



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of**  
**Energy and Environmental Affairs**

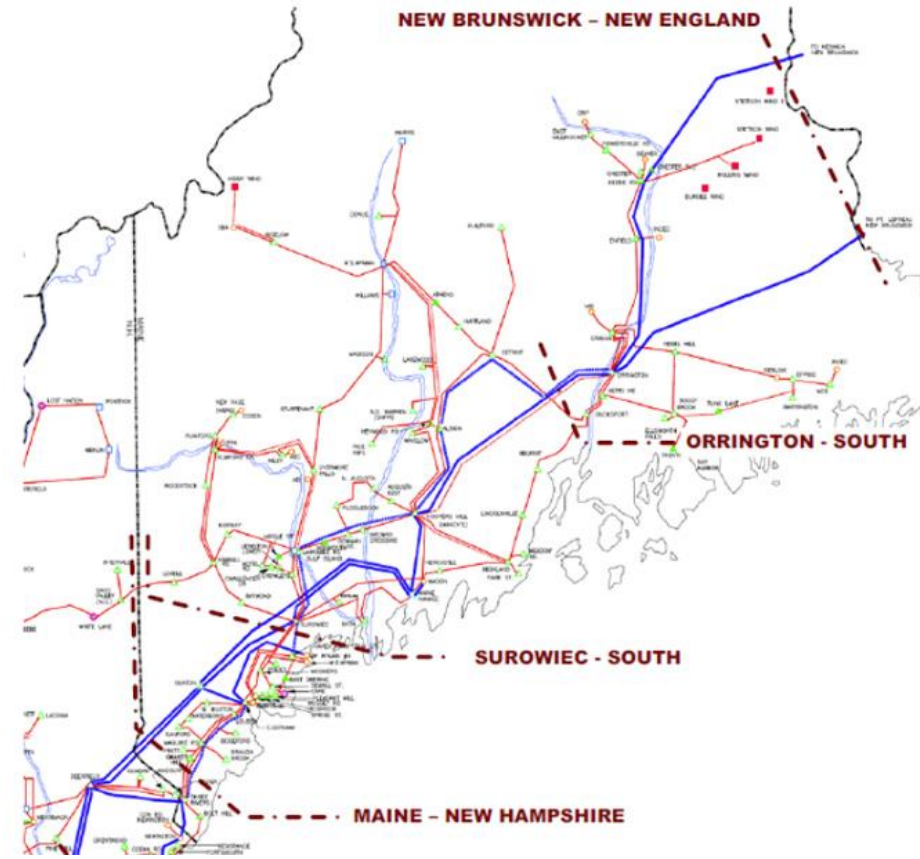
# Grid Planning and Interconnection

September 19, 2025



# Longer-term Transmission Planning

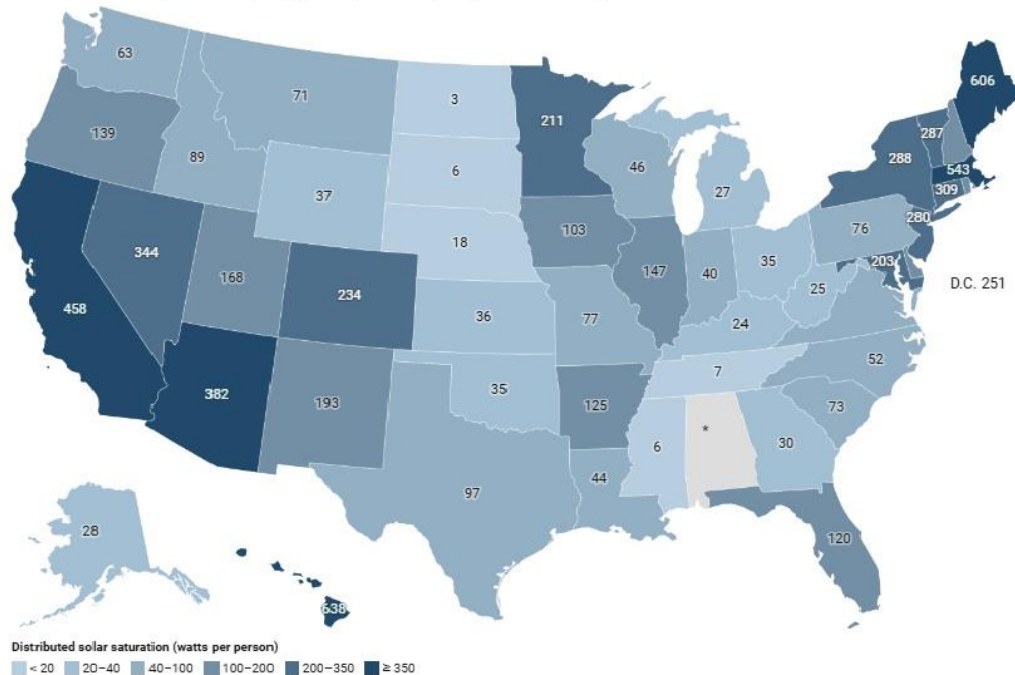
- In July 2024, FERC approved ISO-NE's proposed Phase 2 Longer-term Transmission Planning (LTTP) tariff reforms
  - NESCOE can request that ISO-NE conduct an RFP for new transmission in connection with needs identified from a Longer-term Transmission Study
- NESCOE requested that ISO-NE issue its first regional transmission RFP in December 2024
- RFP issued by ISO-NE on March 31, 2025
  - Aims to unlock at least 1,200 MW of additional generation sources in Maine
- Responses due by September 30, 2025
- Project selection by September 30, 2026



# Distributed Generation Successes and Challenges

## State Distributed Solar Saturation 2024

State distributed solar generation capacity (including community solar) relative to state population



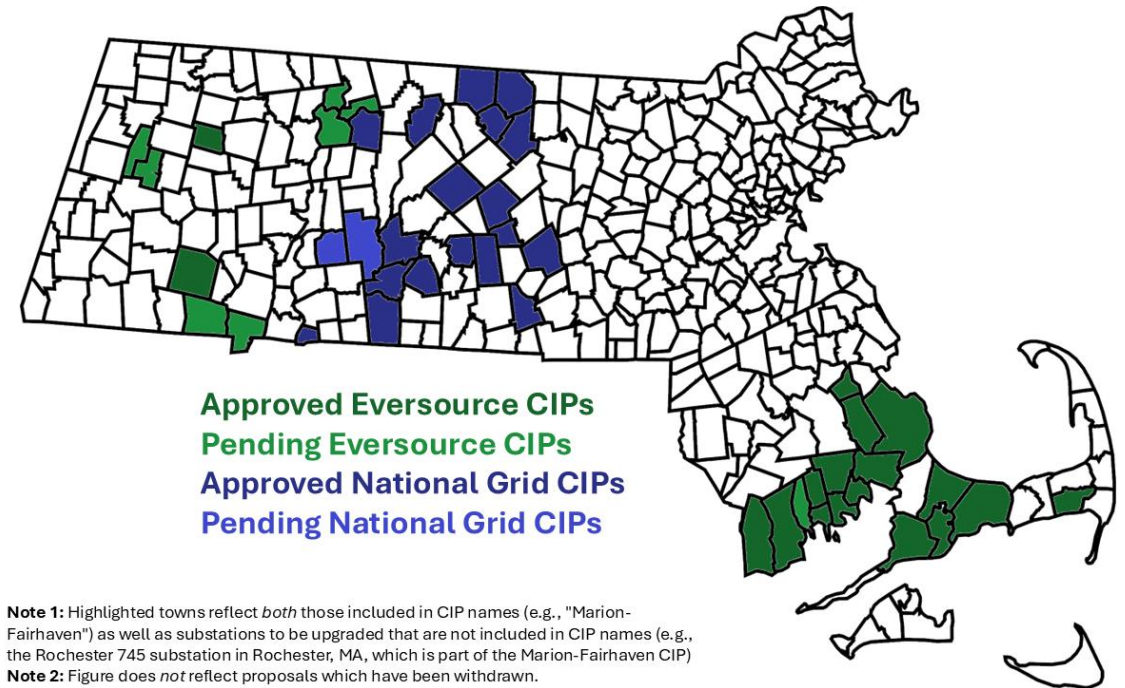
Source: Institute for Local Self Reliance, The State(s) of Distributed Solar – 2024 Update

- MA has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest penetration of distributed generation (DG) in the US (just behind Hawaii and Maine)
- DG and storage have gotten ahead of load growth
- Grid is now saturated in many places
- Cannot accommodate new DG and distributed storage without first building significant grid upgrades
- Has resulted in major cost increases and time delays for projects



# Distribution Planning and Cost Allocation

- Provisional System Planning Program
  - Planning and cost allocation framework approved by the DPU in November 2021
- Eversource and National Grid have submitted 16 Capital Investment Projects (CIPs) for DPU review to date, 9 of which have been approved, and 2 of which were withdrawn:
  - 579 MW of capacity for planned solar and storage
  - 561 MW of additional capacity available for future solar and storage
  - 400 MW of additional capacity expansions under review
- Fixed \$/kW CIP fee
- Costs shared amongst all beneficiaries



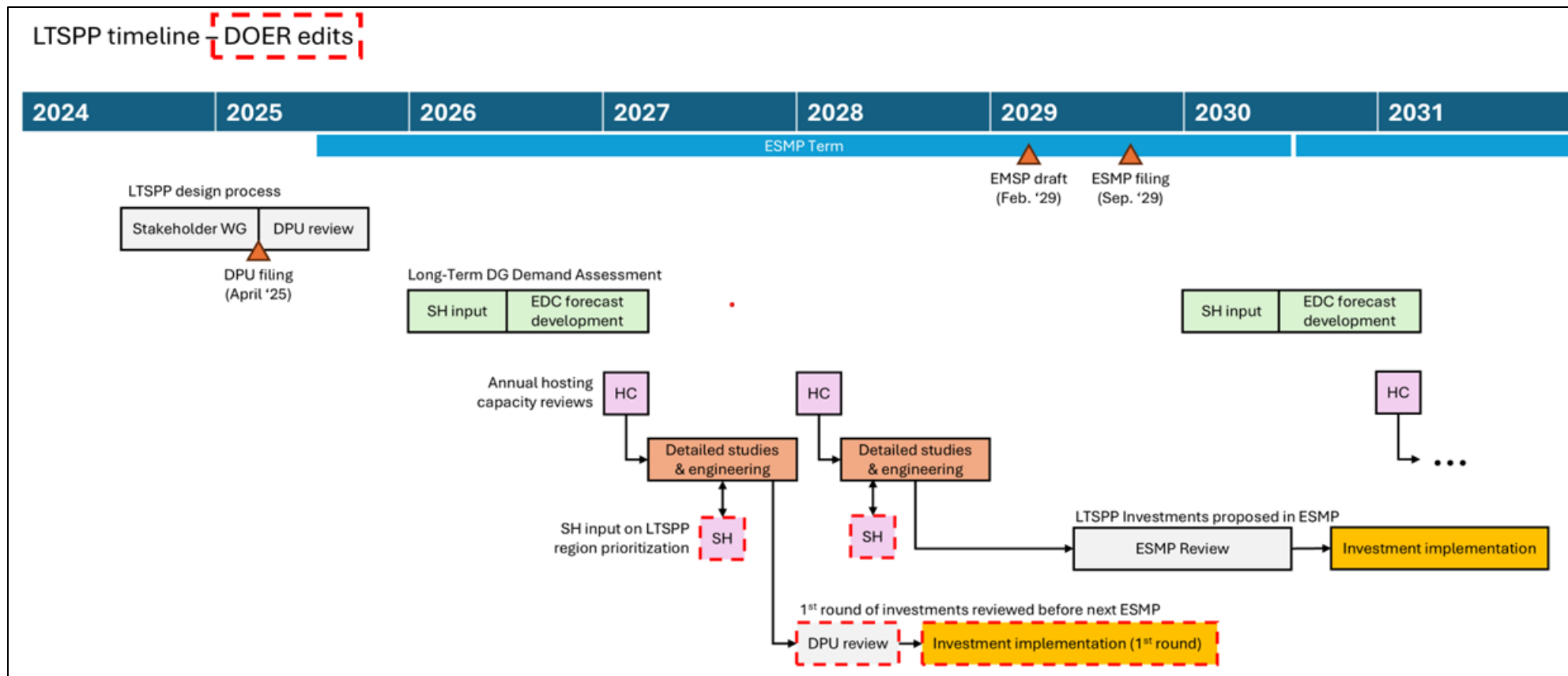


# Proactive Long-Term Distribution Planning

- EDCs required to develop Electric Sector Modernization Plans (ESMPs) by 2022 legislation
- Initial ESMPs submitted to Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) in September 2023
- ESMPs submitted to DPU for review in January 2024 and were approved August 2024
  - Cost recovery approved in June 2025
- DPU required EDCs to convene stakeholders to develop a Long-term System Planning Proposal
  - Filed in May 2025
  - Focused on proactive grid investments to accommodate new DG and storage
  - Designed to Replace CIPs
  - Still under review by DPU
- Governor Healey's Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation bill proposes further amendments to ESMP process
  - Further consolidation of planning processes (i.e., plan DG and load growth concurrently)
  - Emphasis on promoting VPPs and load management
  - Flexible interconnection

# Proactive Long-Term Distribution Planning (cont.)

- The LTSPD could provide a stakeholder engagement framework for future long-term planning efforts:



# DG Interconnection Tariff Improvements



- On March 25, 2025, the Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG) submitted a package of consensus and non-consensus revisions to the DG interconnection tariff
- Proposed revisions include:
  - Allowing projects sized 15-25 kW to use simplified interconnection process
  - Allowing projects under 250 kW stuck behind group studies to be reviewed sooner
  - Socialization of pole-mounted transformer costs amongst small DG projects
  - Other changes aimed at streamlining tariff language and process
- Additionally, improvements to the implementation of CIPs are also being sought:
  - CIP fee payment plans for project developers
  - Allowing projects to interconnect as capacity becomes available



# New and Expanded Customer Loads

- EEA and DOER working with electric utilities to identify process improvements for connecting new customer loads to the grid
  - Focused on providing more transparency, clarity around timing, and cost certainty
  - More details to be announced this fall
- 2024 Climate Act establishes new process for planning for EV charging infrastructure
- Governor Healey's Affordability legislation includes provisions related to Clean Energy Development Zones and flexible interconnection for new loads

