

WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



News Release

For immediate release | November 1, 2017

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Western EIM celebrates third anniversary delivering low cost energy across eight states

FOLSOM, Calif. – November 1 marks the third anniversary of the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM), a real-time energy market that since its launch has steadily grown to include six entities covering eight states and about 38 million consumers with six more utilities planning to join by 2020. The EIM has saved consumers hundreds of millions of dollars while reducing significant amounts of carbon emissions.

“The western EIM has grown quickly and steadily since its inception and continues to show strong results for its participants,” said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. “This innovative market is only possible through the close collaboration with our neighboring utilities and states in the West.”

EIM participants have saved a combined total of nearly \$255 million since the western real-time market launched on Nov. 1, 2014, while reducing carbon emissions by 214,917 metric tons. That’s equivalent to eliminating emissions from nearly 50,000 cars for a year.

Figure 1: Gross benefits in \$ millions (thru Q3 2017)

Region	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Arizona Public Service	-	-	5.98	24.56	30.54
ISO	1.24	12.66	28.34	32.44	74.68
NV Energy	-	0.84	15.57	17.55	34.16
Puget Sound Energy	-	-	1.56	7.03	8.59
PacifiCorp	4.73	26.21	45.48	30.58	107.00
Totals	5.97	39.71	96.93	112.36	\$254.97

The ISO launched the real-time energy market with its first participant, PacifiCorp, which serves customers in California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. Of the total savings, PacifiCorp has saved its customers more than \$100 million since it began participation while California ISO customers have saved more than \$74 million.

"The EIM is a true success story for the region and helps pave the way to a clean energy future," said Stefan Bird, President and CEO of Pacific Power, the unit of PacifiCorp that serves customers in Oregon, Washington, and California. "We are very pleased how the market has continued to grow and deliver significant savings for our customers."

Nevada's NV Energy joined the EIM a year later on December 1, 2015, while Puget Sound Energy and Arizona Public Service entered the market on Oct. 1, 2016. Portland General Electric recently entered the EIM on Oct. 1, 2017.

"Participating in the Energy Imbalance Market has allowed us to garner efficiencies that weren't possible a year ago," said Brad Albert, APS Vice President of Resource Management. "We've lowered production costs and the costs of integrating renewable resources like solar, and we've taken advantage of negatively priced (surplus) power from other states. Participating in the EIM is one of the many ways we're providing customers with a cleaner and smarter system to meet their changing energy needs."

The ISO uses state-of-art technology to automatically optimize the real-time energy market to find and dispatch the lowest cost energy available regardless of its location. Using carbon free resources — including surplus solar resources — also helps clean the air and meet western states' environmental goals.

Participating utilities also benefit from reducing the amount of energy flexibility reserves required to manage load and supply variability by sharing resources outside of their service area to serve their load at a lower cost.

In April 2018, Idaho Power and Canada's Powerex will also join the market. The Balancing Authority of Northern California/Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Seattle City Light and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will begin participating in April 2019. Salt River Project of Phoenix will enter the market in April 2020.

Click [here](#) to see more about the EIM.

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