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California ISO, PacifiCorp begin parallel EIM operations

Real-time energy imbalance market will enhance reliability and lower energy costs

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO) launched its Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) in parallel operations at 12:01 a.m. PDT today with its partner, Portland-based PacifiCorp. The market, which covers six states, is functioning as expected.

The EIM and PacifiCorp systems have been undergoing simulation tests since July 2014. Beginning today, the ISO's and PacifiCorp's EIM systems will interact in real conditions during October giving grid managers a better opportunity to assess real operational data and maximize performance before the market becomes fully operational and financially binding on November 1.

The new market is using sophisticated technology to find the most efficient resources over a larger geographical area. This will reduce electricity costs and enhance reliability by providing a larger pool of resources for system operators to use in managing the grid. For instance, power from renewable resources in one area of the West could be used to shore up demand in a different area. It also will leverage excess green energy that may otherwise go unused.

In addition to PacifiCorp, Las Vegas-based NV Energy is expected to begin participating in the EIM in October 2015.

For more EIM information, click here.

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