LADWP to join ISO’s western Energy Imbalance Market

Folsom, Calif./Los Angeles, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) signed an agreement for the largest municipal utility in the United States to join the real-time western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) beginning in April 2019.

“We welcome LADWP to the western Energy Imbalance Market,” said Steve Berberich, ISO President and CEO. “LADWP will join a robust and efficient real-time market that is providing significant savings by enabling participants to share low-cost energy across the West.”

LADWP began delivering water to customers in the region in 1902 and added electricity distribution in 1917. The customer-owned utility now serves over 4 million residents.

“We are pleased to enter the EIM in what will be a solid step forward in partnering with our neighbors to find benefits for the City of Los Angeles,” said David H. Wright, LADWP General Manager. “Joining with utilities across the West means we all can more reliably integrate renewables and meet our energy goals. It’s a win-win situation.”

Participating utilities use the western EIM to balance supply and demand within their respective service areas in real time by scheduling power deliveries every 15 minutes with five-minute resource dispatching. By tapping into resources across a larger geographic area, utilities can more effectively manage serving their demand while significantly lowering the cost of delivering power to consumers.

These efficiencies have led to savings totaling about $173 million since the market was launched in November 2014 through the end of March 2017.

Utilities currently participating in the EIM include Oregon-based PacifiCorp; NV Energy of Las Vegas; Puget Sound Energy of Washington state; and Arizona Public Service of Phoenix, Ariz. The market currently serves utility consumers in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Other utilities that have formally agreed to join the EIM include Portland General Electric in October 2017, Powerex Corp. of Canada and Idaho Power in April, 2018, Seattle City Light and Balancing Authority of Northern California/Sacramento Municipal Utility District in April, 2019, and Phoenix-based Salt River Project in April, 2020.
For more information on the EIM, visit the ISO webpage here.

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