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Subject: NYSRC Rule H.1 R3 - Control Center Communications
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RCMS Members,

Following is a summary of the recent change in the NYISO's Control Center communications protocol regarding ICCP, in accordance with Rule H.1 R3..

In 2017, the NYISO underwent a project to switch their ICCP communications links from the existing Frame Relay style of telecommunications protocol, to a more current MPLS protocol. The driving force for this was to:

- Update the system to current telecommunications standards
- Increase the overall reliability of the intercommunications system between the NYISO and the various control rooms
- Add fault tolerance (2nd connections) to all of the TO alternate control centers (before this, only two TOs, ConEd and Nat Grid has redundant connections at their alternate control centers)
- Sunset technology that was aging and had waning support from the telecommunication providers.

This project took place over the beginning of 2017, and has recently been completed with the final cut over of NYSEG in September of 2017. The system was fully tested during the cut overs (both the primary control center sites and the alternate control center sites) and there were no failures. Additionally, the cut overs were highly coordinated with the NYISO Grid Operations as well as the individual TO sites. Data flow was momentarily interrupted (on average less than 15 minutes) at the sites being cut over, but ICCP data was not lost because at all time at least one site (primary or alternate) was operational at all times.

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