

Maine Department of Energy Resources  
Transmission Planning Stakeholder Group Meeting #4  
Pursuant to Resolves 2025, Ch. 57  
May 5, 2026 | Meeting Summary

## Meeting in Brief

Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER), formerly the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO), convened the fourth meeting of the Transmission Planning Stakeholder Group to provide updates and context surrounding Maine’s transmission efforts and the Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State. Sixteen (16) members of the stakeholder group defined in Resolve 2025, Ch. 57, and approximately twenty-eight (28) other interested parties participated. The meeting focused on presenting a synthesis of existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State, as well as existing and emerging technologies and construction methods, such as grid-enhancing technologies and advanced conductors.

The following meeting summary provides a brief overview of the presentations, along with participants' questions and comments. A list of the Stakeholder Group members in attendance is attached to this document. Presentation slides are available [here](#).<sup>1</sup>

## Context and Updates

Celina Cunningham, DOER, welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the Transmission Study process. She reminded participants of Resolve 2025, ch. 57's requirements, which mandate a report and recommendations to the Legislature in September 2026. Celina then provided a summary of Stakeholder Group Meeting No. 3 that took place in March 2026, and invited participants to review materials from previous meetings. She also noted DOER would be conducting two (2) more Stakeholder Group meetings before the submission of the report, again for a total of six (6). Celina underscored that each of these meetings would continue to be focused on the topics of [the Resolve](#), and that DOER continued to welcome input and continued conversation throughout the process. For more information on these upcoming Stakeholder Group meetings, please click [here](#).

## Presentation on Future Electric Transmission Needs in the State of Maine

Nate Grady and Ben Joseph, from E3, presented a summary of the electric transmission needs in the State identified via a targeted set of existing studies. E3 walked through the drivers of transmission needs, reviewed each study and what it contributes, and explained the conditions that would materialize to drive the identified needs. Additional studies were profiled in an appendix and can be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.maine.gov/energy/studies-reports-working-groups/current-studies-working-groups-transmission>

Stakeholders' questions and comments following this presentation are summarized in the respective section below.

All slides are available [here](#).

## Presentation on Advanced Transmission Technologies

Nate Grady and Ben Joseph, E3, reviewed a range of advanced transmission technologies (ATTs). The presentation walked through the pros, cons, and potential applications of each technology. E3 emphasized that a broad set of technologies must be considered to identify the most economically efficient solution and noted relevant regulatory orders shaping this work.

Stakeholders' questions and comments following this presentation are summarized in the respective section below.

All slides are available [here](#).

## Stakeholder Group Input & Questions

Stakeholder group members' questions and comments following each presentation are summarized below. Responses from E3, DOER, or other state organizations are italicized in suborder bullets.

### Future electric transmission needs in the State

- A stakeholder cautioned that nearly every study referenced has a goal or potential bias, as well as limitations. For example, the Regional System Plan (RSP) is a relatively short-term forecast focused primarily on reliability rather than meeting future demands. The stakeholder also noted that some asset condition needs, such as those in the Versant system, do not yet appear on ISO lists because they have not been through the required ISO processes. The stakeholder encouraged factoring in these limitations when reviewing any ISO or state-sponsored study.
  - *E3: We agree with these cautions, especially given the challenges of summarizing studies that range from highly specific to conceptually broad. Understanding the context of each study (e.g., its scope, timing, and level of certainty) is important.*
- Another stakeholder supported these comments, and asserted that utilities are often incentivized toward infrastructure investments rather than looking for alternatives.
- A stakeholder asked about the potential impact of raising the loss of source limit, and requested that the study ISO-New England and other ISOs had undertaken be incorporated into the study.
  - *E3: This is not yet documented in the appendix table. E3 will take this back and evaluate whether it would be a useful addition.*
  - *DOER: Yes, let's look at this topic, noting that the loss of source study is a good example of inter-regional planning issues that should be incorporated into this stakeholder group transmission study.*

### Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs)

- A stakeholder noted that Dynamic Load Ratings (DLR) analysis does not always result in higher ratings, as some analyses have revealed that ratings needed to be lowered.

- *E3: These technologies need to be studied for specific lines to confirm their benefits and impacts.*
- A stakeholder noted that DLR has historically raised significant issues in New England due to market design and operations, as line ratings need to be predicted days in advance to allow bids. The stakeholder was unsure how to address this without a significant redesign of New England's markets.
  - *E3: Market design considerations are important factors for deploying emerging technologies. Substantial studies are needed to determine the right deployment circumstances. New regulation calls for the development of a portal allowing transmission owners to input data, starting with ambient temperature ratings, with the potential to integrate additional data as it becomes available.*
- A stakeholder noted that MaineDOT is investigating updates to its Utility Accommodation Rules (UAR) to establish a process for steel pole approvals and asked whether this could help address capacity issues.
  - *E3: Meeting #5 will focus on the use of rights-of-way for transmission and include some discussion of cost-benefit analysis. This is a good call-out for content in that meeting.*
- A stakeholder asked what technologies exist to improve stability performance, given that many transmission constraints are stability-driven rather than thermal, and many ATTs tend to improve thermal performance. The stakeholder also asked about the applicability of ATTs at the distribution level.
  - *E3: There is significant variation across technology types, making it difficult to discuss them as a single category. Technologies that yield benefits will need to be identified through targeted studies. To the extent that some technologies, such as VPPs, can help reduce peak demand, deployment benefits may be seen, though this addresses infrastructure development needs rather than stability directly.*
- A stakeholder asked how to think about the break-even point for battery storage at the transmission level versus the distribution level, and at what level battery storage would be installed as a remedy.
  - *E3: From a planning perspective, the key considerations are how firm the need is, what alternatives could meet it, and whether the need is driven by reliability or economics. Storage at the transmission level for transmission-related benefits can face economic and regulatory headwinds in a deregulated system. Some of these challenges may differ at the distribution level depending on whether and how battery utilization is managed.*
- A stakeholder cautioned that New England's restructured system creates limitations, as transmission owners are only allowed to deal with transmission and cannot address energy aspects the way a vertically integrated system could. The stakeholder emphasized the need to understand the limitations of the players and what they are allowed to do. The stakeholder also raised real-time energy pricing to consumers as a topic with significant impact on demand that has not been considered in Maine for residential and small commercial customers. The stakeholder further noted that load in New England could more than double by 2050, and that many, if not most, interfaces are voltage- or stability-limited rather than thermal-limited, meaning solutions focused on getting more power through a line may not address the actual constraint.
  - *E3: These technologies have the potential to make an impact but are only appropriate in the right circumstances. Moving forward requires a comprehensive evaluation of all solutions that seek to address identified needs.*

## Other Interested Parties Input & Questions

Other interested parties' questions and comments are summarized below.

- A participant asked whether FERC orders that have long implementation time horizons are nonetheless seeing advancement at the state level ahead of those federal deadlines.
  - *E3: There has been significant action across states at the legislative level to drive forward evaluation of these technologies. The PUC led a study on GETs that E3 helped support, and there has been action in Maine. While that study was not designed to identify specific opportunities, it advanced conversations about those technologies, and there is still room for growth to ensure consistent evaluation.*

## Stakeholder Group Participants

Amalia Siegel

Anna Henderson

Anthony Hourihan

Celina Cunningham

Craig Nale

David Norman

Dwayne Conley

Francis Pullaro

Heath Cowan

Jeffery Fenn

John Perry

Megan Lamb

Melanie Loyzim

Michael Haskell

Susan Chamberlin

Tanya Blanchard

## State Legislators in Attendance

None