

Chair Cummings, Senator MacDonald, and the Senate Finance Committee:

Thanks for having me in for the overview of our core renewable programs yesterday. I wanted to follow up on the question related to “why are Maine’s rates lower than Vermont’s?” To do so, I am re-sending the email I sent last month after the similar question was raised. (the email addresses two topics, this one starts with the second bullet and is highlighted).

Yesterday, there was a follow-on question about why ISO-NE hasn’t done anything about the congestion from Maine to Boston, which we didn’t have time for. The short answer is that managing economic impacts of transmission is not ISO-NE’s responsibility – they are charged with ensuring reliability and managing fair marketplaces. So, as long as the bottlenecks don’t affect reliability and resulting pricing is fair (no manipulation of the market is happening), they don’t require transmission projects to solve the problem.

I hope this helps answer the question. Please feel free to follow up further!

Have a great weekend,

TJ