

WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



California ISO

News Release

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California ISO welcomes Avista to Western Energy Imbalance Market Successful real-time electricity market continues steady growth

FOLSOM, Calif. — The California Independent System Operator (ISO) and Avista signed an agreement today for the Spokane-based leader in clean energy to participate in the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) in April 2022.

The Western EIM has delivered substantial cost savings to participants in addition to reducing carbon emissions.

“The EIM has a proven record of increasing efficiencies, lowering costs and integrating cleaner energy into the power grid,” said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. “We look forward to Avista’s successful participation beginning in 2022.”

“Joining the EIM is another milestone in our effort to efficiently use carbon-free renewable resources throughout the region while helping maintain reliability and keeping power affordable for our customers,” said Jason Thackston, Avista senior vice president for energy resources. “We view this effort as another tool to help us achieve our goal of serving clean renewable energy to our customers in a cost-effective and reliable manner.”

In the EIM, participating utilities and their customers benefit when the market automatically draws on the least-cost generating option available to meet short-term variations in their customers’ power use. This also allows participants to maximize the amount of renewable resources, by taking advantage of available wind and solar generation anywhere in the system while efficiently integrating their variable output with other dispatchable resources.

Through 2018, the Western EIM has produced nearly \$565 million in total gross cost benefits and has cut carbon emissions by more than 300,000 metric tons by using excess renewable energy in place of fossil-fueled generation resources.

Current EIM participants include Portland, Ore.-based PacifiCorp (2014), NV energy of Nevada (2015), Arizona Public Service (2016), Puget Sound Energy of Washington (2016), Portland General Electric (2017), Idaho Power (2018), Powerex, (2018), and the Balancing Authority of Northern California/Sacramento Municipal Utility District (2019).

Other entities scheduled to begin participation include Seattle City Light (2020), Arizona's Salt River Project (2020), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (2021), Northwestern Energy of Butte, Montana (2021), and Albuquerque, N.M.-based Public Service Company of New Mexico (2021) pending regulatory approval.

For more information, visit the Western EIM site at www.westerneim.com.

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<p>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.</p>	