

NYISO board shifts gears on power transmission upgrade project selection

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New York Independent System Operator updated its Public Policy **Transmission** Planning Report to recommend a combination of projects that would transport an incremental 2,100 MW of power from the state's northern region to southern demand centers, which is up from an incremental 1,475 MW project combination recommended in an earlier report.

The power grid operator has been working for the past few years to increase power transfer capability from its northern "upstate" region where the generation mix is characterized by over 60% nuclear, **hydro** and **wind** capacity to the southeastern metropolitan area where dual fuel and oil-fired generation capacity makes up over 70% of the fuel mix, according to the ISO.

A draft AC **Transmission** Public Policy **Transmission** Planning Report issued by the **NYISO** in June recommended a project proposed by **North American Transmission** and the **New York** Power Authority to increase transfer capability by at least 900 MW from upstate to southeastern **New York**.

Upon considering the draft report, stakeholder comments and additional **NYISO** analyses, the **NYISO** board of directors concluded the most efficient or cost-effective solution for "Segment B," the upstate/downstate capacity expansion, is a project proposed by **National Grid** subsidiary Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and **New York** Transco.

"We are pleased that the **NYISO** Board of Directors has found, subject to stakeholders' comments, **New York** Transco's and **National Grid**'s project for the Segment B portion of the AC **Transmission** development project to be the most efficient and cost effective solution," Victor Mullin, president of **New York** Transco, said in an email Wednesday.

"These important **transmission** upgrades will address system congestion and help deliver clean, **renewable** energy to the residents of **New York** State. We appreciate the work done by the **NYISO** Board of Directors and look forward to working with the **NYISO** and all stakeholders in the remaining stakeholder process," Mullin said.

The project involves several substation and switching station upgrades along with the retirement of aging infrastructure including multiple existing 115 kV lines.

"The Board finds that the more efficient or cost effective **transmission** solution for Segment B is Project T019 rather than Project T029," according to a summary the **NYISO** posted to its website December 27, 2018.

Greater transfer capacity

Also comprised of a series of electrical infrastructure upgrades and retirements, project T029 would only provide 1,475 incremental MW of upstate/downstate power transfer capability, while project T019 would provide 2,100 MW of incremental capacity, according to a report addendum dated December, 27, 2018.

Given the greater capacity, the cost per MW ratio of T019 is the lowest of all Segment B projects analyzed.

Those estimates are paired with the Segment A project T027, which was also identified as the more efficient or cost-effective solution in the initial report, a result that remains unchanged in the updated version.

"Project T019 provides significantly greater transfer capability across the Upstate **New York** to Southeast **New York** ("UPNY/SENY") **transmission** interface as compared to all other Segment B projects," according to the updated report.

Such benefits include alleviating constraints that limit the economic flow of power between upstate resources and downstate load centers and the project's incremental transfer capability across the UPNY/SENY **transmission** interface "will significantly improve grid resilience grid during stressed system conditions and disruptive events," the report said.

Additionally, T019 would provide greater future operating flexibility for managing generator outages or retirements in the Lower **Hudson Valley** that will improve grid resilience and support the "continued evolution of **New York**'s energy landscape."

Final selection of the projects will take place after stakeholders have had the opportunity to comment on the revised report and the board has had the opportunity to consider those comments, according to the board's summary.