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ISO Board approves gateway to the distributed energy future

New rules enable aggregated rooftop solar, energy storage to participate in the wholesale market

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator Corp. (ISO) Board of Governors today approved rules and processes that for the first time enable aggregated distributed energy resources such as rooftop solar to participate in the wholesale energy market. These rules will set a pathway for smaller resources to be bundled together by utilities or third parties so that they collectively meet the half-megawatt minimum requirement for participating in the energy market.

"With the rapidly evolving grid and quantum growth in distributed generation, this framework for integrating smaller renewable resources onto the high voltage grid demonstrates a significant step in re-designing our energy future with lower carbon emissions and helping California meet its clean energy goals," said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. "This proposal encourages innovation and entrepreneurs to explore opportunities within the wholesale market by combining resources that individually would be too small to participate on their own."

In addition to rooftop solar and energy storage, plug-in electric vehicles and demand response are at the forefront of the distributed energy revolution in which consumers can use and sell power. The ISO recognizes that distributed energy resources are growing and are an important aspect of the future resource mix.

The proposal approved by the board also outlines how distributed energy resources aggregations would be metered, and allows service providers to act as scheduling coordinators to interact with the ISO through a single point of contact. In turn, the ISO will have the ability to select a broader array of resources when balancing supply with demand, while integrating more renewables on to the power grid.

Supporting tariff language will be developed and submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for its approval later this year.

The ISO is committed in enhancing the open energy market that benefits consumers and provides them the way to play a larger role in managing their own energy decisions.

To read the Board memo outlining this proposal, click here.

Visit the distributed energy resources initiative webpage for more information.

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Thanks for re-posting!



The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.