



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114
www.Mass.gov/EEA | Tel: (617) 626-1000 | Fax: (617) 626-1081

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

June 25, 2026

Vamsi Chadalavada
President and Chief Executive Officer
ISO New England, Inc.
1 Sullivan Road, Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Mr. Chadalavada,

I write to express deep concern with ISO New England's (ISO-NE) interim Transitional Cluster Study report and the significant implications its findings will have on the development of battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Massachusetts and across the New England region. The deployment of storage resources is central to Massachusetts' affordability, reliability, and clean energy strategy. Storing electricity when it is abundant and delivering it when needed helps lower costs for consumers, strengthens grid reliability during peak electricity demand, and enables greater integration of clean energy resources like solar and wind.

Recognizing these benefits, Massachusetts has established ambitious energy storage requirements. Under Section 83E, the Commonwealth is pursuing 5,000 MW of energy storage by 2030, including dedicated procurements for mid-duration and long-duration storage resources, as well as multi-day storage resources if commercially available at reasonable cost. More recently, Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 654, issued on March 16, 2026, set an additional goal of 5,000 MW of energy storage online or under development within Massachusetts by the end of 2035. Together, these actions reflect the Commonwealth's commitment to deploying energy storage at scale as a foundational resource to lower costs, enhance reliability, and unlock additional clean energy.

ISO New England's Transitional Cluster Study included 23 interconnection requests, the vast majority of which are BESS resources located in Massachusetts. The study identifies more than \$3 billion in total interconnection costs, with the majority of costs stemming from system network upgrades associated with interconnecting BESS resources in Massachusetts. Absent



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modifications, several battery proposals could face estimated interconnection costs ranging from \$300 to \$500 million and construction timelines approaching eight years.

According to developers, these estimates are unprecedented—in some cases, ten times the cost of interconnecting storage resources in other parts of the country. If these cost and construction timeline estimates are finalized, they will have a significant chilling effect on investment in Massachusetts and across the New England region for years to come. While we appreciate ISO-NE's efforts to meet mandatory cluster study deadlines, it is critical that the study's final results reflect sound assumptions and accurate cost and construction timeline estimates to connect these projects.

Given the importance of this issue, I request ISO New England's support with the following:

1. Provide developers with access to the cluster study dispatch cases before the deadline for comments on the interim Transitional Cluster Study report to help developers better understand the study results;
2. Provide information on the anticipated timeline for finalizing the study and whether any existing deadlines can be adjusted, if necessary, to ensure developers have the information they need to make informed decisions without affecting the schedule for the next cluster study cycle; and
3. Participate in an upcoming stakeholder session with storage developers and transmission owners to discuss the study assumptions and findings, address stakeholder concerns, and explore potential paths forward.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response. Thank you for your continued engagement and efforts to support the interconnection of new resources to the New England grid.

Sincerely,

Secretary Rebecca Tepper
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs