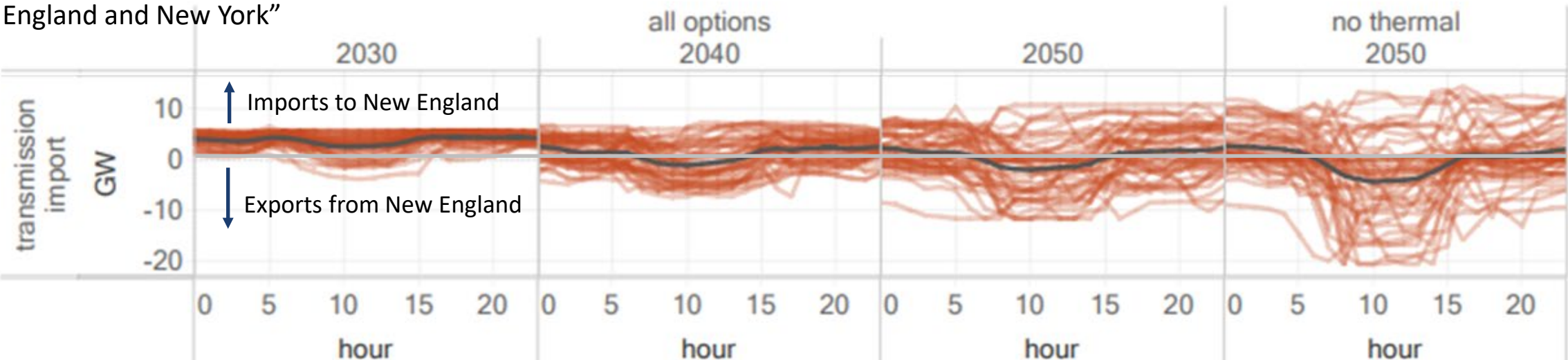


MA Study: Additional transmission between the Northeastern US and Canada will be cost effective and used bi-directionally

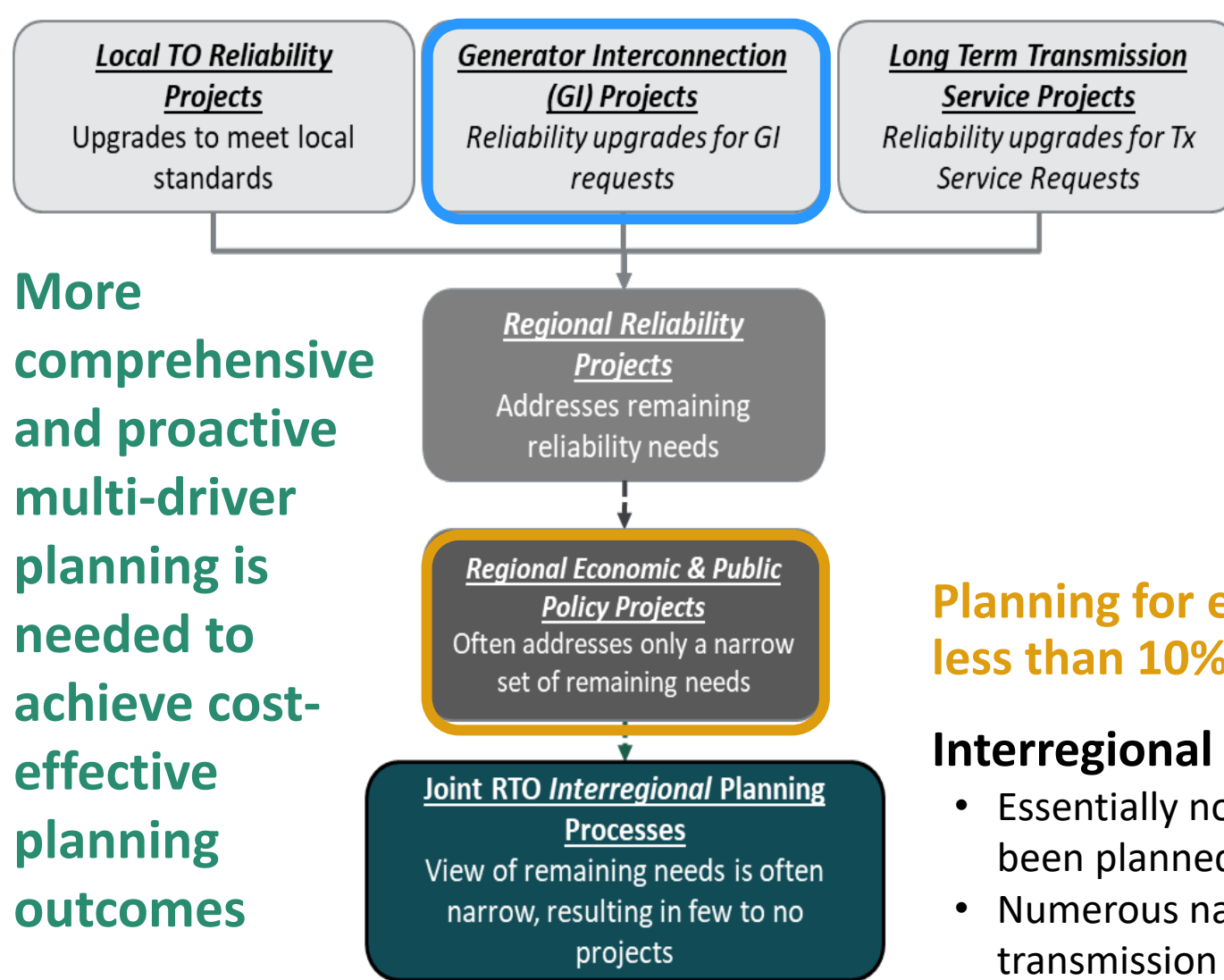
Example: MA Decarbonization Pathway Study shows additional transmission is needed and bidirectional used starting in 2030: “the Quebec hydro system in effect as a form of seasonal energy storage, with energy exported to Quebec during many hours to serve Quebec loads, and with imports from Quebec in other hours to serve loads in New England and New York”

Cost effective new transmission by 2050:

		no thermal	coordination regional	efficiency limited	100% renewable primary	all options	breakthrough der	pipeline gas	constrained offshore wind
Zone from	Zone to								
Quebec	Maine	2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9
Quebec	Massachusetts	4.3	4.8	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.9
Quebec	New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quebec	New York	6.8	6.8	6.8	4.7	4.4	4.2	5.6	3.8
Quebec	Vermont	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8



Today's reliability-focused regional transmission planning are too silo-ed to identify cost-effective or interregional solutions



More comprehensive and proactive multi-driver planning is needed to achieve cost-effective planning outcomes

These solely reliability-driven processes account for > 90% of all U.S. transmission investments

- None involve any assessments of economic benefits (i.e., cost savings offered by the new transmission)

Incremental generation interconnection has become the primary tool (and efficiency barrier) to support public policy goals

Planning for economic & public-policy needs results in less than 10% of all U.S. transmission investments

Interregional planning processes are large ineffective

- Essentially no major interregional transmission projects have been planned and built in the last decade
- Numerous national studies show that more interregional transmission is needed to reduce total system costs

Many significant barriers to interregional transmission exist

A. Leadership, Alignment and Understanding	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Insufficient leadership from RTOs and federal & state policy makers to prioritize interregional planning2. Limited trust amongst states, RTOs, utilities, & customers3. Limited understanding of transmission issues, benefits & proposed solutions4. Misaligned interests of RTOs, TOs, generators & policymakers5. States prioritize local interests, such as development of in-state renewables
B. Planning Process and Analytics	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Benefit analyses are too narrow, and often not consistent between regions7. Lack of proactive planning for a full range of future scenarios8. Sequencing of local, regional, and interregional planning9. Cost allocation (too contentious or overly formulaic)
C. Regulatory Constraints	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Overly-prescriptive tariffs and joint operating agreements11. State need certification, permitting, and siting

Source: Appendix A of [A Roadmap to Improved Interregional Transmission Planning](#), November 30, 2021. Based on interviews with 18 organizations representing state and federal policy makers, state and federal regulators, transmission planners, transmission developers, industry groups, environmental groups, and large customers.

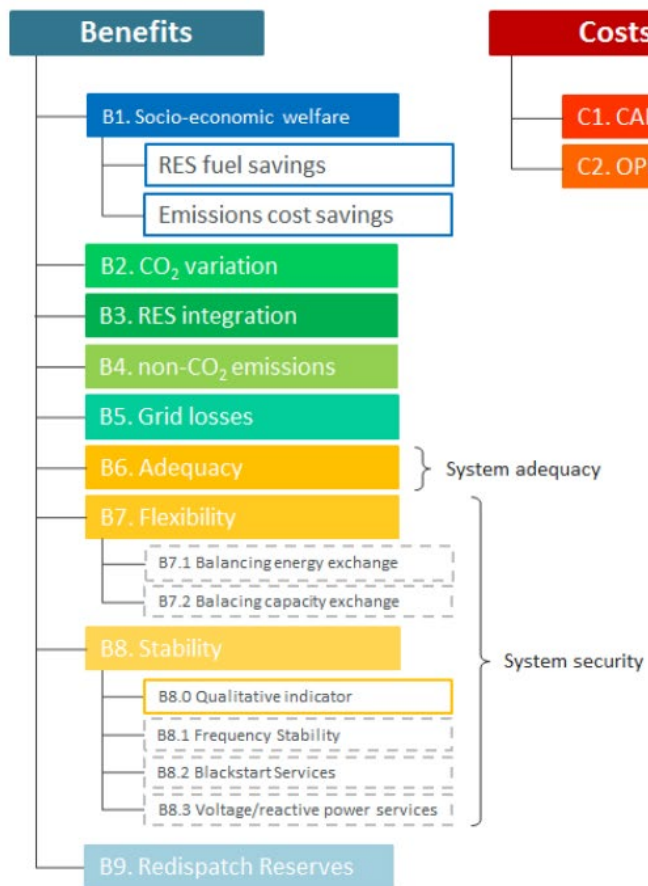
Proactive, holistic, multi-value planning is needed!

The benefits (overall cost savings) of proactive planning increase for transmission planning processes that:

1. Holistically consider all transmission needs over longer time frames (i.e., two decade of already known or likely needs for generator interconnection, local and regional reliability, economic benefits, and public policies, as opposed to need at a time)
2. Use proactive, multi-value planning processes to address both urgent near-term needs and long-term needs
3. Reduce the scope of network upgrades triggered by generator interconnection through proactive, holistic planning (and improve generator interconnection study criteria)
4. Look beyond regional seams to identify more cost-effective interregional solutions to the range of identified transmission needs
5. Rely on advanced transmission technologies to address identified needs
6. Utilize pragmatic cost allocations that are roughly commensurate with (but not formulaically based on) benefits received

Example of continent-wide proactive, multi-value planning: The European 10-year Network Development Plan (TYNDP)

ENTSO-E: Standardized Multi-value Benefit-Cost Analysis Framework for EU-wide Transmission Planning (incl. HVDC)

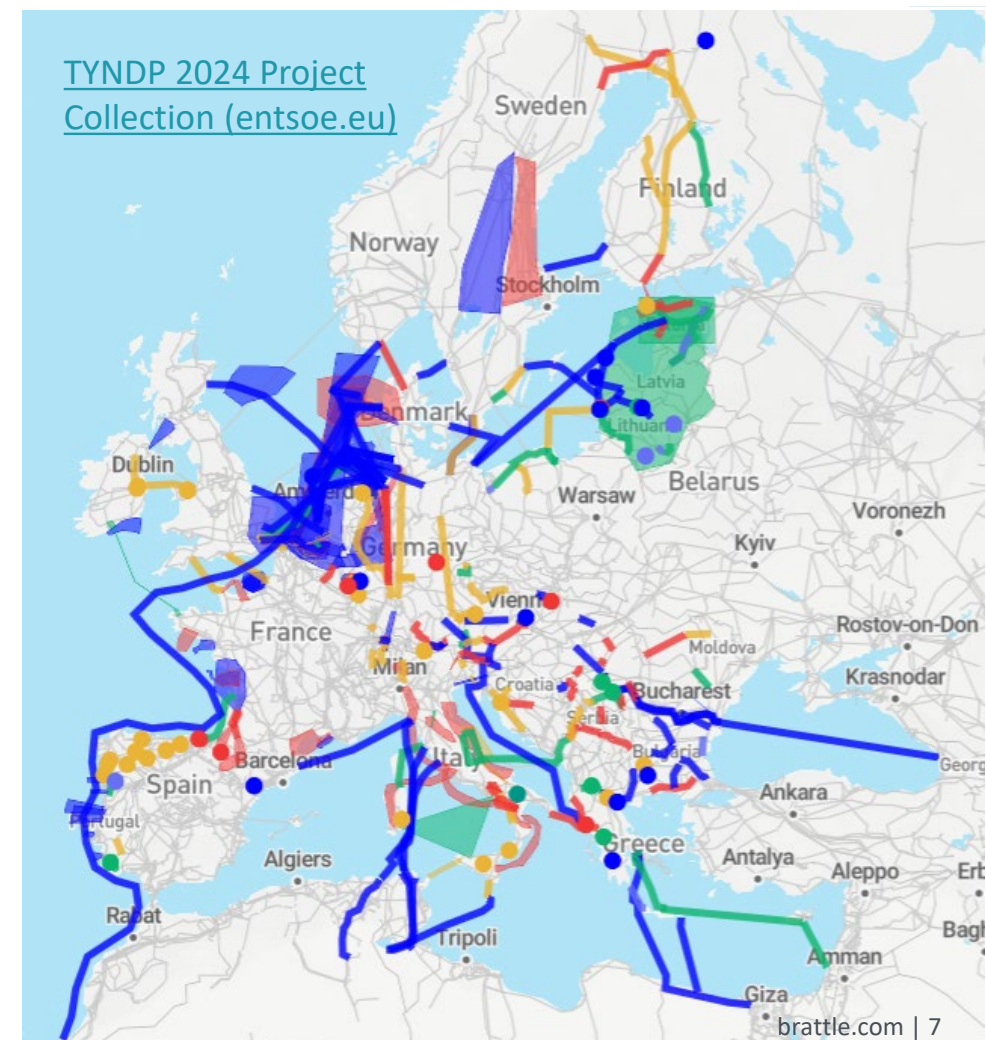


Entso-E Planning and CBA framework

- Forecast-based up to 10 years
- Scenario-based for 10-30 years
- Standardized benefit-cost analysis
- Specifically addresses HVDC benefits: cost savings achievable from optimized dispatch of HVDC lines; transient, voltage, and frequency stability benefits of HVDC lines; blackstart services; voltage and reactive power support

Source: ENTSO-e, [4th ENTSO-e Guideline for Cost Benefit Analysis of Grid Development Projects](#), Oct 18, 2023, Figure 8; [TYNDP 2024 Implementation Guidelines](#), Mar 4, 2024.
For a summary of the ENSTO-e framework, incl. HVDC, see pp. 77-80 [here](#).

10-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) to Evaluate 176 Transmission, 33 Storage Projects



The Challenge: How to keep the energy transition affordable



The challenge to achieving an affordable clean-energy transition is formidable:

1. Much of the (aging) existing generating resources will need to be replaced over the next two decades
2. Electrification and data center load growth will double the amount of generation supply needed (even with EE)
3. Local, regional, and interregional transmission capacity will need to double or triple to achieve a cost-effective outcome (as numerous studies have already shown)

More investment will be needed than can easily be provided and recovered

Unless done efficiently and cost-effectively, the size of investments and customer rate impacts will quickly exceed feasible and acceptable levels!

Nobody will be “happy” if rates start to exceed certain levels

- Unaffordable rates will undermine or delay policy goals
- High fixed costs will create uneconomic bypass of existing facilities, which will further increase total costs
- Unhappy customers and regulators create risk and challenges for regulated companies and their investors
- Utility credit ratings will deteriorate and limit the amount of investments that can be financed



Thank You!

(Additional Slides)

About the Speakers



Johannes P. Pfeifenberger

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THE BRATTLE GROUP, BOSTON**

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([webbio and publications](#))

Johannes (Hannes) Pfeifenberger, a Principal at The Brattle Group, is an economist with a background in electrical engineering and over twenty-five years of experience in wholesale power market design, renewable energy, electricity storage, and transmission. He also is a Visiting Scholar at MIT's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR), a former Senior Fellow at Boston University's Institute of Sustainable Energy (BU-ISE), a IEEE Senior Member, and currently serves as an advisor to research initiatives by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Labs, and the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG).

Hannes specializes in wholesale power markets and transmission. He has analyzed transmission needs, transmission benefits and costs, transmission cost allocations, and renewable generation interconnection challenges for independent system operators, transmission companies, generation developers, public power companies, industry groups, and regulatory agencies across North America. He has worked on transmission matters in SPP, MISO, PJM, New York, New England, ERCOT, CAISO, WECC, and Canada and has analyzed offshore-wind transmission challenges in New York, New England, and New Jersey.

He received an M.A. in Economics and Finance from Brandeis University's International Business School and an M.S. and B.S. ("Diplom Ingenieur") in Power Engineering and Energy Economics from the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria.

Options for achieving a more affordable energy transition



Achieving cost-effective transmission-related outcomes requires a multi-faceted approach:

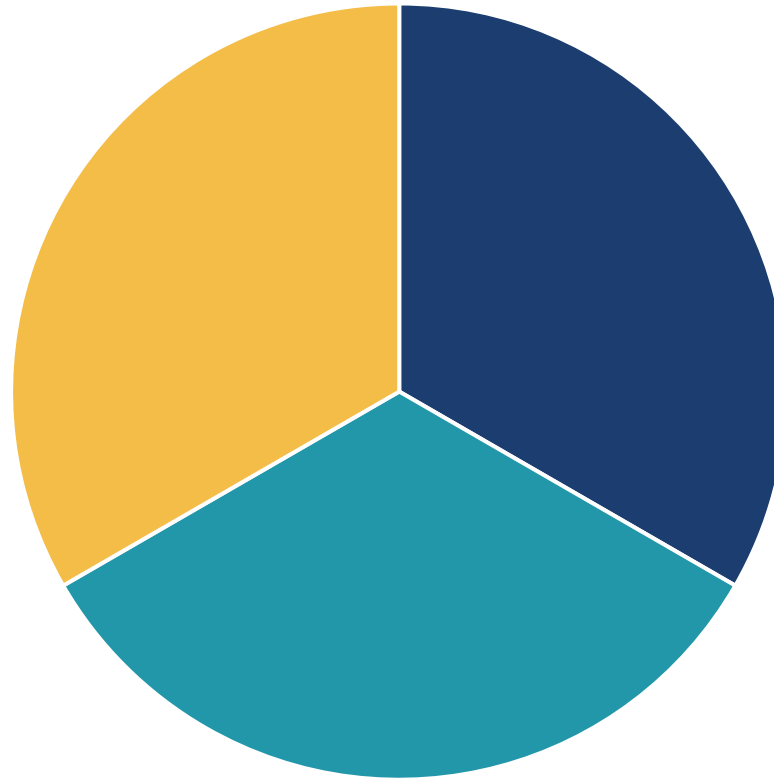
1. More **proactive and holistic transmission planning**
 - Multi-driver/value planning (incl. for generator interconnection) to find lowest-total-cost solutions
 - Least regrets planning to mitigate risk and costs of both overbuilding and undersizing
2. **“Loading order”** for transmission planning that prioritizes lower cost/impact options
 - Optimize existing grid → upsize existing lines → add new lines
3. **Cost control incentives**
 - Broad-based PBR, targeted incentives, soft/hard caps, shared savings/overruns
4. **Competitive solicitations**
 - Where possible and practical; with added cost-control incentives
5. **Efficiency and demand flexibility**
 - To reduce transmission, distribution, generation, and resource-adequacy costs

Need: to double or triple transmission capability in North America!

Question: How can we do so quickly and cost-effectively?

1. Advanced, grid enhancing technologies

- Dynamic line ratings
- Flow control devices
- Topology optimization
- Grid-optimized DER/storage
- Remedial action schemes
- Grid-forming inverters



2. Upgrades of existing lines

- Advanced conductors
- Rebuild aging lines at higher voltage
- Conversions to HVDC

3. New transmission

- Highway/railroad corridors
- ROW-efficient AC designs
- HVDC transmission
- Submarine/underground
- New greenfield overhead

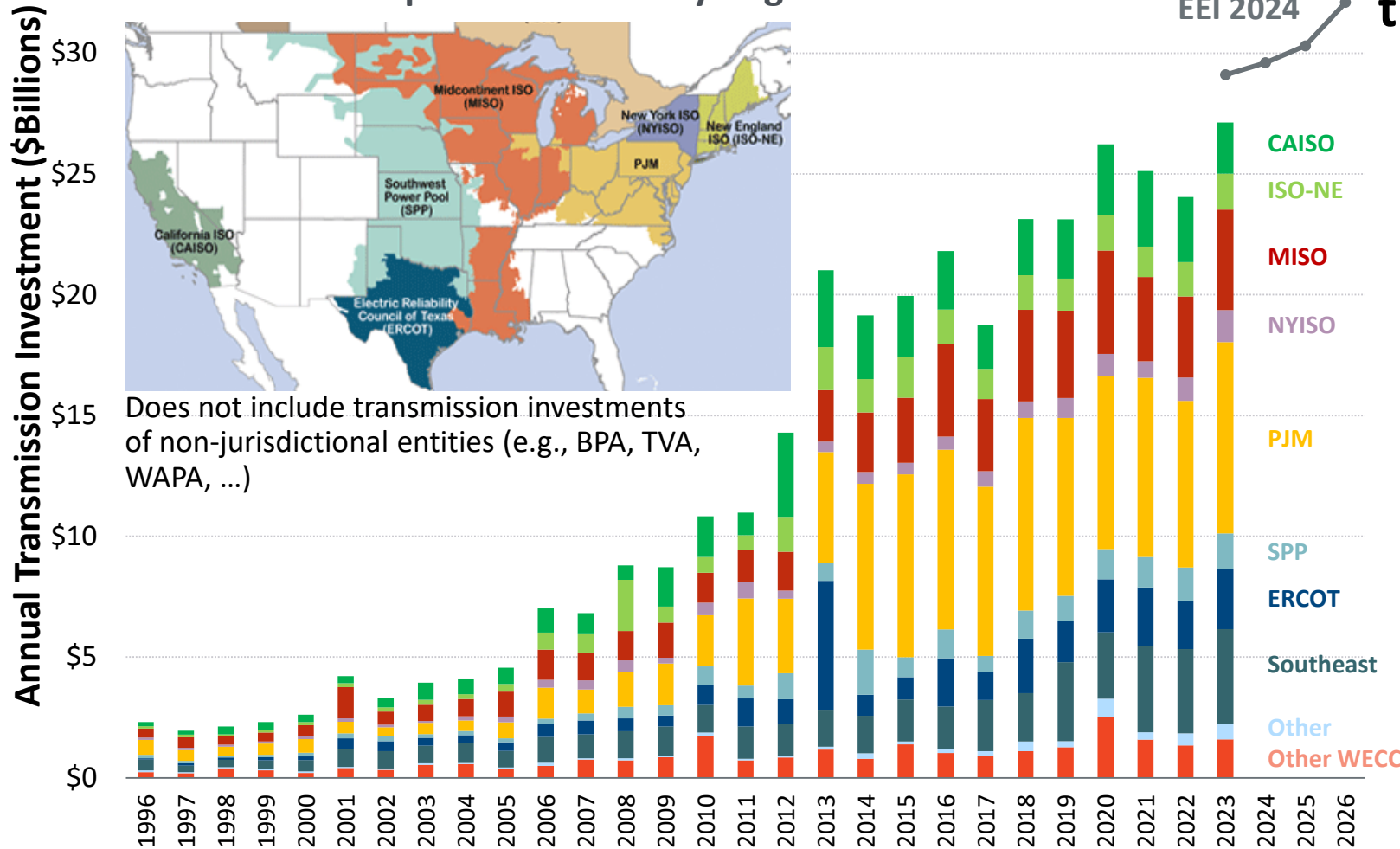
Examples:

Priority order required by the German “NOVA Principle”

MA CETWG Report: Loading Order and ATT/GETs recommendations

Annual U.S. Transmission Investments 1996-2023

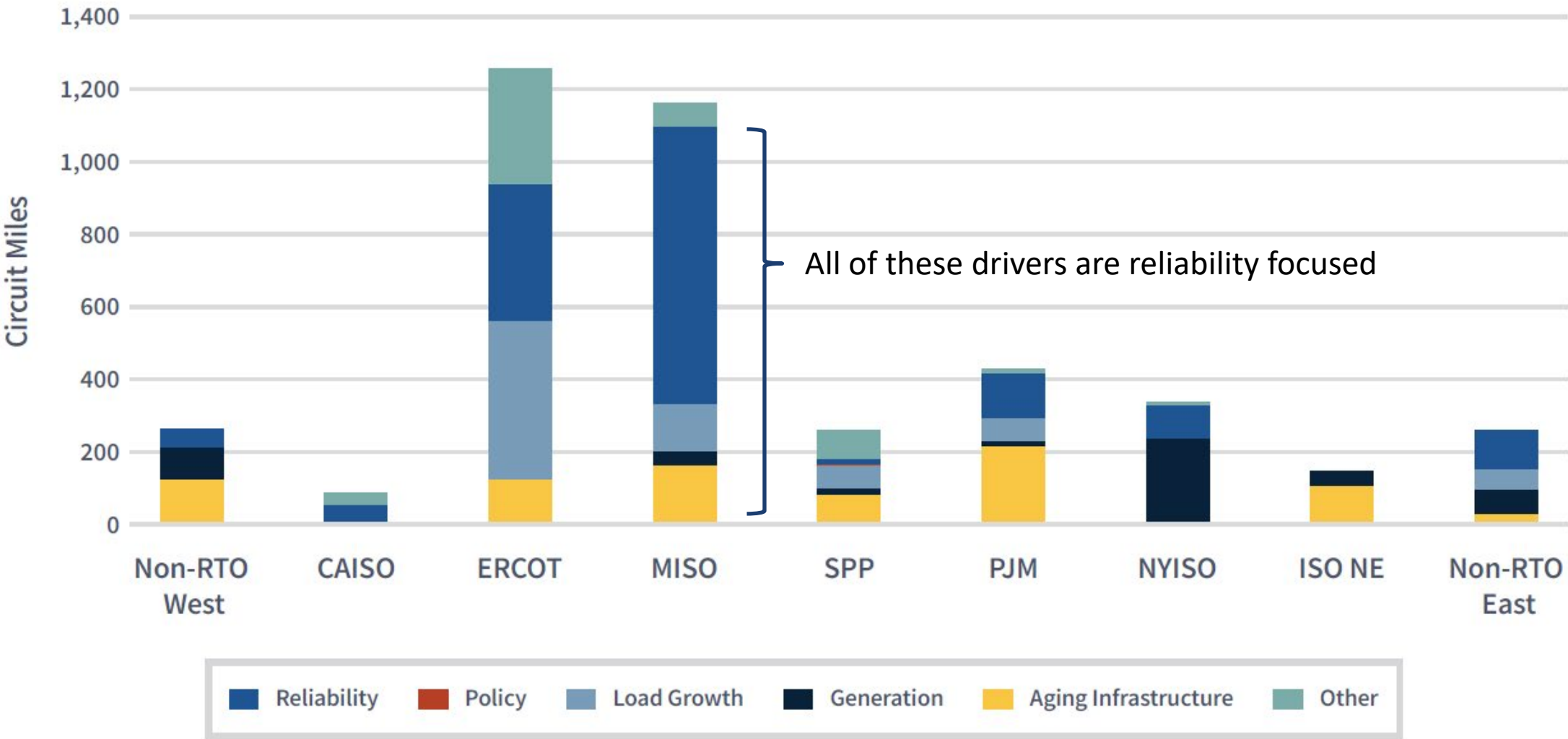
Annual Transmission Investment
as Reported to FERC by Region



\$25+ billion in annual U.S. transmission investments, but:

- More than 90% of it justified solely based on reliability needs without benefit-cost analysis
 - About 50% solely based on “local” utility criteria (without going through regional planning processes)
 - The rest justified by regional reliability and generation interconnection needs
- While significant experience with transmission benefit-cost analyses exists, very few projects are justified based on economics to yield overall cost savings
- FERC Order 1920 may change that

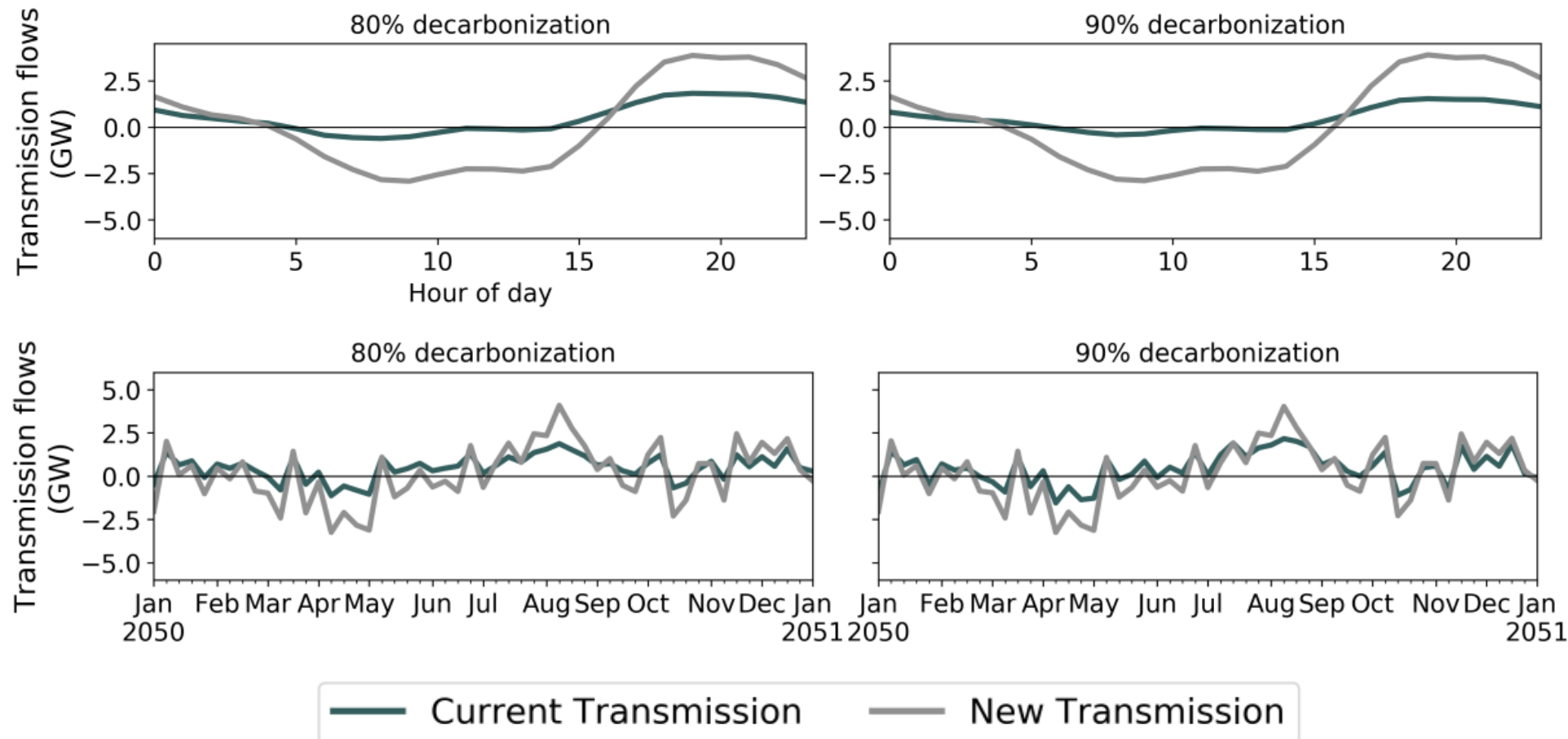
2023 Transmission Investments by Driver



Source: [FERC Staff Report: 2023 State of the Markets \(March 21, 2024\)](#), Figure 15 (based on C3 Group data)

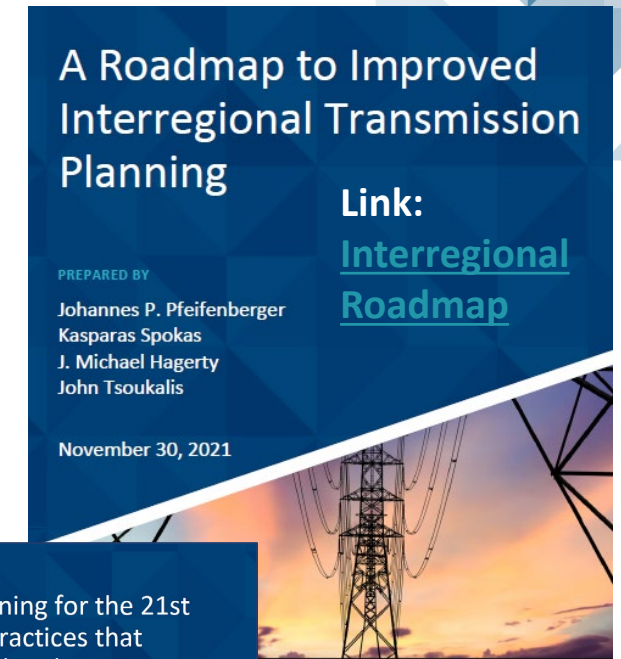
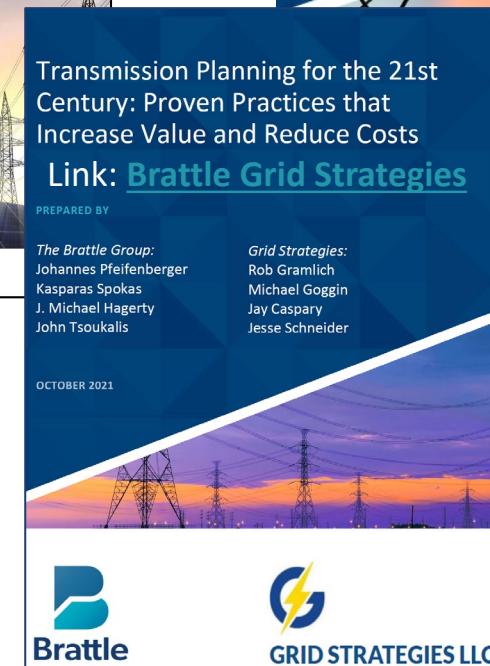
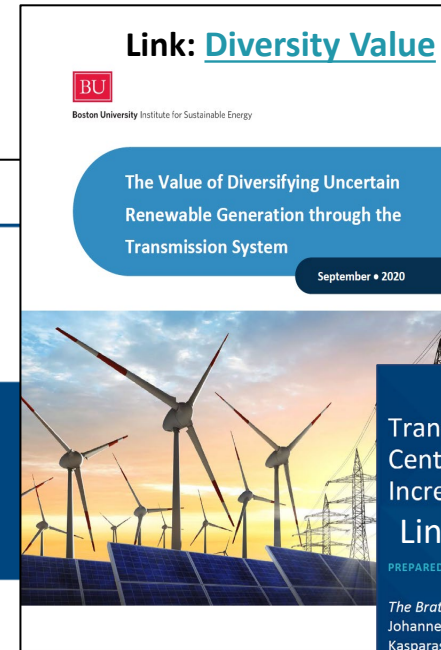
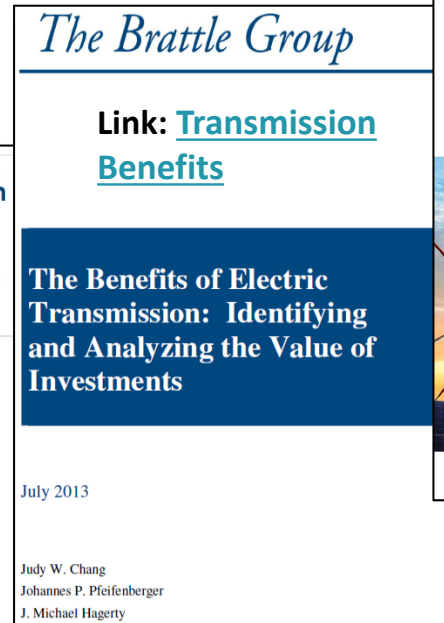
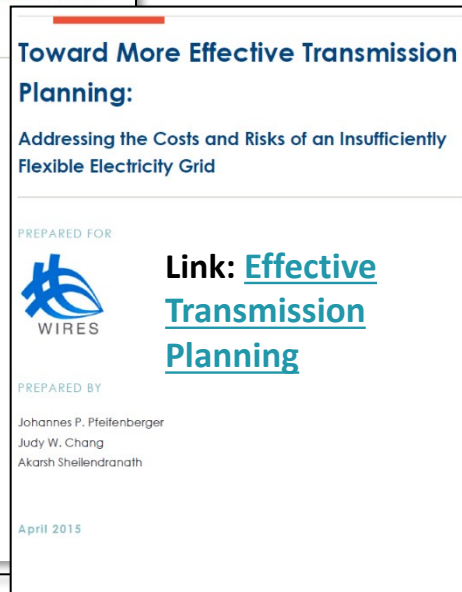
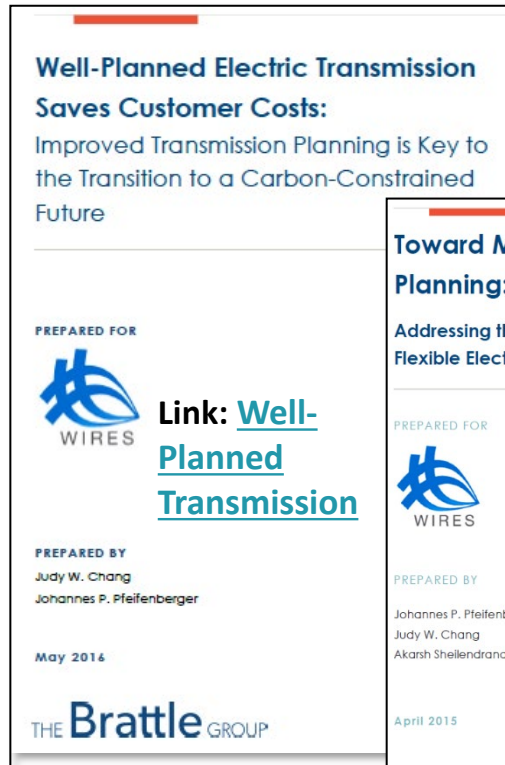
MIT Study: Additional transmission between the Northeastern US and Canada will be cost effective and used bi-directionally

MIT similarly found that decarbonization of the electric grid in the Northeastern US will increase the need for transmission capacity and bidirectional power flows.



Source: [Two-Way Trade in Green Electrons: Deep Decarbonization of the Northeastern U.S. and the Role of Canadian Hydropower](#), MIT, Feb 2020.

Examples of Brattle Reports on Regional and Interregional Transmission Planning and Benefit-Cost Analyses



Summarizes proven approaches to quantifying various benefits

“Checklist” of Transmission Benefits With Proven Practices for Quantifying Them

We documented in our [report](#) proven practices, which were largely adopted in FERC Order 1920:

1. Consider for each project (or synergistic portfolio of projects) the full set of benefits that transmission can provide (see table)
2. Identify the benefits that plausibly exist and may be significant for that particular project or portfolio; then
3. Focus on quantifying those benefits

(See our [report](#) with Grid Strategies for a summary of quantification practices)

Benefit Category	Transmission Benefit
1. Traditional Production Cost Savings	Adjusted Production Cost (APC) savings as currently estimated in most planning processes
2. Additional Production Cost Savings	i. Impact of generation outages and A/S unit designations
	ii. Reduced transmission energy losses
	iii. Reduced congestion due to transmission outages
	iv. Reduced production cost during extreme events and system contingencies
	v. Mitigation of typical weather and load uncertainty, including the geographic diversification of uncertain renewable generation variability
	vi. Reduced cost due to imperfect foresight of real-time system conditions, including renewable forecasting errors and intra-hour variability
	vii. Reduced cost of cycling power plants
	viii. Reduced amounts and costs of operating reserves and other ancillary services
	ix. Mitigation of reliability-must-run (RMR) conditions
	x. More realistic “Day 1” market representation
3. Reliability and Resource Adequacy Benefits	i. Avoided/deferred cost of reliability projects (including aging infrastructure replacements) otherwise necessary
	ii. (a) Reduced loss of load probability or (b) reduced planning reserve margin
4. Generation Capacity Cost Savings	i. Capacity cost benefits from reduced peak energy losses
	ii. Deferred generation capacity investments
	iii. Access to lower-cost generation resources
5. Market Facilitation Benefits	i. Increased competition
	ii. Increased market liquidity
6. Environmental Benefits	i. Reduced expected cost of potential future emissions regulations
	ii. Improved utilization of transmission corridors
7. Public Policy Benefits	Reduced cost of meeting public policy goals
8. Other Project-Specific Benefits	Examples: increased storm hardening and wild-fire resilience, increased fuel diversity and system flexibility, reduced cost of future transmission needs, increased wheeling revenues, HVDC operational benefits

Examples of Significant U.S. Experience with Identifying and Quantifying a Broad Range of Transmission-related Benefits

SPP 2016 RCAR, 2013 MTF

Quantified

1. **production cost savings***
 - value of reduced emissions
 - reduced ancillary service costs
2. avoided transmission project costs
3. reduced transmission losses*
 - capacity benefit
 - energy cost benefit
4. lower transmission outage costs
5. value of reliability projects
6. value of mtg public policy goals
7. Increased wheeling revenues

Not quantified

8. reduced cost of extreme events
9. reduced reserve margin
10. reduced loss of load probability
11. increased competition/liquidity
12. improved congestion hedging
13. mitigation of uncertainty
14. reduced plant cycling costs
15. societal economic benefits

(SPP Regional Cost Allocation Review [Report](#) for RCAR II, July 11, 2016. SPP Metrics Task Force, [Benefits for the 2013 Regional Cost Allocation Review](#), July, 5 2012.)

MISO MVP Analysis

Quantified

1. **production cost savings ***
2. reduced operating reserves
3. reduced planning reserves
4. reduced transmission losses*
5. reduced renewable generation investment costs
6. reduced future transmission investment costs

Not quantified

7. enhanced generation policy flexibility
8. increased system robustness
9. decreased natural gas price risk
10. decreased CO₂ emissions output
11. decreased wind generation volatility
12. increased local investment and job creation

(Proposed Multi Value Project Portfolio, Technical Study Task Force and Business Case Workshop August 22, 2011)

CAISO TEAM Analysis

(DPV2 example)

Quantified

1. **production cost savings*** and reduced energy prices from both a societal and customer perspective
2. mitigation of market power
3. insurance value for high-impact low-probability events
4. capacity benefits due to reduced generation investment costs
5. operational benefits (RMR)
6. reduced transmission losses*
7. emissions benefit

Not quantified

8. facilitation of the retirement of aging power plants
9. encouraging fuel diversity
10. improved reserve sharing
11. increased voltage support

(CPUC Decision 07-01-040, January 25, 2007, Opinion Granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity)

NYISO PPTN Analysis

(AC Upgrades)

Quantified

1. **production cost savings*** (includes savings not captured by normalized simulations)
2. capacity resource cost savings
3. reduced refurbishment costs for aging transmission
4. reduced costs of achieving renewable and climate policy goals

Not quantified

5. protection against extreme market conditions
6. increased competition and liquidity
7. storm hardening and resilience
8. expandability benefits

(Newell, et al., Benefit-Cost [Analysis](#) of Proposed New York AC Transmission Upgrades, September 15, 2015)

* Fairly consistent across RTOs

What is Proactive, Scenario-Based, Long-Term Planning?

Scenario-based planning is a process first developed in the 1940s and 1950s as a tool for integrating uncertainties into long-term strategic planning:

- Used by Shell with great success since the 1970s for long-term planning under large uncertainties
- **Assists planners to think, in advance, about the many ways the future may unfold and how to respond effectively and flexibly as the future becomes reality**
- Ranks among the top-ten management tools in the world today
- Scenario = one fully-defined, plausible view of what the future may look like

Scenario-based planning is a multi-step process:

1. Define scenarios of plausible futures by scanning the current reality, trends and forecasts, uncertainties, and important internal and external drivers
2. Develop a series of plans (initiatives, projects, policies, tactics) that support a certain scenario, work well in multiple scenarios, or are flexible and robust across all scenarios
3. Implement preferred plan and define indicators to alert planners that a certain future is likely to occur, so they can take action (e.g., change course to address the new developments)

Risk Mitigation Through Proactive “Least-Regrets” Planning



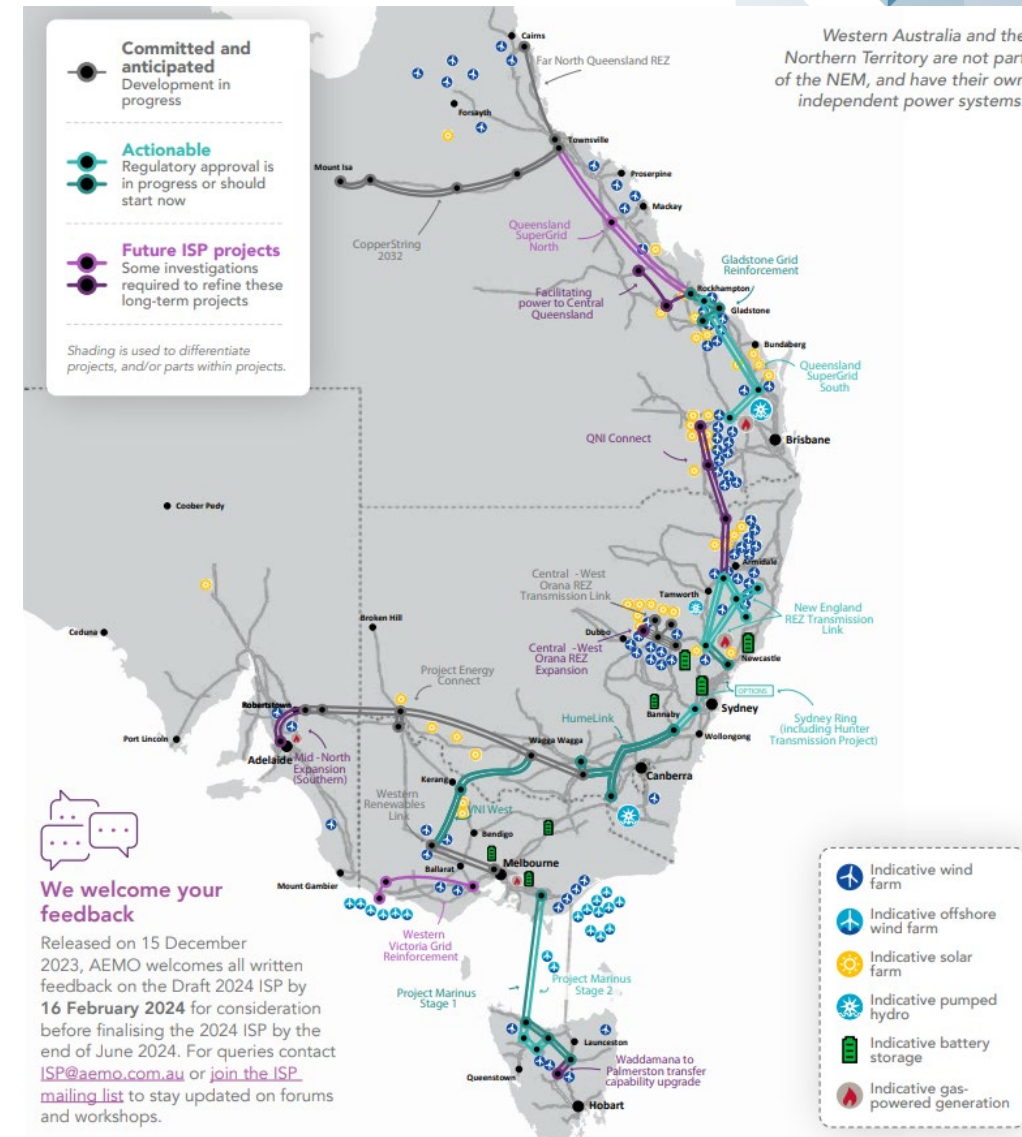
Planning processes need to consider the risk-mitigation and insurance value of transmission infrastructure:

- Given that it can take a decade to develop new transmission, delaying investment can easily **limit future options** and result in a **higher-cost, higher-risk** overall outcomes
 - “Wait and see” approaches can limit options, so can be more costly in the long term
 - The industry needs to plan for both short- and long-term uncertainties more proactively – and develop “anticipatory planning” processes that comprehensively address all future needs
- **“Least regrets” planning** needs to focus on minimize the risk of both under- and overinvesting
 - Scenario-based planning to minimize possible regrets ... must focus not only on (1) identifying projects that are beneficial under most circumstances; but also consider (2) the many “regrettable” high-cost outcomes that could result if transmission investments are not made
 - In other words: can’t just focus on the “cost” of insurance without considering the cost of not having insurance when it is needed
- Taking probability-weighted averages is insufficient as it assumes risk neutrality and cannot distinguish between plans with higher/lower risk distributions

Example: Australian Integrated System Plan (ISP)

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) integrated planning process is “best in class” for proactive, scenario-based planning:

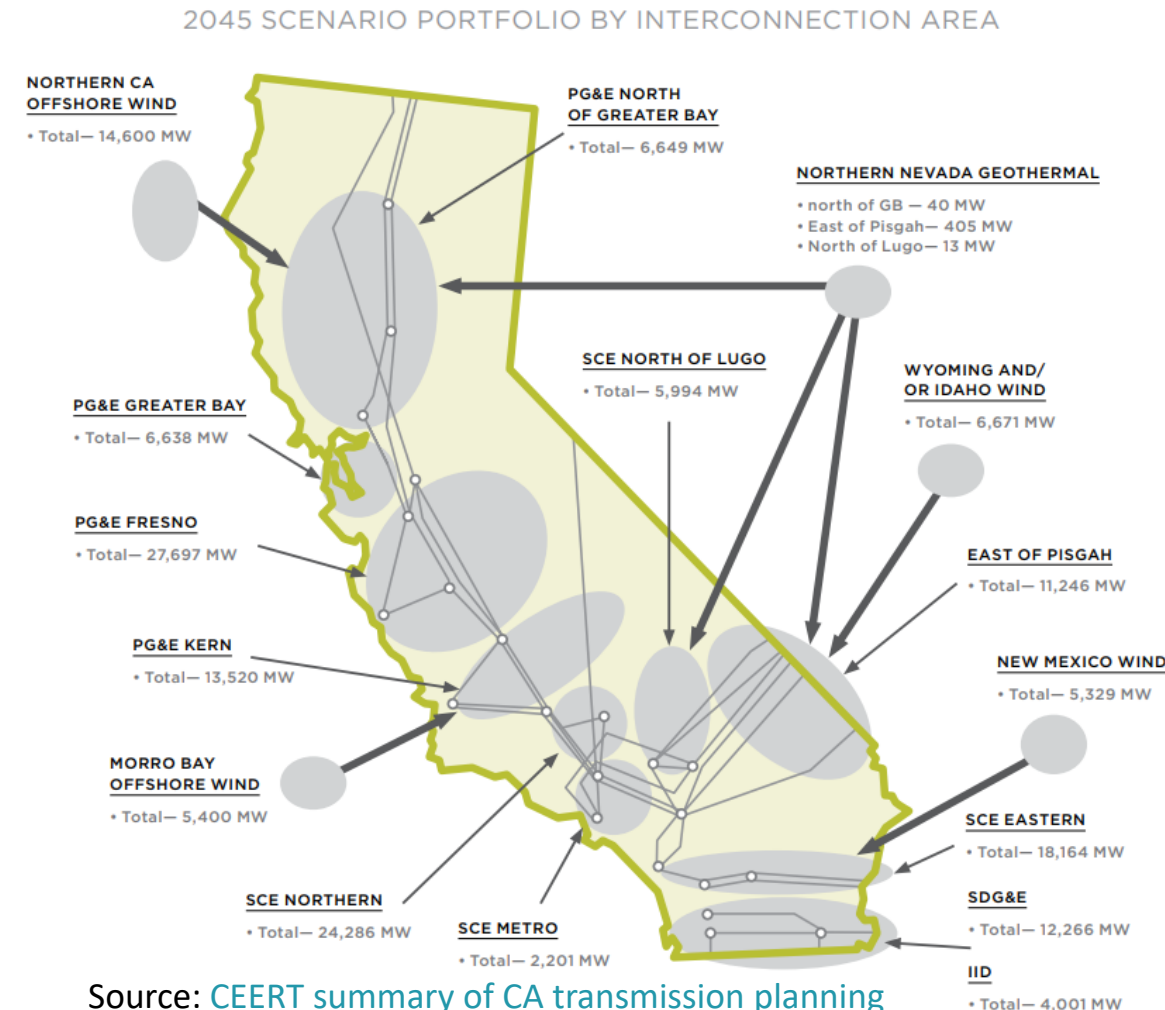
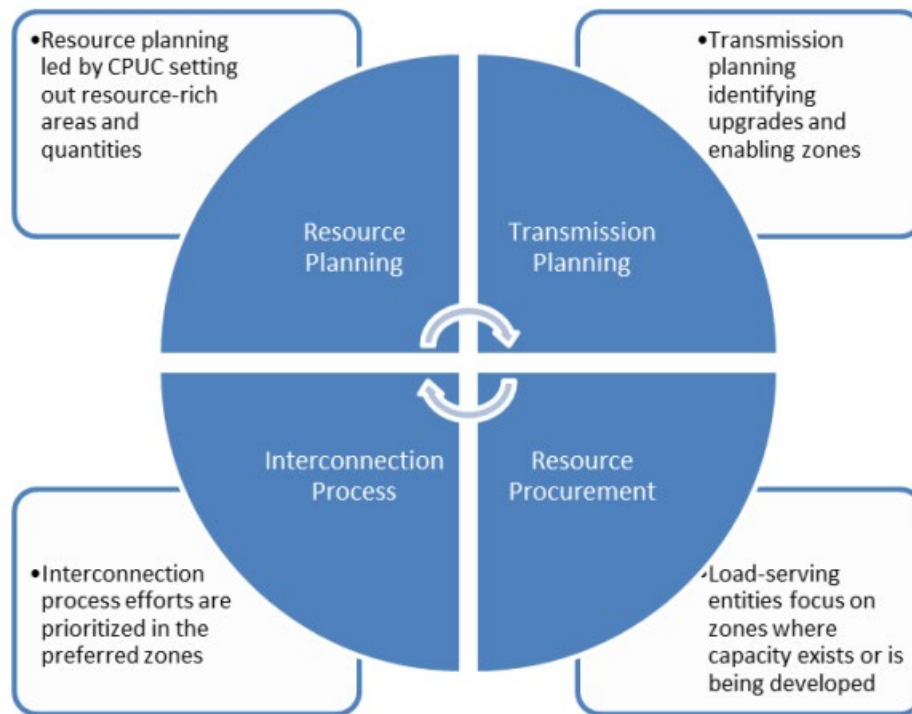
- Clearly-specified methodology ([link](#)) produces updated plans every two years with extensive stakeholder consultations (see [Draft 2024 ISP](#))
 - Scenario-based analysis explicitly considers long-term uncertainties over next 30 years ([link](#))
 - Plans distinguish: (1) actionable projects for which the need is certain enough now to move forward; and (2) future projects that are likely needed at some point
 - Least regrets planning values optionality that can be exercised if/when needed (e.g., projects that can be built/expanded in stages; or undertaking “early works” to develop shovel-ready projects that can be constructed quickly in the future)
- Guidelines for cost-benefit framework, forecasting, and “investment tests” from the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) make AEMO plans actionable ([link](#))



Example: California's Transmission Planning Process (TPP)

California's TPP combines (1) scenario-based, zonal resource development outlooks prepared by state agencies with (2) the planning and procurement of transmission solutions by the California ISO

- See [overview](#) and board-approved [2022-2023 Plan](#)
- Improved generator interconnection process ([link](#)) offers substantial [headroom](#)

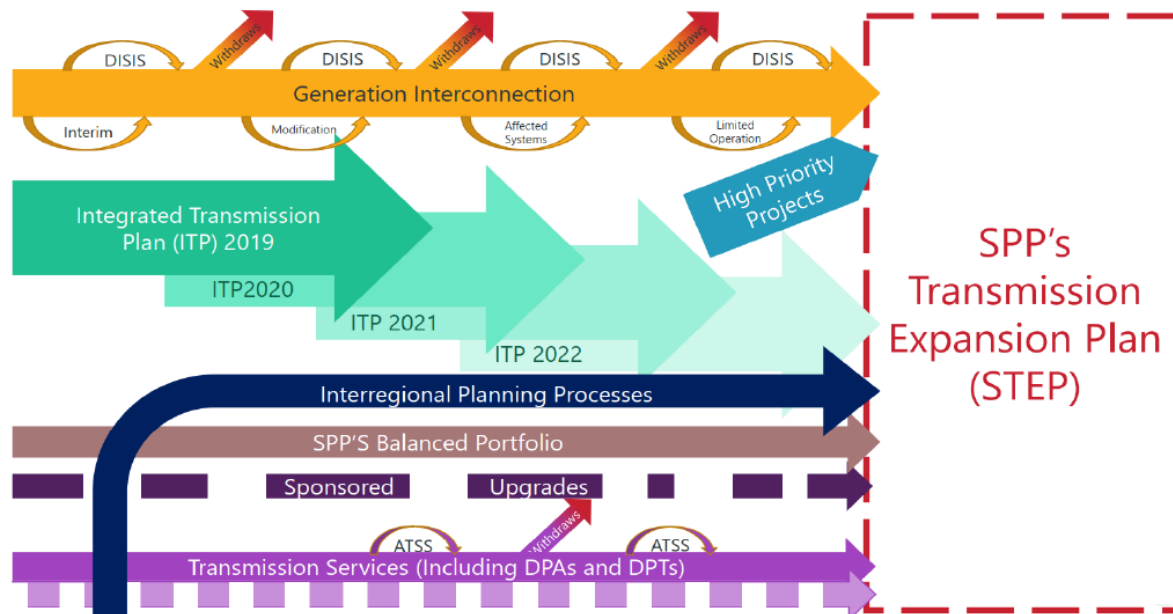


Source: [CEERT summary of CA transmission planning](#)

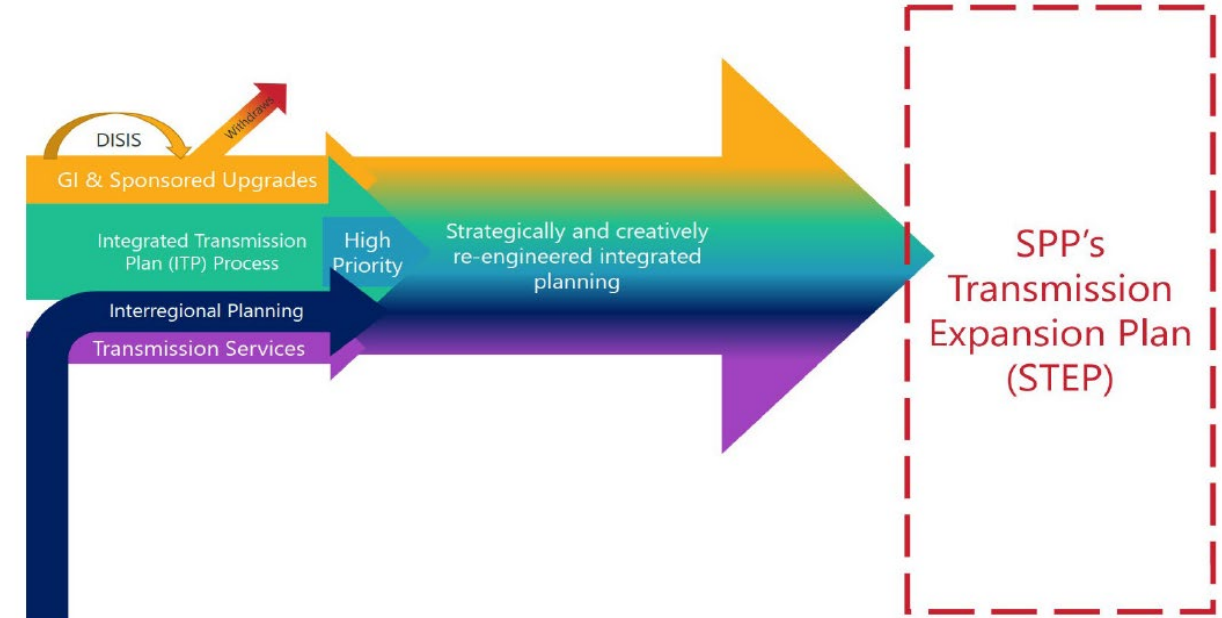
Example: SPP's Proposed Consolidated Planning Process (CPP)

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is working on consolidating its several siloed planning processes (e.g., for generator interconnection, integrated regional transmission, transmission service requests, and interregional planning) into a single holistic process:

Current Planning Process



Proposed Consolidated Planning Process



Options for interconnecting resources more quickly and efficiently

With FERC Order 2023 guidance and emerging best practices from other regions, the following measures can add resources more quickly and cost-effectively:

1. Implement fast-track process for sharing and transfers of existing POIs
2. Identify existing “headroom” at possible POIs
3. Fast-track new POIs for “first-ready” projects
4. Allow for GETs and (simple) RAS/SPS to address interconnection needs
5. Simplify ERIS (energy-only) interconnections with option to upgrade to NRIS (capacity) later
6. Proactively and holistically plan for long-term transmission needs
7. Speed up state & local permitting for projects with signed interconnection service agreements ([PJM blog](#): 44+ GW with ISAs yet only 2 GW brought online in 2022)

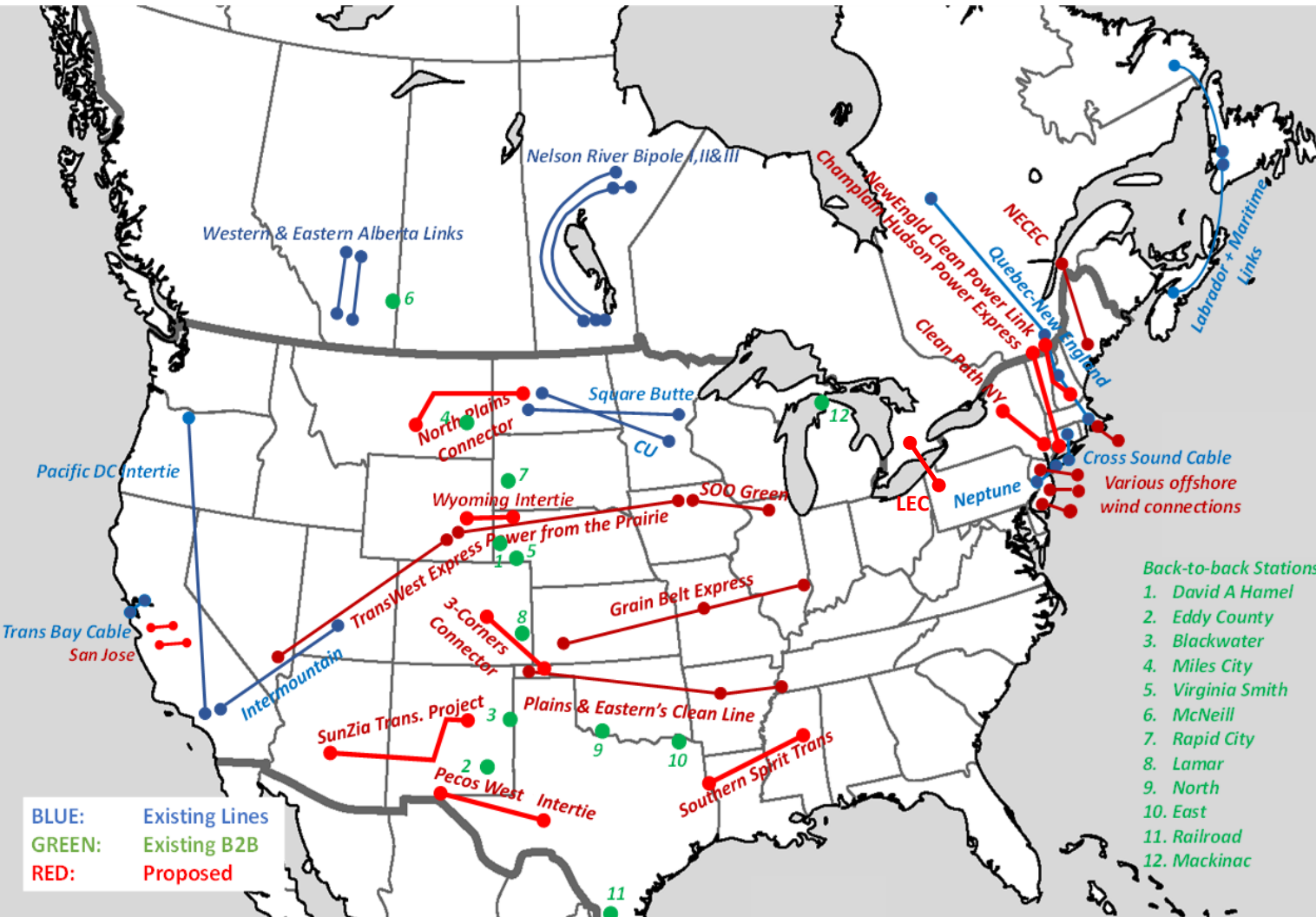
Need: Expand and More Efficiently Utilize Interregional Transmission

Significant seams-related inefficiencies exist between RTO markets, which make it difficult to capture the full value of both existing and new interregional transmission:

1. **Interregional transmission planning** is mostly not existing or ineffective (beyond merchant T)
2. **Generator interconnection** delays and cost uncertainty created by affected system impact studies (and effectiveness coordination through means such as the SPP-MISO JTIQ, reducing costs by 50%)
3. **Resource adequacy** value of interties (often not considered in RTO's resource adequacy evaluations) and barriers to capacity trades (often created by RTOs' restrictive capacity import requirements and incompatible resource accreditations)
4. **Loop flow management** through market-to-market coordinated flowgates (with shares of firm flow entitlements) under the existing JOAs
5. **Inefficient trading** across contract-path market seams and the need for intertie optimization (see [link](#))

Interregional Transmission Needs Are Addressed Mostly Through Proposed Merchant HVDC Lines

North American HVDC Projects (Existing and Planned/Proposed)



Most U.S. interregional transmission projects are HVDC lines proposed by merchant and OSW developers (i.e, not planned by system operators)

Main HVDC advantages:

- High capacity (1-5 GW), long-distance
- Efficient right of way (including underground and submarine)
- Controllable power flows (for transmission access, economic dispatch and during contingencies)
- Synchronous and asynchronous applications
- Grid-forming capability / weak AC grids
- Grid services (to support AC network)

The Bottom Line: Necessary Improvements



Holistic and proactive transmission planning

- More cost-effective solutions (that integrate generator interconnection, asset refurbishment) and all other transmission needs) can be identified
- The costs and time required to address future transmission needs (and interconnect the large number of resources necessary to meet clean-energy goals) can be reduced dramatically
- More flexible plans can be developed to address the wide range of uncertain long-term needs

The benefits of holistic, proactive planning increase for processes that:

1. Consider both near- and long-term transmission needs (i.e., a decade of already known resource needs, as opposed to one resource or one class year at a time)
2. Simultaneously considers multiple needs (generator interconnection, local and regional reliability, economic benefits, and public policy needs)
3. Reduce the scope of network upgrades triggered by generation interconnection through proactive and holistic planning
4. Look beyond regional seams to identify more cost-effective interregional solutions to the range of identified transmission needs (and minimize the scope of and uncertainties associated with “affected system studies”)
5. Rely on advanced transmission technologies and upsizing of existing lines to address some of the identified needs
6. Utilize pragmatic cost allocations that are roughly commensurate with benefits received

Brattle Group Publications on Transmission

Gramlich, Hagerty, et al., [Unlocking America's Energy: How to Efficiently Connect New Generation to the Grid](#), Grid Strategy and Brattle, August 2024.

DeLosa, Pfeifenberger, Joskow, [Regulation of Access, Pricing, and Planning of High Voltage Transmission in the US](#), MIT-CEEPR working paper, March 7, 2024.

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Pfeifenberger, [Generation Interconnection and Transmission Planning](#), ESIG Joint Generation Interconnection Workshop, August 9, 2022.

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Pfeifenberger et al., [Transmission Planning for the 21st Century: Proven Practices that Increase Value and Reduce Costs](#), Brattle-Grid Strategies, October 2021.

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Van Horn, Pfeifenberger, Ruiz, ["The Value of Diversifying Uncertain Renewable Generation through the Transmission System,"](#) BU-ISE, October 14, 2020.

Pfeifenberger, Newell, Graf and Spokas, ["Offshore Wind Transmission: An Analysis of Options for New York,"](#) prepared for Anbaric, August 2020.

Pfeifenberger, Newell, and Graf, ["Offshore Transmission in New England: The Benefits of a Better-Planned Grid,"](#) prepared for Anbaric, May 2020.

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Pfeifenberger and Hou, ["Seams Cost Allocation: A Flexible Framework to Support Interregional Transmission Planning,"](#) on behalf of SPP, April 2012.

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Brattle Group Practices and Industries

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Competition & Market
Manipulation
Distributed Energy
Resources
Electric Transmission
Electricity Market Modeling
& Resource Planning
Electrification & Growth
Opportunities
Energy Litigation
Energy Storage
Environmental Policy, Planning
and Compliance
Finance and Ratemaking
Gas/Electric Coordination
Market Design
Natural Gas & Petroleum
Nuclear
Renewable & Alternative
Energy

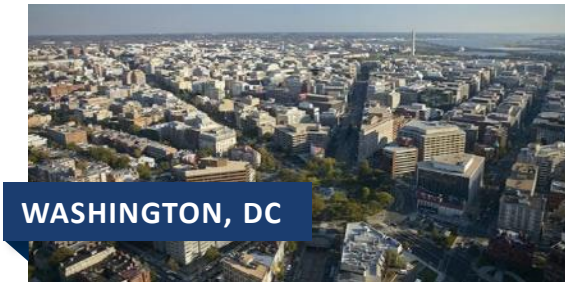
LITIGATION

Accounting
Analysis of Market
Manipulation
Antitrust/Competition
Bankruptcy & Restructuring
Big Data & Document Analytics
Commercial Damages
Environmental Litigation
& Regulation
Intellectual Property
International Arbitration
International Trade
Labor & Employment
Mergers & Acquisitions
Litigation
Product Liability
Securities & Finance
Tax Controversy
& Transfer Pricing
Valuation
White Collar Investigations
& Litigation

INDUSTRIES

Electric Power
Financial Institutions
Infrastructure
Natural Gas & Petroleum
Pharmaceuticals
& Medical Devices
Telecommunications,
Internet, and Media
Transportation
Water

Our Offices





Bridging the Power Gap: Bi-directional Clean Energy Benefits in the US Northeast and Eastern Canada

Acadia Center
October 9, 2024

US East Coast Clean Energy:

The future is electric. The grid is old. Winter is coming. Balancing is everything.

● New England

100% zero carbon by 2040-2050

15.1M population | 115 TWh annual energy demand
7,000 MW under retirement | 13 Tx connections to NY and Eastern Canada 99.3% of region's electricity provided by nuclear, hydro, imports, and RE. 51 GW winter peak

● New York

100% zero-emissions by 2040

19.6M population | 160 TWh annual energy demand – expected to triple to ~340 GWh by 2050 | +23 Tx connections to Canada, PJM, and ISO-NE | 26 GW of fossil generation | 87 gas and steam turbines > 47-62 years old | 84% of Tx facilities older than 1980

● New Jersey

100% clean energy by 2035

9.3M population | 800 TWh annual energy demand – expected to exceed 1300 TWh by 2039 | ~90 % of fossil steam turbines built before 1980. | +44 GW of new generation required to meet reliability needs

~2050 Winter Peaks:

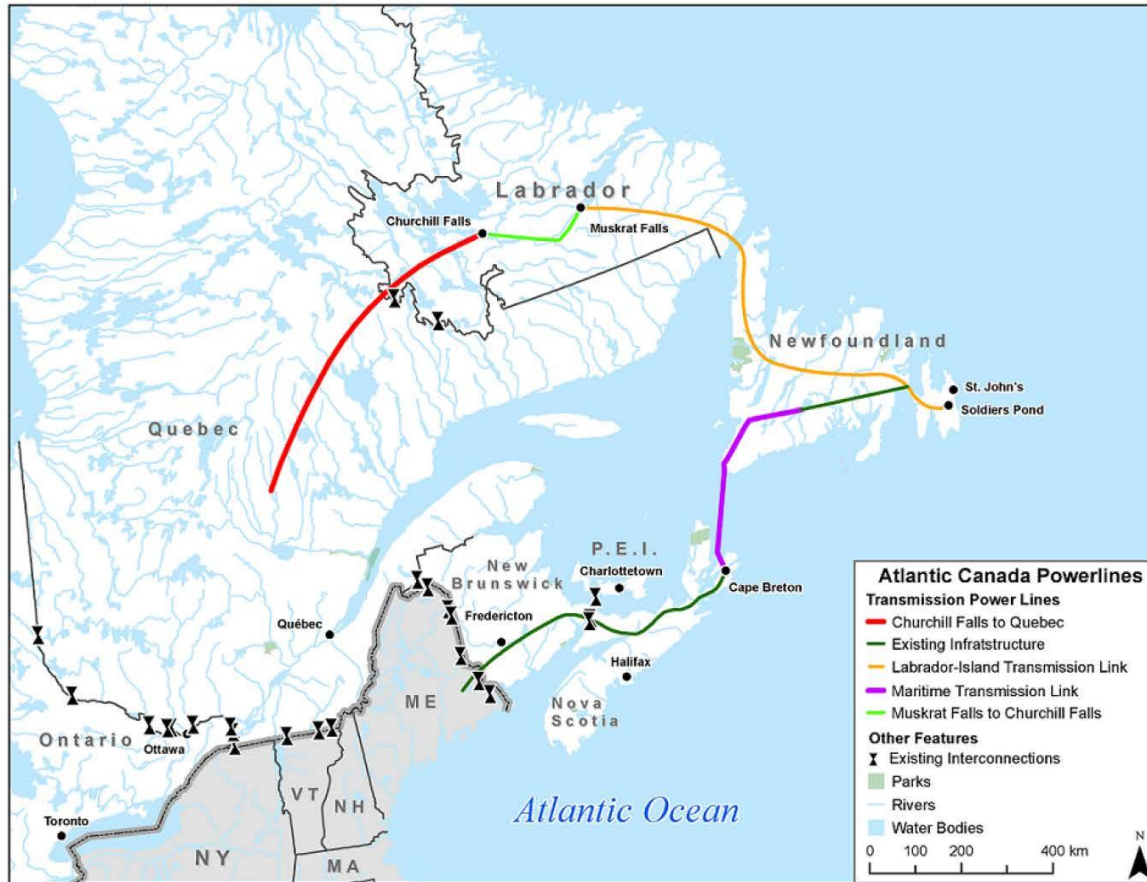
NE: 51 GW

NY: 50 GW

PJM: 178 GW

Eastern Canada Clean Energy:

Not much easier.



Map produced by the NEB, April 2018. The map is a graphical representation intended for general informational purposes only.

Québec

Population 9.1M. | 63 hydroelectric power plants, combined output of 37.4 GW | Current exports to Maine, New York, Ontario, and Nova Scotia | Surplus power reserves run out by 2027 | 21.5 GW of new industrial load were denied connection requests due to insufficient capacity.

Nova Scotia

Population 1.08M | 80% of electricity from renewables by 2030 | Capacity shortages expected in 2026-2027 | Targeting >1.3 GW coal closures by 2030 | Maritime Link drawing from HQ. | Atlantic Loop in limbo | NSPI transitioning to regulated energy model – the Nova Scotia Energy Board.

Ontario

Population 16.3M | Load growth expected from 154 TWh in 2025 to 245 TWh by 2050 | Economic and population growth, mining and steel industry electrification, and growth in electric-vehicle industries | Capacity needs will double from 42 GW to 88 GW by 2050.

Offshore Wind

Load Growth, Winter Peaks, and Clean Energy, you say?

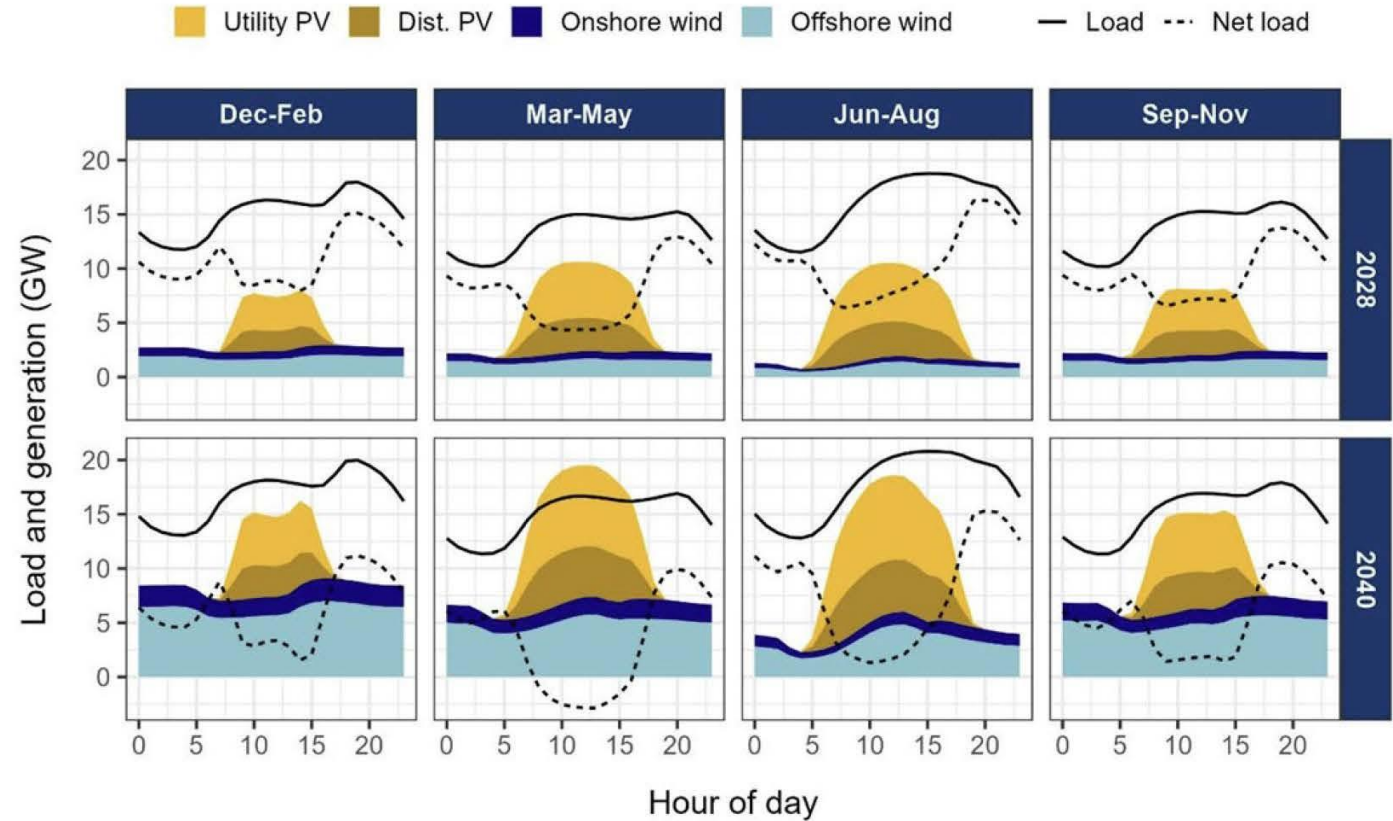
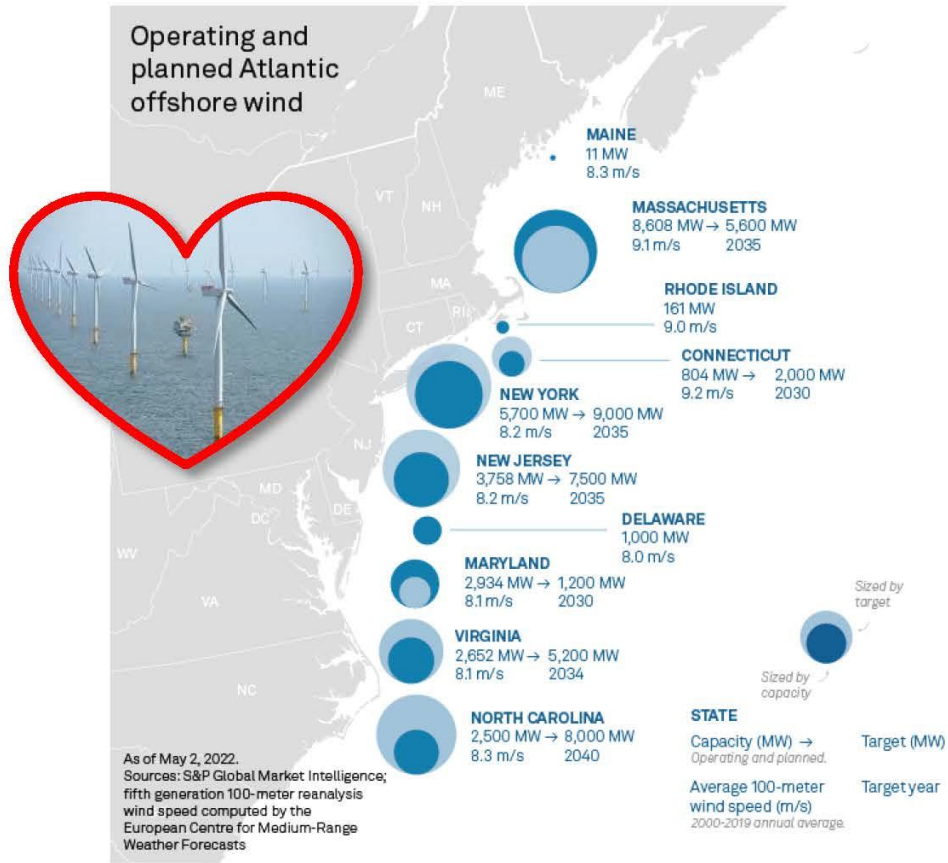


Figure 6. Load, net load, and renewable generation for an average day per season

Source: Evaluation of ELCC Methodology in the ISO-NE Footprint. Generation Electric for NRDC. October 10, 2022.

NEMOEC

Bi-directional awesomeness.

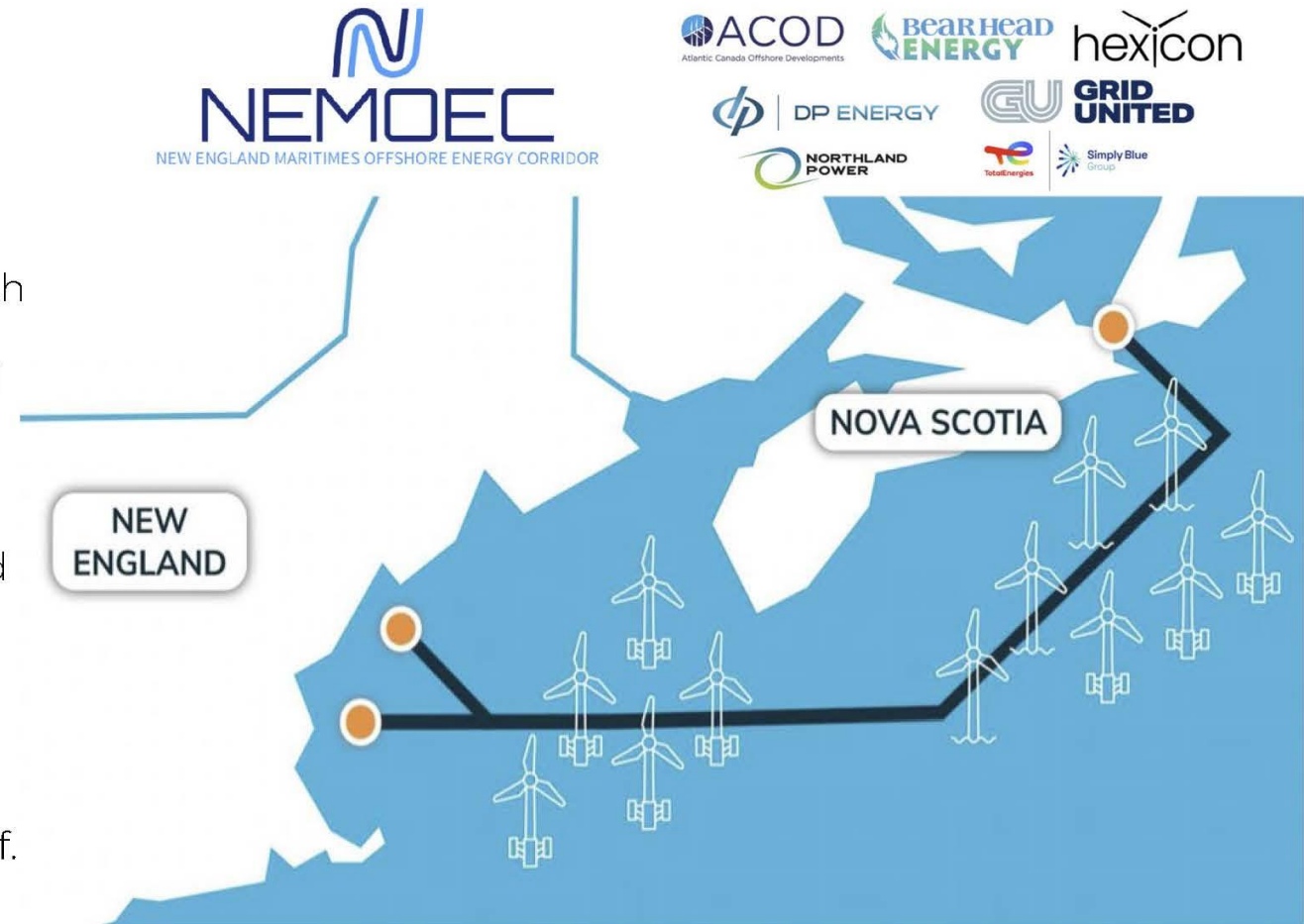
- Nova Scotia target to offer leases for 5 GW of offshore wind by 2025 to support green hydrogen development.
- Gulf of Maine offshore wind auction this month for +13 GW of capacity.
- NS Grid demands are modest to this potential

BUT:

- Bi-Directional transmission with New England could reduce renewable energy supply costs and provide valuable optionality.

AND:

- The potential corridor more than pays for itself.
- Up to \$780M/y in system and GHG reductions benefits for first 2 GW.



Source: NEMOEC Coalition



Adrienne Downey. e³adaption
In collaboration with Power Advisory and Hexicon.