Advancing Nuclear Energy for a 21st Century New England Electricity Grid

March 31, 2026

Adequate electricity supply is critical to growing our economies, preserving public health and safety, powering our homes and businesses, and stabilizing consumer prices as demand for electricity rises across the region. New England has a long tradition of collaborating on regional energy matters. As governors, we are committed to safeguarding our collective energy future through advancement of a diverse energy strategy that includes nuclear power, a pillar of New England's electric system.

For decades, our region has safely and reliably generated nuclear power, which currently meets a quarter of the region's electricity needs. New England acts as a hub for nuclear energy advancement, in both fission and fusion technologies, through university research and private sector investment, and proudly contributes to national defense by hosting the nation's nuclear submarine fleet. As advancements in nuclear technologies become available, we are committed to leveraging and building on this leadership to meet our region's growing energy needs.

According to ISO New England, electricity consumption in New England is expected to increase more than 40% over the next 20 years. Demand for electricity in the winter is expected to grow the fastest. ISO New England's latest forecast shows that winter peak demand is projected to double by 2045. We must work together to meet this growing demand through an approach that ensures we have the resources needed to fuel our economies and protect our citizens. As we look to expand the region's generation capacity, advanced nuclear technologies show promise in their ability to contribute safely and reliably to the resource mix. Such advanced nuclear generation, including new designs with improved efficiency, safety, and operational flexibility, could contribute to meeting our region's need for new affordable and dependable energy supply, help address longstanding winter reliability challenges by enhancing fuel security, and contribute to meeting electrification and decarbonization goals and requirements for the states that have them.

We recognize that developing new nuclear generation involves unique considerations and will require significant planning, investment, and community input. We also recognize that each state may have different appetites for hosting advanced nuclear facilities and that community buy-in for hosting such facilities is critical.

To address these needs and ensure a stronger and more resilient energy future for New England, we direct the following:

1. **Ensuring the Continued Safe, Affordable, and Reliable Operation of Existing Nuclear:** Together, New England state energy offices shall explore opportunities to ensure the continued safe, affordable, and reliable operation of our region's existing nuclear generation facilities. In this work, state energy offices will coordinate with ISO New England, existing facility owners, federal agencies, and other state and regional stakeholders.

2. **Exploring Advanced Nuclear Generation:** Because our energy future is tied to a common grid, New England state energy offices shall work together and, in coordination and consultation with ISO New England, the federal government, and state, regional, and industry stakeholders, explore steps to deploy advanced nuclear generation in states and communities that express a willingness to host such resources. With affordability front of mind, we direct our state energy offices to explore innovative financing structures; federal funding and financial support opportunities; public-private partnerships; and regulatory designs for advanced nuclear energy that will protect consumers, help meet our region's energy needs, and enable New England to capture job growth and economic development opportunities from the deployment of new nuclear technologies with advanced safety systems. After evaluating their goals, state energy offices shall host a regional convening to share information and solicit input and perspectives from the public and relevant stakeholders.

Underpinning this effort is a commitment to ensuring local voices shape decision-making from the outset, including community-led approaches to explore appropriate, responsible locations for new nuclear development; fostering public trust and support through meaningful dialogue; and paying careful attention to concerns surrounding the safety, security, siting, disposition of nuclear generation waste, and costs associated with deploying new nuclear technologies. This will ensure that the decision of whether and where to site new nuclear facilities is made by individual states with their local communities.

These initiatives will complement our states' other efforts to secure a safe, affordable, and reliable electricity grid for the 21st century. By ensuring both the continued operation of our existing nuclear fleet and setting our region on a path to explore next generation resources, including advanced nuclear energy technologies, the New England states will continue our leadership in grid modernization and energy innovation as we jointly work to meet the region's current and future energy needs.

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