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Managing the Rapid Transformation of New England's Energy Resources

Connecticut Power and Energy Society

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ISO new england

Gordon van Welie

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Happy 30th Anniversary to CPES!

What did the New England power system look like in 1985?



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By 1985, plants like Salem Harbor, Brayton Point, and Bridgeport Harbor had converted from oil to coal due to volatile oil prices. Now, these plants and other "at risk" coal- and oil-fired units are permanently retiring from the New England power system.

New England Has Seen Dramatic Changes in the Energy Mix: From Oil and Coal to Natural Gas

Percent of Total **Electric Energy** Production by Fuel Type (2000 vs. 2014)



Natural Gas and Wholesale Electricity Prices Are Linked



Region Has Not Developed Gas Pipeline Infrastructure to Keep Pace with Growth of Gas-fired Generation

Cumulative New Generating Capacity in New England (MW)



Note: New generating capacity for years 2016 – 2018 includes resources clearing in recent Forward Capacity Auctions.

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New England Shifts to Coal and Oil in the Winter



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Winter 2014–2015 Fossil Fuel Mix

The Region Has Lost—*and Is at Risk of Losing*— Substantial Non-Gas Resources

Major Generator Retirements:

- Salem Harbor Station (749 MW)
 4 units (coal & oil)
- Vermont Yankee Station (604 MW)
 - 1 unit (nuclear)
- Norwalk Harbor Station (342 MW)
 - 3 units (oil)
- Brayton Point Station (1,535 MW)
 - 4 units (coal & oil)
- Mount Tom Station (143 MW)
 - 1 unit (coal)
- Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (677 MW)
 1 unit (nuclear)
- Additional retirements are looming



State Policy Requirements Are Driving Proposals for Renewable Energy

State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)* for Class I or New Renewable Energy by 2020



* State Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) promote the development of renewable energy resources by requiring electricity providers (electric distribution companies and competitive suppliers) to serve a minimum percentage of their retail load using renewable energy. Vermont's new Renewable Energy Standard has a 'total renewable energy' requirement (reflected above), which recognizes large-scale hydro and all other classes of renewable energy.

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ISO New England Forecasts Strong Growth in Solar PV



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Source: Final PV Forecast (April 2015); Note: MW values are AC nameplate

Natural Gas and Transmission Infrastructure Will Be Needed to Deliver Energy from Proposed Resources

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All Proposed Generation

Developers are proposing to build 11,000 MW of generation, including 6,700 MW of gas-fired generation and 4,100 MW of wind Natural VT gas 61% 149 NH **MW** Wind 91 37% MW **MA 464 MW** Other 2% Source: ISO Generator Interconnection Queue (October 2015) FERC Jurisdictional Proposals Only



Transmission Developers Are Proposing to Move Renewable Energy to New England Load Centers



- As of October 1, 2015, seven elective transmission projects had been proposed in the ISO Interconnection Queue, totaling more than 4,000 MW of potential capacity
 - Primarily large-scale hydro resources from eastern
 Canada and wind resources from northern
 New England
- These projects seek to address public policy goals, not reliability needs

Source: ISO Interconnection Queue (October 2015)

http://www.iso-ne.com/system-planning/transmission-planning/interconnection-request-queue

Seeking Compatibility Between Two Public Policy Goals

Region's policymakers have supported two public policy goals:

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- 1. Achieving reliability through **competitive wholesale markets** administered by the ISO
 - Competitive wholesale markets select the lowest-cost resources to meet the demand for electricity regardless of fuel or technology type
 - Price formation in the energy and capacity markets is key
- 2. Achieving **reductions in carbon emissions** (not a specific role for the ISO)
 - By implication, this public policy goal is driving the transition of the fleet to lower carbon-emitting resources





Electric Grid Will Look Very Different in 5 to 10 Years

"Hybrid" grid with grid-connected and distributed resources, and a continued shift toward natural gas and renewable energy





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