

## ASO Study Biweekly Report to Impacted Customers

This is Eversource's eighth biweekly report to customers impacted by the five Affected System Operator (ASO) studies announced on October 24, 2019. The reports were emailed to customers and posted to the website on 11/21/2019, 12/5/2019, 12/19/2019, 1/2/2020, 1/16/2020, 1/30/2020 and 2/6/2020. Please note the update issued on 12/5/2019 related to the ASO kickoff meeting.

Earlier this week on February 24<sup>th</sup>, Eversource held an ASO Customer Meeting at the Westwood, MA office (a call-in option was also available). At this meeting Eversource announced the results of the Level 0/1 ASO study. The presentation from this meeting has been posted to the ASO website for reference, if customers were not able to make it in person or call in to the meeting.

In summary there were forty-three Level 0/1 applications across Massachusetts that required transmission studies to be conducted totaling 160MW. The outcome of the Level 0/1 transmission studies is that no transmission upgrades are required for these projects. Additionally, there were no projects that were upgraded to a Level 3 study. All projects in this Level 0/1 study will move forward with PPA submittal to ISO-NE in order to secure the project's capacity on the system. Eversource is on track to have all PPA submittals on the March NEPOOL Reliability Committee meeting agenda, but a few might carry into April as customers are still responding with necessary project information.

For Level 3 studies, applicants received an email on February 26<sup>th</sup> requesting each project opt in or out of the study, provide payment and technical data by March 16<sup>th</sup>. The technical data requirements were included as an attachment to this email; this list of technical data was also provided on January 16<sup>th</sup> to Level 3 customers via email. The data customers provide for the study will formally lock in their project's scope.

To date there have only been a few technical documents/model submittals to Eversource from a handful of Level 3 customers. Please note that all documentation will be due by March 16, 2020 as discussed in the Customer Meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Please note the following milestones in preparation for the Level 3 studies commencing:

Date	Level 3 Milestone
This Week	Email to customers with payment information, request to opt in or out and technical data requirements
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Customers opt in/out, provide payment and technical data due
March 16 <sup>th</sup> - March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Cure Period</u></b></p> Timeframe to get project's modeling rectified and any missed requirements as part of good faith effort to meet deadlines

March 23 <sup>rd</sup> COB	customer data models must be fully functioning, otherwise project will not be able to participate in this Level 3 ASO study and withdrawn
----------------------------	---

ASO information and materials, including the Level 3 technical data requirements, can be found on the ASO Website:

<https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/builders-contractors/interconnections/massachusetts/affected-system-operator-studies>

### **1. What additional information is needed to determine if an ASO study is necessary?**

Eversource issued initial ASO Study notifications on Nov. 13 to all applicants that were identified as requiring a Level 0/1 or a Level 3 ASO study. Eversource had increased its communications with ISO-NE from to solidify project study level determinations and groupings. During the Level 0/1 study process, there were no projects identified as requiring further Level 3 studies.

To date, there has been no change to the need for these five ASO transmission study groups as defined.

### **2. When will the EDC know whether an ASO study is required?**

As noted above, ASO studies will be required and five ASO transmission study groups have been developed. The Level 0/1 ASO studies have commenced on January 21<sup>st</sup> and now have been completed, with preparations underway to begin the Level 3 studies. An overview summary of the next steps and overall process is described below with status updates for reference:

- Eversource held an ASO Study Customer Kickoff meeting on Dec. 12 at Eversource's Westwood, Massachusetts office.
- For customers in a Level 3 study, Eversource has provided a Level 3 Technical checklist on January 16<sup>th</sup> to support customer data and information gathering. This technical checklist list has also been posted to the ASO website.
- Eversource held an ASO Customer meeting on Feb. 24 at Eversource's Westwood, Massachusetts office to share results from the Level 0/1 studies and discuss next steps for Level 3 customers.
- Level 3 customers will provide technical information and payment as requested by March 16, 2020 to fully opt-in to the Level 3 study group. If any model validation issues arise, customers will be requested to rectify these issues as soon as possible. All model data must be fully functioning by March 23<sup>rd</sup> otherwise the project will not be able to participate in this Level 3 ASO study.
- From March 24<sup>th</sup> through April, Eversource will consolidate all Level 3 customer modeling data into a study base case.

Eversource is aiming to receive all customer requested technical data back by March 16, 2020 so the scopes of the projects will be locked, fully functioning and ready to be consolidated into a single working model for study purposes.

Level 3 studies were not able to commence prior to the completion of Level 0/1 because:

- Level 0/1 system upgrades, if identified, are required to be modeled in the Level 3 study
- Based on the Level 0/1 results, Eversource may identify projects that require further Level 3 studies and those projects (if any) will add to the final scope of the Level 3 study conducted
- The completion of the Level 0/1 study must be completed prior to Level 3 studies commencing to sequentially model the projects based on their PPA approval

### **3. What are the potential impacts on interconnection timelines and costs?**

Level 3 studies can begin once Level 0/1 studies are completed so that the applicable transmission and distribution upgrades are known and can be modeled in a Level 3 study. The Level 3 study typically takes about nine months from commencement.

Level 3 study costs will be \$30,000 per project and will go through an automatic true up at the end of the study completion. As some of the 5 geographic areas may require a more robust analysis once the study is underway, once each region is completed a true up with applicable refunds will be issued. There is a possibility that in areas where more complications arise during the study that additional costs may be incurred. Eversource will notify these customers, if the situation arises, where additional funds will be needed to complete certain geographic areas of the study.

### **4. Are there any proposed resolutions that the EDC is exploring to enable some affected DG applicants to proceed with the interconnection process prior to completion of the ASO study?**

Eversource is continuing to proceed with distribution-level studies while ASO transmission-level studies are getting ready to be conducted. This is being done to reduce the distribution-level study wait time and increase value to customers.

Projects that had interconnection service agreements (ISAs) prior to the ASO study announcement on Oct. 24, 2019 that required transmission studies will continue with their separate transmission studies outside of these five ASO group studies. Eversource is also continuing to perform distribution group studies where the same customer has multiple projects in sequence on a single circuit.

### **5. How does the EDC plan to address the situation and minimize delays to interconnection timelines of (potentially) affected DG applicants?**

Projects that had interconnection service agreements (ISAs) prior to the ASO study announcement on Oct. 24, 2019 that required transmission studies will continue with their separate transmission studies outside of these five ASO group studies.