Potential Fossil Retirements:
Wring Hands or Seize the Moment?

The New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable
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David Cash, Commissioner
MA Department of Public Utilities
Why seize the opportunity

- Potential retirements of old and inefficient coal and oil powers plants
- GWSA requirement of GHG emissions of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050
- Current low gas/electric prices
  - Future volatility?
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• Peaky load profile
Peak Demand

Source: ISO-New England
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• Catalytic technologies poised for explosive growth
  – Storage
  – CHP
  – DG
  – Grid Modernization
• Maturing of the clean energy sector
Reach for the hammer, or design new tools?

- **Wind**
  - Offshore (5,000 MW) (ME: 156 GW)
  - Onshore (1,000-2,000 MW)
- **Solar, new goal** (1,600MW)
- **Energy Efficiency** (~2,000MW)
- **Demand Response** (>1,000MW)
- **Non-RPS Eligible Hydro Potential** (~X,000 MW)
- **New and Innovative Regulations/Incentives/Markets/Financing/ Business Models**
Whenever I run into a problem I can’t solve, I always make it bigger. I can never solve it by trying to make it smaller, but if I make it big enough I can begin to see the outlines of a solution.

– Dwight D. Eisenhower
Thank you