

ASO Study Biweekly Report to Impacted Customers

This is Eversource's eleventh 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, 2/13/2020, 2/27/2020, 3/12/2020 and 3/26/2020. Please note the update issued on 12/5/2019 related to the ASO kickoff meeting.

For the Level 3 study, the Cure Period has ended and at this time the complete ASO Level 3 study pool has been confirmed. There are 85 projects totaling a little over 356MW in the Level 3 study across MA. Given the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the Company has been working closely with a few remaining customers whose checks may have been delayed with verifying delivery/receipt.

On Monday April 6th the Level 3 study has formally commenced with Transmission Planning starting to pull all individual project modeling information into a larger single model for the study base case. Level 3 customers will now begin getting monthly updates pursuant to Interim Guidance #9. Please note the following schedule for these monthly reports:

Report #	Date
1	04-24-20
2	05-29-20
3	06-26-20
4	07-31-20
5	08-28-20
6	09-25-20
7	10-30-20
8	11-20-20
9	12-18-20

ASO information and materials 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 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 been completed and the Level 3 studies have commenced on April 6th. 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 16th 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 provided technical information and payment, as requested, by the extension date of April 3rd, 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 was required to be fully functioning by April 3rd otherwise the project was not be able to participate in this Level 3 ASO study.
- From April 6th through early May, Eversource will consolidate all Level 3 customer modeling data into the study base case.

In the first monthly report to Level 3 customers, Eversource will outline a milestone schedule for this study and associated activities.

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.

Additionally to minimize delay for newer applicants, all projects who have come in after the ASO announcement who would require a Level 3 analysis were invited to participate in this upcoming Level 3 study as long as all customer deadlines discussed in #2 were met. There was a “rolling admission” of these new applicants until the March 16, 2020 deadline for opting in/out, payment and technical data submittal. All newer applicants who have been invited to participate in this Level 3 ASO and have opted in before the deadline have been added to the biweekly report distribution list.