

# Maine Public Utilities Commission

Philip L. Bartlett II, Chair

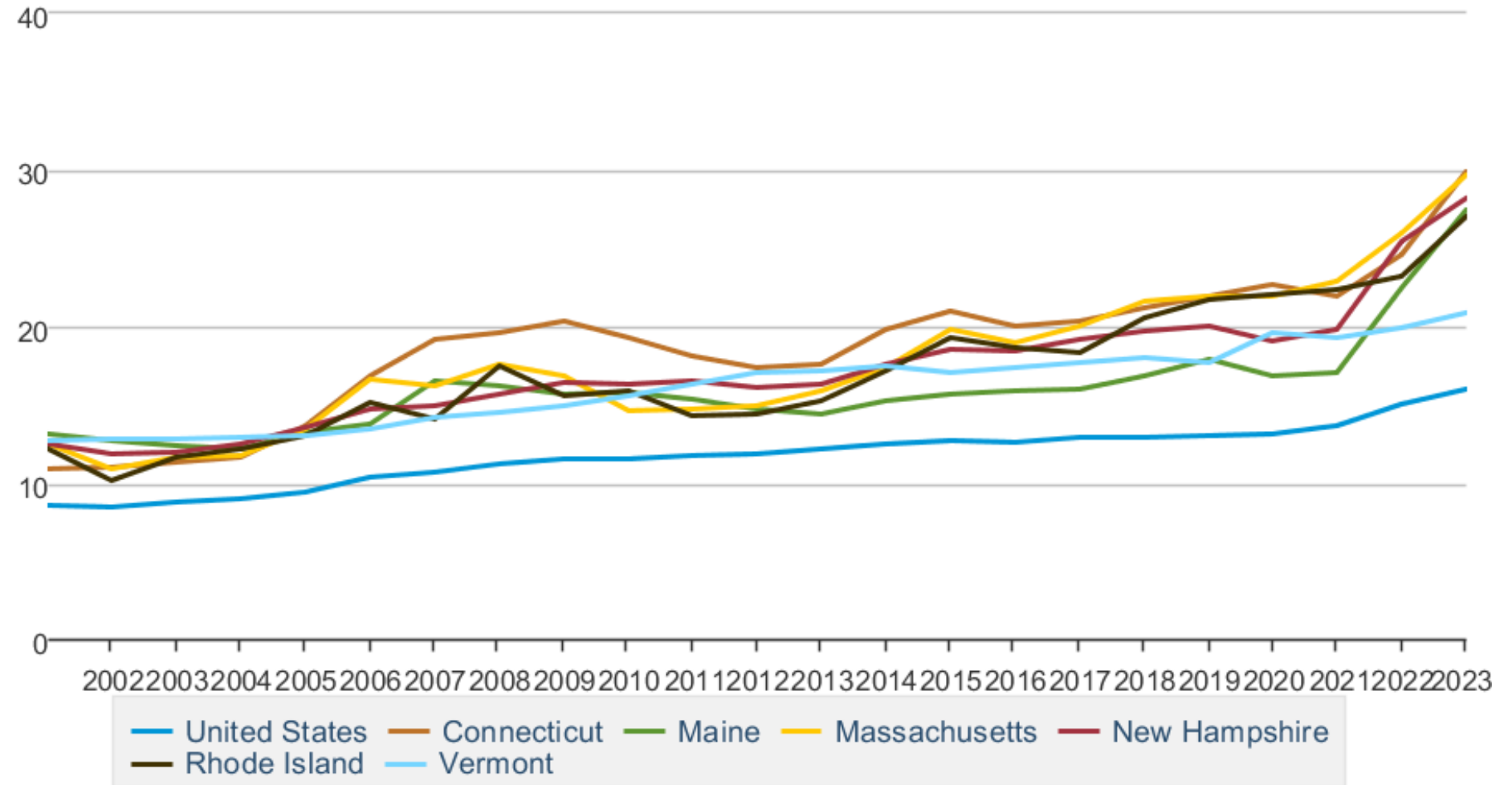


New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable

March 21, 2025

# Average retail price of electricity, annual

cents per kilowatthour



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

# MANAGING COSTS/AFFORDABILITY

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Planning
- Effective Oversight
- Provide customers with tools to manage usage/costs

# REGIONAL PLANNING

## 2050 Study

- Developed based on state policies/pathways
- Identifies significant transmission needs
- Opportunity to develop cost effective approach

## NESCOE initiated RFP

- States identified scope
- ISO-NE to issue RFP soon
- Will enable interconnection of 1200+ MW of renewables

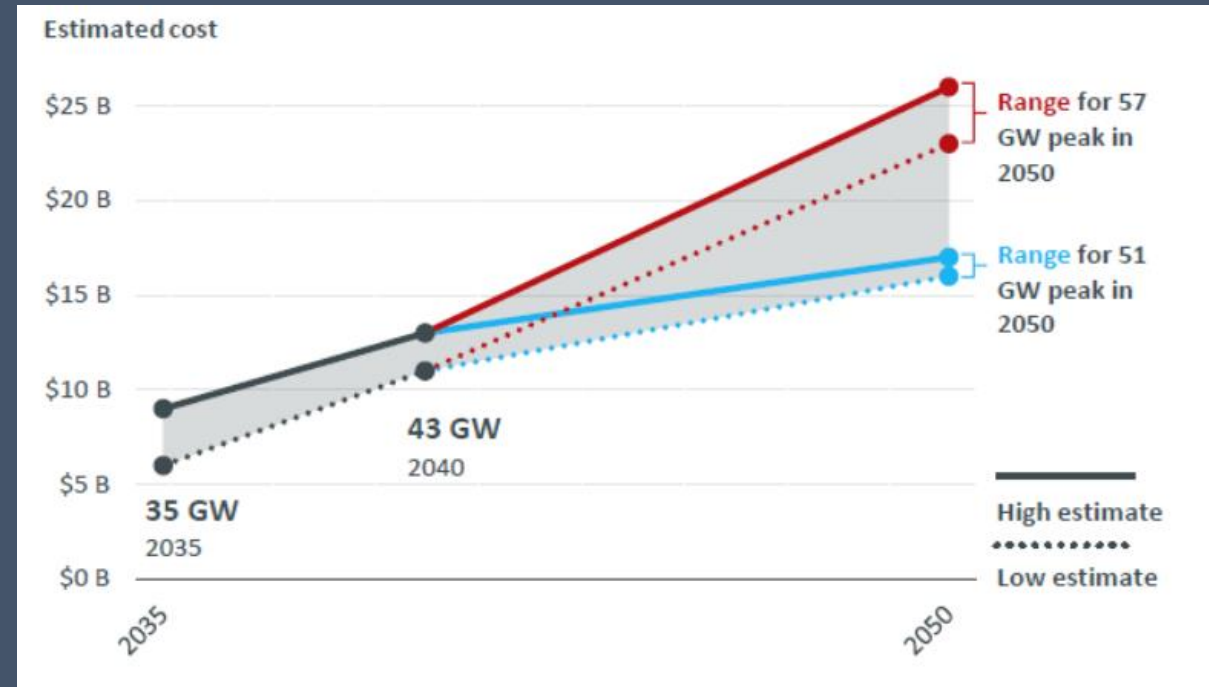
# ASSET CONDITION PROJECTS

- Self-planned by Transmission Owners and not subject to meaningful oversight
- Nearly \$6 billion in projects proposed, planned, or under construction
- TOs have agreed to make improvements in transparency
- Reliability projects are subject to regional planning procedures that ensure that the investment is necessary and cost-effective; asset condition projects are not
- Reform is needed to ensure projects are aligned with regional planning and are cost effective
- Changes to Tariff and Transmission Owners' Agreement should be considered

# DEMAND RESPONSE

NECPUC Working Group on Demand Response to explore:

- Improving transparency to ISO-NE of retail DR programs
- Identifying barriers to participation in wholesale markets
- Exploring ways to improve consistency of programs in New England
- Considering role of DR to address energy adequacy challenges



Source: ISO-NE 2050 Study: [https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100008/2024\\_02\\_14\\_pac\\_2050\\_transmission\\_study\\_final.pdf](https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100008/2024_02_14_pac_2050_transmission_study_final.pdf)

# MAINE INITIATIVES

## Grid Planning (35-A M.R.S. § 3147)

- 10-year grid plan filed every 5 years
- Priorities developed during stakeholder process:
  - Reliability and resilience improvements;
  - Improve data quality and integrity;
  - Promote flexible management of load and DER

## TOU Rates (Docket 2024-00231)

- Exploring TOU rates for standard offer supply
- Considering opt-out
- Automatic Enrollment for those eligible for DHHS administered programs

## Resilience Inquiry (Docket 2024-191)

- Initiated in response to increased costs related to storm activity and outages
- Goal is to identify ways to reduce damage, improve resiliency to power outages and lower costs

## Low Income Assistance Program (Docket 2024-00363)

- Exploring move from lump-sum payments to monthly credits
- Auto-enrollment for DHHS program participants