

# Convergence Bidding Credit Policy

## California ISO Straw Proposal Stakeholder Presentation

September 12, 2007

# Overview of Convergence Bidding

- A virtual trading mechanism where financial sales (or purchases) for energy in the Day-Ahead Market are offset by the explicit requirement to buy back (or sell) that energy in the Real-Time Market
- Effective tool for arbitraging the expected differences between Day-Ahead and Real-Time prices
- The balance of this presentation presents a straw proposal for CAISO's credit policy
  - CAISO may refine this proposal based on on-going discussions with the other ISOs
  - Design constraints resulting from the impending rollout of MRTU and the new Settlements and Market Clearing system as well as a planned credit policy cleanup FERC filing may also result in improvements and additional clarity in regards to this proposal

# ISO Credit Policy

- A Market Participant, including virtual traders, must maintain an Aggregate Credit Limit (ACL; i.e.; unsecured credit plus posted collateral) that meets or exceeds their Estimated Aggregate Liability (EAL) to the ISO
- The difference between ACL and EAL is considered excess collateral and is the maximum amount available for the Virtual Trade Reservation
- The ISO Tariff permits 100% of ACL to be used; as a practical matter, Finance requests additional collateral when the 90% threshold is reached
- Both the Virtual Trade Reservation and the actual difference between Day-Ahead and Real-Time prices are obligations to the ISO and are included in the EAL calculation

# Virtual Bid Reservation

- The Virtual Bid Reservation is a “fixed” component of the EAL and is calculated as follows:

Daily Virtual Trading MWh Limit

times

Reference Price

times

Exposure Period

- Changes to the Market Participant-proposed Daily Virtual Trading MWh Limit and/or the Reference Price would result in a new Virtual Bid Reservation amount
- ISO-NE uses an approach that eliminates the need for the Daily Virtual Trading MWh Limit and the Exposure Period which CAISO is currently reviewing

# Daily Virtual Trading MWh Limit

- This approach is consistent with NYISO and MISO
  - Market Participant submits proposed Daily Virtual Trading MWh Limit to CAISO
  - CAISO Finance will determine if sufficient credit capacity exists to support the proposed limit
  - If accepted, the proposed limit will be entered into the CAISO systems and the dollar value will be entered into the Virtual Bid Reservation component of the Market Participant's EAL
  - The Virtual Bid Reservation is a “fixed” obligation until
    - A new Daily Virtual Trading MWh Limit is proposed by the MP
    - The Reference Price changes
  - MPs exceeding 100% of their available credit will not be eligible to submit virtual bids



# Reference Price

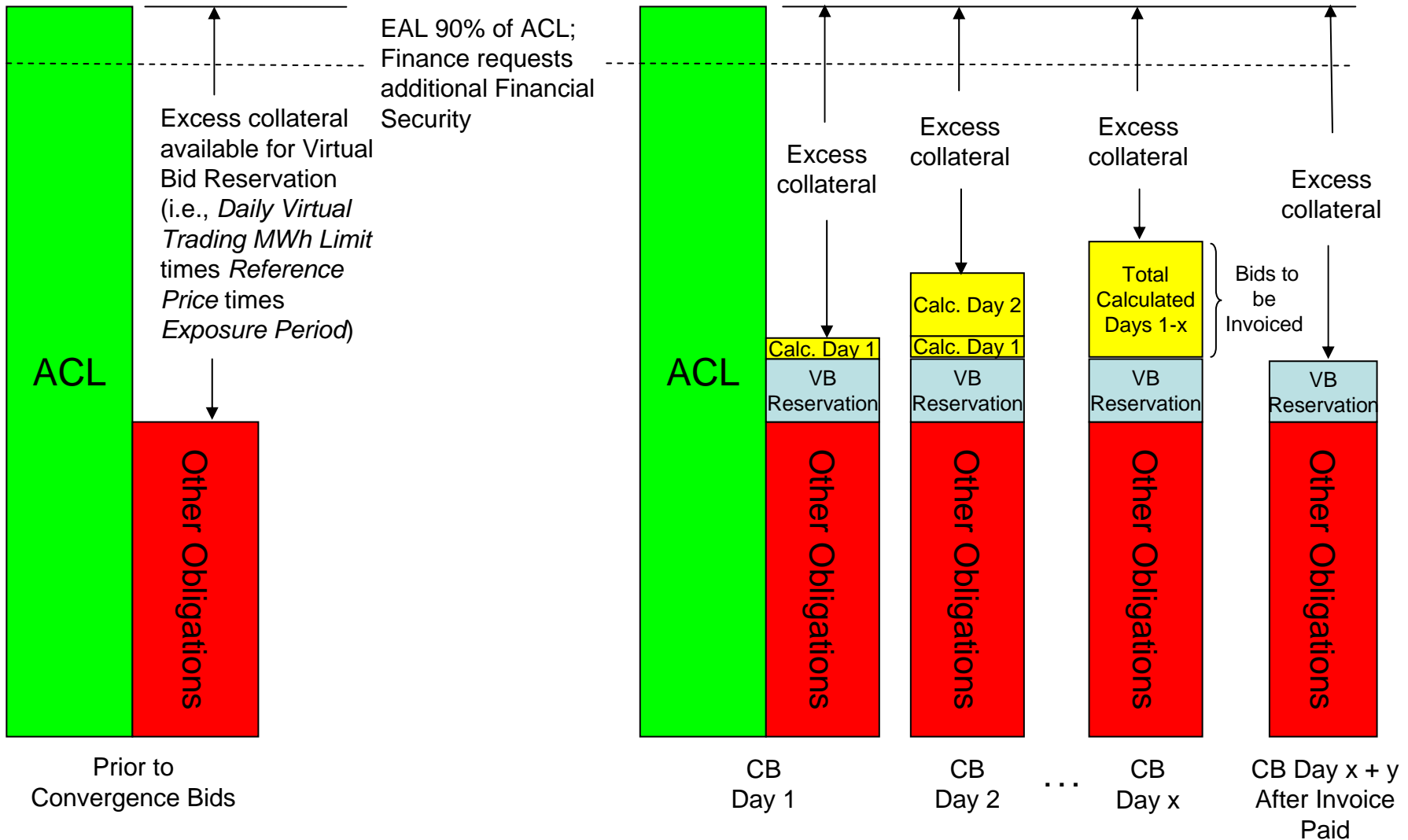
- Reference prices will be set for the weekday and weekend periods at the LAP-level (i.e., six reference prices)
- CAISO proposes using the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile value (consistent with CRRs) of the price difference between Day-Ahead and Real-Time prices for groups of three month periods in order to reflect price seasonality
- Other ISOs using 50<sup>th</sup> to 97<sup>th</sup> percentiles; CAISO considering percentiles in the 75 – 95 percentile range
- The Reference Price will be calculated and updated every three months each year using the energy prices for the same three months of the preceding year
- The Reference Price will not be reset during the three-month period (other ISOs reset in 1, 2 or 12 months)

# Exposure Period

- Maximum number of days between the time of a virtual transaction in the Day-Ahead Market and the time the CAISO calculates the exact credit exposure
- Other ISOs use 1-3 days; FERC rejected earlier proposals by two other ISOs of four and six days
- CAISO is proposing three (3) days but this is currently under review
- If a MP submits both a Virtual Demand Bid and Virtual Supply Bid at a specific LAP for the same settlement interval, the absolute value of the greater of the two bids will be used in determining if the trading limit has been exceeded



# Convergence Bidding Impact on EAL



# Compliance Measures

- All Market Participants, including MPs submitting virtual bids, must comply with the CAISO credit requirements set forth in Section 12 of the CAISO Tariff
- Nonpayment of virtual transactions, like any other market obligation, by a CAISO debtor will result in a corresponding reduction in payments to CAISO creditors
- The full range of enforcement mechanisms identified in the CAISO Tariff, including rejection of virtual trades and/or limiting other CAISO market activity, could result from a payment default

# Next Steps

- Continue assessing the key learnings from our visits with the other ISOs
- Factor in stakeholder feedback from this presentation
- Continue to assess viability of alternative designs and schedules with the MRTU and SaMC teams
- Publish a whitepaper for stakeholder review and comment