

## ASO Study Biweekly Report to Impacted Customers

This is Eversource's first biweekly report to customers impacted by the five Affected System Operator (ASO) studies announced on October 24, 2019.

While Eversource continues to prepare dedicated ASO information to publish on Eversource.com on Dec. 4, here are answers to questions that have been received from customers since the initial ASO study notifications were sent. Frequently asked questions will be posted and regularly updated on Eversource's ASO web page.

### 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 has increased its communications with ISO-NE from monthly to daily to solidify project study level determinations and groupings.

As of Nov. 21, 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?

The ASO studies have not yet commenced. An overview of the next steps and overall process was described in Eversource's prepared remarks for the Nov. 21 Technical Session. In summary, the next steps will be:

- Eversource will hold an ASO Study Customer Kickoff meeting on Dec. 12 at Eversource's Westwood, Massachusetts office. Attendance is recommended but not mandatory. More information on this meeting and logistics is forthcoming.
- Customer reviews the study cost provided by Eversource.
- Customer determines to opt in or opt out within a given timeframe; if the customer opts in they will need to formalize this with the study payment.
- Customer pays for study.
- Eversource requests additional technical information and models, if needed, from customer.
- Customer provides information as requested.

For Level 0/1 studies, the studies can commence once all impacted customers opt in or out and complete payment. For Level 3 studies, the steps above need to be completed for all customers in the three eastern MA ASO study areas and the two western MA ASO study areas; at that time both Level 3 studies can commence. Exact dates for studies to commence are not known at this time; Eversource would like to begin the studies in early 2020.

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

At this time for planning purposes, Eversource anticipates Level 0/1 studies to cost approximately \$60,000 (or about \$500/MW) and take around three months from study commencement. Level 3 studies will begin once Level 0/1 studies are complete 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.

Exact costs for Level 3 studies are unknown at this time due to variables such as potential changes in ISO-NE study requirements, as well as customers who may choose to opt out of the study, thereby increasing the cost to the remaining applicants. However, for planning purposes costs may range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per MW, with the Greater Boston and Springfield areas at the top of this range.

**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.

## ASO Study FAQ

**I received notification in November 2019 that my project requires an Affected System Operator (ASO) group study. The project's size is less than the minimum requirement described in the email I received. Why does my project require an ASO study?**

Your project might be included in an ASO group study for one of two reasons. Either the aggregate impact of all projects in the area at the transmission station is 20 MW or more, or you have multiple smaller projects, which ISO-New England considers to be one project for this process.

**Are details available for the customer meeting mentioned in the email I received?**

All impacted stakeholders are invited to a meeting at Eversource's Westwood office on December 12. At the meeting, Eversource will discuss the ASO group study process, opting in or out of the study and next steps. More information about the meeting will be sent via email.

**Have any of the Level 0/1 or Level 3 group ASO studies referenced in my November 2019 notification started?**

None of these studies have started at this time.

**What is needed from distributed generation applicants in order to help get the ASO group study underway?**

Both the applicant and Eversource need to complete several steps before studies can begin. These steps include:

- The applicant should attend the ASO Study Customer Kickoff Meeting on December 12. While attendance is recommended, it is not mandatory.
- Eversource will provide the applicant with the cost to conduct the ASO study.
- After reviewing the study cost, the applicant will opt in or out of the study in the given timeframe.
- Eversource receives payment for the ASO study.
- Any additional technical information requested by Eversource is provided by the applicant.
- Each of the above steps needs to be completed by all customers in the ASO study before it will begin.

**My project has an Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) and I was notified the project would require a transmission study prior to October 24. Am I in one of the ASO group studies referenced in the November 2019 notification?**

No. All projects that received an ISA prior to Eversource announcing the ASO group transmission studies on October 24 have been excluded from the ASO group studies referenced in the November 2019 notification. Instead, these projects will move forward with transmission studies outside of the ASO group study process. All projects that had transmission studies in progress will also be excluded from the ASO group transmission studies referenced in the November 2019 notification.

**Will impact studies continue to be conducted during the ASO study process?**

Eversource will continue to conduct distribution level studies under the guidelines of the tariff as approved by the Department of Public Utilities. The final distribution analysis may be affected by the results of the ASO studies.

**Will Eversource continue issuing Interconnection Service Agreements (ISAs) for projects that are part of an ASO study?**

No. Projects that are part of any ASO study will not receive an ISA until:

- All applicable distribution and transmission studies have been completed;
- Potential distribution and/or transmission system modifications are determined;
- Associated project costs have been determined.

Eversource will potentially move forward with distribution level studies and potentially issue an ISA for smaller projects 1 MW or less that are not behind any queued project going through an ASO study.