

# New Hampshire Department of Energy

Presentation to the Business and Industry  
Association of NH

November 7, 2024

# New Hampshire Department of Energy

- Created in 2021 to provide a unified state agency on energy matters. Duties include regulatory advocacy, safety, programs, consumer services, and policy work.
- ~90 Employees (including temporary and part-time)
- Mission Statement:

The prosperity and security of New Hampshire and its citizens require an **affordable, innovative, reliable, and sustainable** energy economy. The Department of Energy is committed to achieving that goal and will provide a unified direction of energy policies, responsible and practical programs, principled regulation, and skilled representation, in energy-related proceedings, of New Hampshire's public interest. The Department of Energy will serve the people of New Hampshire in an honest, transparent, and effective manner.

# Current NH DOE Policy Principles

- Prioritize ratepayer costs
- Market-oriented
- Technology neutrality – “all of the above”
- Reduce government barriers to innovation
- Government subsidization/intervention should be limited

# Some New Hampshire specific issues for 2025

- **ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES**
- Questions will have to be answered about competing policy priorities
  - Markets vs. government planning
  - Cost/reliability vs. environmental goals
  - Stable prices vs. lowest prices
- Can we improve statutory and regulatory frameworks?
- **Regional/national issues should be at the forefront**

# Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals of New England

80% by 2050 Net-Zero by 2050	<b>Massachusetts</b> clean energy standard <b>Massachusetts</b> emissions requirement
100% by 2035 80% by 2050	<b>Vermont</b> renewable electricity requirement <b>Vermont</b> emissions reduction
100% by 2050 Carbon-Neutral by 2045	<b>Maine</b> renewable energy goal <b>Maine</b> emissions requirement
100% by 2040 80% by 2050	<b>Connecticut</b> zero-carbon electricity requirement <b>Connecticut</b> emissions reduction
100% by 2030 Net-Zero by 2050	<b>Rhode Island</b> renewable energy requirement <b>Rhode Island</b> emissions requirement

# ISO-NE EPCET Report

- “Economic Planning for the Clean Energy Transition”
- Achieving other New England States' environmental goals will likely be astronomically expensive, inefficient, and could risk reliability.
- “While rates of renewable additions are accelerating, the region will need to add roughly 18 times its current combined capacity of wind, solar, and batteries within the next 25 years to achieve state emissions goals...”
- ISO-NE suggests small modular nuclear reactors and synthetic natural gas as options to reduce buildout needs but those technologies have their own challenges.

## Average Annual Buildout Necessary to Achieve State Goals by 2050



**1,293 MW**  
per year  
of offshore wind (OSW)



**955 MW**  
per year  
of solar



**268 MW**  
per year  
of land-based wind (LBW)



**952 MW**  
per year  
of batteries

For reference, by the end of 2024, the region's grid is expected to include 650 MW of batteries, 2,516 MW of utility scale solar, and 2,370 MW of land-based and offshore wind.



# Regional questions to consider

- In light of out-of-market decarbonization spending, can markets continue to deliver reliable electricity?
  - Ongoing reforms to electric markets are aimed at improving outcomes
- How do we insulate New Hampshire ratepayers from decisions of other states?
- Potential state legislative action:
  - 1) Evaluate New Hampshire's role in ISO-New England, participation in regional markets.
  - 2) Augment NH's ability to effectively participate regionally.

# Focus needed on transmission costs

- The “Asset Condition” problem
- Significant transmission spending on projects that are effectively unregulated.
- By 2030, “Asset Condition” projects are projected to represent almost 90% of transmission spending.
- \$5.4 Billion in spending by 2030

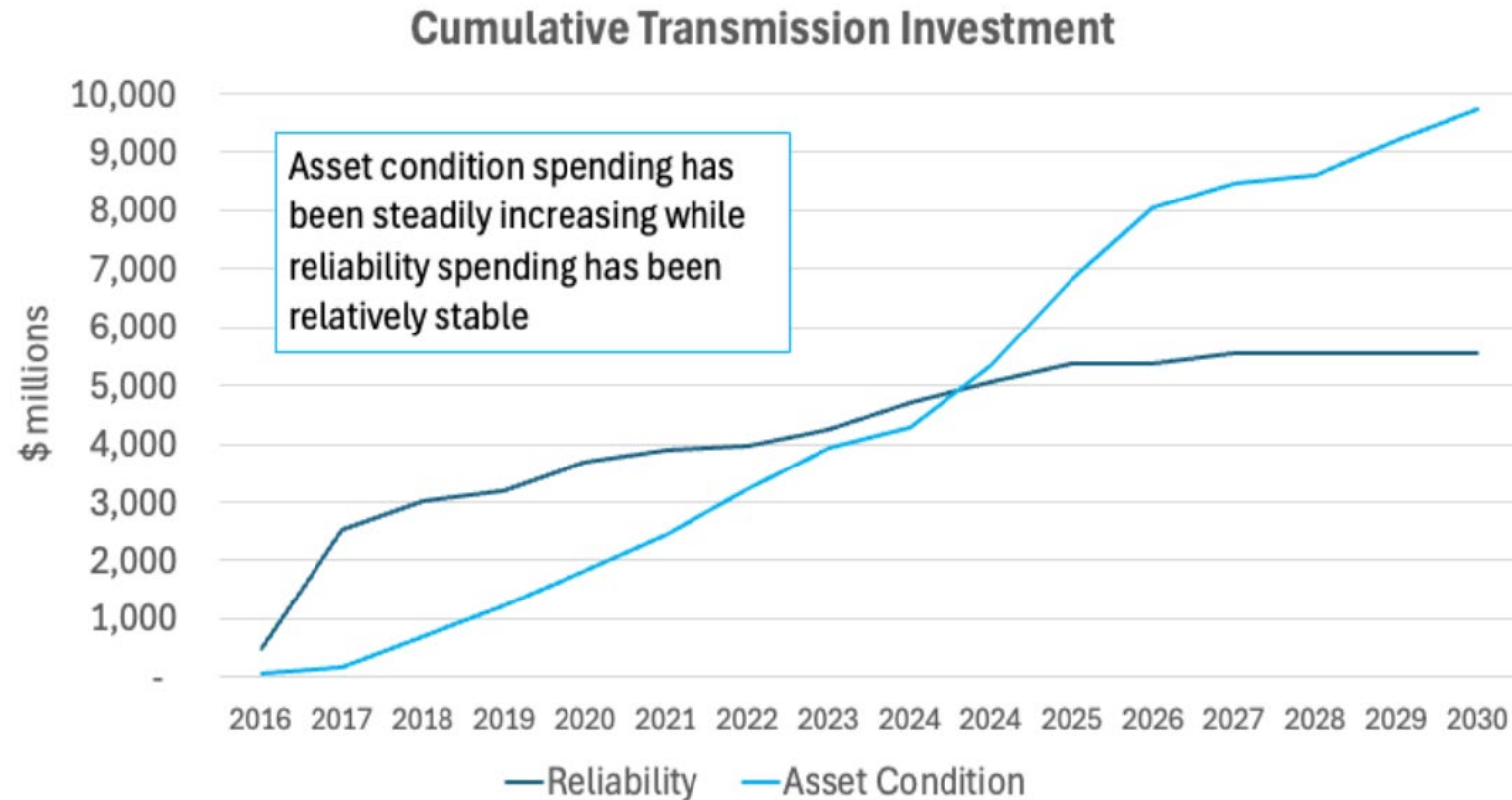


Chart source: New England States Committee on Electricity “The Asset Condition Project Problem”



# Some policy opportunities for 2025

- Renewed emphasis on regional electric issues
- Look for opportunities to foster energy innovation
- Review renewable energy subsidy structures
- Keep the focus on ratepayers and reliability

Thank you!

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