Policy Initiatives Catalog and Roadmap Process Enhancements

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1. Executive Summary

The ISO has historically maintained a living catalog of potential policy initiatives submitted by stakeholders on a rolling basis. The potential policy initiatives described in the Policy Initiatives Catalog are included for consideration in the annual prioritization effort that yields the Policy Initiatives Roadmap, which describes the policy initiatives work plan over the next three years. That prioritization effort is informed by stakeholders, ISO Critical and Strategic Objectives developed with ISO Board of Governors and WEIM Governing Body input, the ISO's own assessment of policy changes needed to ensure reliable and efficient operation of the grid and markets, and regulatory requirements. The scope, regulatory and reliability requirements, implementation timelines, and interdependencies of initiatives determines the number of policy initiatives that the ISO can undertake, and is limited by the availability of ISO, stakeholder, and vendor resources.

The ISO intends for the Policy Initiatives Catalog and Roadmap Process Enhancements to: (1) improve the linkage between stakeholder input on discretionary initiatives and the Roadmap prioritization effort, and (2) strengthen the coordination between the Roadmap and internal ISO planning processes. The ISO is focused on ensuring its policy efforts reflect the shared priorities of its stakeholders. However, the ISO recognizes that there is not a clear connection between the existing Catalog and the policy initiatives that are prioritized for inclusion in the Roadmap. This document describes updates to the Catalog development process that will result in a narrowly focused list of proposed initiatives with a realistic pathway to inclusion on the Roadmap. In addition, the ISO plans to enhance coordination with ISO business units to ensure alignment between policy initiative prioritization, ISO Strategic Goals, and ISO resources. As a result, the Roadmap will better incorporate short-term plans that consider resource planning – including budgets, staff resources, and vendor bandwidth.

By improving alignment between stakeholder feedback and ISO planning and prioritization efforts, the ISO intends to produce a Catalog and Roadmap that are developed via a process that is collaborative, transparent, and inclusive.

2. Enhancements to the Policy Catalog and Roadmap Process

Purpose

The ISO plans to update both its internal coordination and its external stakeholder engagement processes in order to improve the inclusiveness, transparency, and relevance of the Policy Initiatives Catalog and Roadmap development. These changes support the following goals for the Catalog and Roadmap development process:

Meaningful engagement with external stakeholders

Method: Stakeholders will have the opportunity to identify their priorities among submitted discretionary initiatives.

Outcome: These stakeholder priorities will be reflected in the initiatives included in the final Catalog, which will be meaningfully considered as part of the Roadmap development.

Transparent

Method: The ISO's published materials and stakeholder meetings will clearly identify the ISO's policy initiative prioritization criteria and the process for incorporating stakeholder priorities. Meetings and materials will be available for all stakeholders.

Outcome: Stakeholders understand why the ISO selects specific initiatives for inclusion in the Roadmap, and understand the nexus between the Catalog and the Roadmap.

Focused scope

Method: Elicit stakeholder policy initiative submissions within the framework of the ISO Strategic Goals and Enterprise Roadmap.

Outcome: Stakeholder policy initiative submissions are narrowly scoped and directly connected to ISO strategic goals, stakeholder priorities, and resource constraints. These focused submissions have a clearer pathway to inclusion in the Roadmap.

Incorporates urgent requests

Method: Alternative initiative submission process for unexpected time-sensitive initiatives, scope changes, and timeline extensions.

Outcome: Stakeholders can communicate urgent policy initiative needs to the ISO via a predictable, transparent process.

External Engagement Process Updates

The ISO will begin the annual Policy Initiatives Catalog and Roadmap process with a level-setting workshop in January. This will provide stakeholders with a preview of the ISO's policy initiative prioritization criteria and constraints, which are largely based on the ISO Strategic Plan. The level-setting workshop is an opportunity to discuss the application of the ISO Strategic Plan to policy initiative prioritization. The goal of the workshop is to prepare stakeholders to submit policy initiative proposals that align with those goals and therefore have a clearer pathway to inclusion in the Roadmap. The ISO will also provide information about how stakeholders will be involved in prioritizing submissions for inclusion in the Catalog, and how the Catalog will inform Roadmap development.

Following the January level-setting workshop, stakeholders may submit proposed discretionary initiatives for prioritization. These may be either new initiatives, or resubmissions of initiatives previously included in the Catalog. Submissions should support the ISO Strategic Plan as well as support the interests of a collection of stakeholders rather than a single narrow interest. Under the new process, all submissions to the Catalog will be reconsidered annually rather than carried over from previous years.

The ISO recognizes that the need for urgent policy initiatives can arise outside of the annual submission window. In the event that a new policy initiative is required to meet a significant and immediate reliability threat or regulatory requirement, stakeholders may submit an urgent policy initiative proposal that includes a description of why the standard submission process cannot sufficiently address the issue. The ISO will review urgent requests as they are submitted. If not taken up at that time, stakeholders will have the opportunity to resubmit the requests during the next annual submission process.

The goal of the Catalog is to develop a "short list" of discretionary initiatives which reflect stakeholder priorities and will help inform Policy Roadmap development. To pare down the list of submissions, the ISO plans to hold stakeholder prioritization workshops for both general stakeholders as well as members of the WEIM Regional Issues Forum. As part of these workshops, stakeholders will work together to group proposed initiatives, assess the impact of various initiatives, and identify priorities. The result of these stakeholder prioritization workshops will be a small number of stakeholder-submitted policy initiative proposals that represent broad stakeholder priorities and align with the ISO's Strategic Plan. The ISO will further refine this list by considering additional prioritization criteria, including:

- Feasibility: Objectives are implementable and realistic.
- Timing and complexity of work: ISO staff resources are available to develop and implement changes.
- Urgency: Consequences of failing to address this issue are high and impact the broad stakeholder community.

The highest priority submissions will form the basis of that year's Catalog. The Catalog is finalized in the spring so that it can be used to inform the ISO's internal planning efforts that produce the Roadmap.

Internal Engagement Process Updates

The foundation of the ISO's policy initiative prioritization effort is the ISO Strategic Plan. This framework reflects the ISO's vision for the upcoming five years and is the result of extensive collaboration between the ISO, its Board of Governors, the WEIM Governing Body, and stakeholders. Carrying out the Strategic Goals that comprise the Strategic Plan requires the ISO to focus its planning and prioritization efforts on producing outcomes that align with that framework.

The Catalog is an important input to the internal prioritization process that results in the Roadmap. The ISO develops Strategic Roadmaps which map out the work that supports the implementation of each Strategic Goal. The Catalog can help inform the development of the Strategic Roadmaps, and vice versa. Finally, the ISO develops an Enterprise Roadmap which details the resources needed by project, including implementation of policy initiatives for the upcoming year. It is crucial that the prioritization captured in the annual Catalog be informed by the Strategic Goals, and that it be factored into the other prioritization and forward planning efforts internal to the ISO. This ensures that the policy initiatives included on the Roadmap reflect stakeholder priorities as well as what is feasible to undertake alongside other business improvement implementation efforts unrelated to policy changes.

Catalog and Roadmap Timeline

The Policy Initiative Catalog and Roadmap development process takes place on an annual basis as described below, beginning each January with a level-setting stakeholder workshop and concluding with the presentation of the final Roadmap to the ISO Board of Governors and WEIM Governing Body in December.

Month	Activity
aJanuary	• Level-setting stakeholder workshop
February	• Stakeholders submit potential discretionary policy initiatives for consideration in Catalog
March	• Stakeholder prioritization workshops and Regional Issues Forum Roundtable
April	• Draft Annual Catalog published for stakeholder review and comment
May	• Final Annual Catalog published
September	• Draft Policy Roadmap published for stakeholder review and comment
December	• Final Policy Roadmap presented to ISO Board of Governors and WEIM Governing Body