ISO Board moves to support grid reliability

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) Board of Governors today approved a slate of proposals that will support grid reliability.

The first management proposal enables generating resources that are facing potential retirement to request that the ISO assess whether they are necessary for future reliable grid operations earlier in the year so they can plan the orderly retirement of the facility. In the event the ISO finds that the resource is still needed, the ISO will render a special procurement designation and execute an administrative contract that allows the plant to continue operating, with cost-of-service-based compensation. The ISO will now consider such designations twice yearly, adding a new window in April in addition to the current November window.

The board also approved a management recommendation to enter into a reliability must-run contract with the Metcalf Energy Center, which is needed to maintain grid stability. The Calpine-owned facility may be offered a utility contract in 2018.

Further, the board accepted adjustments to the program that ensures plants providing energy under the state’s resource adequacy program will have the incentive to be consistent with offering its energy to the wholesale market. The adjustments also help to ensure that these resources will arrange for replacement resources should they be forced out of service. These changes will help ensure that plants meet their obligations to offer energy to the market especially during peak load conditions.

Lastly, the board voted to increase its retainer compensation. The board’s compensation has been static for the past 11 years. The increase in compensation to $40,000 per year is well below the retainers paid to the governing boards of the nation’s other independent grid operators.

The ISO will file any tariff related board approved changes with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for its review.

To see the Board agenda and supporting documents, click here.
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 over 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.