

**EPIC Merchant Energy Comments on
CAISO Issue Paper Data Release & Accessibility Phase 1**

Submitted By	Company or Entity	Date Submitted
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EPIC appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Data Release and Accessibility stakeholder process and to submit comments on the CAISO's Issue Paper for Data Release & Accessibility Phase 1.

Preferred method of information archival/retrieval:

The CAISO web query tool in OASIS is very useful for an end user to utilize for retrieving targeted pieces of information. However, that interface becomes burdensome on bandwidth (on the client side as well as CAISO's) when automated processes are tasked with keeping information up to date on the client side. With the way information is currently made available, the client has to download all historical prices since the inception of the market, and compare those prices with the prices that have already been downloaded to see if there have been any changes.

If historical prices could be preprocessed and stored into files with links provided on a webpage, then the timestamp on these files could be queried to search for changes to past information. To check the timestamp of a file in this manner only requires the client to download approximately 400 bytes of data. In contrast, to download this information through the query tool to check for a change requires the client to download approximately 3,000,000 bytes. If a client wants to stay up to date with potential price changes in the last 7 days (which we do once a day), then the amount of information downloaded (assuming no changes) would be 67,200 bytes if we could check the file timestamps, but is 504,000,000 bytes using the query tool. That means it takes 7,500 times as much bandwidth to use the query tool.

Another potential improvement would be to have an option on the query tool to just return the date on which the requested information was last updated, rather than returning all of the actual data. An automated process could access this information just as easily as a timestamp on a file, and this may fit into CAISO's plans more seamlessly.

Posting of Price Corrections

Finally, an additional approach that could be helpful would be to post a file that contains information about which prices have been updated and when. This file needs to be a CSV or XLS file, and it needs to have a consistent structure that can be searched by an automated process. This automated process insures that the client has the most up-to-date information on the market. The current PDF is not conducive to non-human reading.