



California ISO
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Minimum Generation Online Commitment in Humboldt Area

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Minimum Generation Online Commitment In The Humboldt Area

This bulletin informs the market participants of the California ISO's (ISO) automated enforcement through the ISO's day-ahead market processes of a minimum on-line generation requirement for the local Humboldt area. As the system operator and Balancing Authority, the ISO monitors and enforces various limits established for the purpose of maintaining allowable grid reliability, efficient congestion management and feasible market dispatches. On December 6th, 2010, the ISO will begin enforcing the local Minimum Online Commitment (MOC) for the Humboldt area through the ISO's day-ahead market processes as further described below.

1. Introduction

A MOC is required to meet real-time reliability needs in the Humboldt area for the purposes of maintaining thermal and voltage reliability requirements, including the commitment of resources to allow for equipment to return to normal ratings following a contingency in real-time.

The MOC in the Humboldt area identifies the minimum generation capacity requirement, the set of generators that are effective in meeting the requirement and the effectiveness of each generator where appropriate.

The MOC requirement is determined by the ISO Operations Engineering Services, consistent with applicable NERC/WECC reliability standards that govern normal and emergency operations planning. The details of the requirements are documented in the Humboldt area operating procedure (T-138). Similar to flow based constraints, the MOC requirements will be enforced in the day-ahead processes for the Day-Ahead Market. As a result, the enforcement of

the MOC will result in the commitment of generation required to meet reliability requirements in the Humboldt area.

2. Humboldt Area Generation Requirement

The MOC in the Humboldt area depend on the load level, status of the Humboldt Static VAR Compensator (SVC) and availability of Qualifying Facility (QF) generation in the area.¹

At times, it is necessary to have generation on line internal to the area to maintain grid reliability within the area otherwise the area may experience thermal overload and low voltage conditions under certain contingency events. The commitment of a minimum amount of Humboldt area generation resolves these risks.

The commitment will be based on planned and forced outages known for the DA market. The Humboldt area MOC is expected to commit more generation to be online when Humboldt SVC is out of service because the Humboldt area will require more voltage support. As the system topology is altered in future, the MOC requirements will be revisited and updated as required.

3. Implementation Schedule

Following is the schedule for implementing the MOC requirements for Humboldt area generation:

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Effective date for Day Ahead run - 12/06/10 (for TD 12/07/10)

¹ A qualifying facility is a qualifying cogeneration facility or small qualifying power production facility, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 18. The specific QFs mentioned in this procedure are Generating Facilities that are under the contracts with PG&E. A Static VAR Compensator is an electrical device for providing fast-acting reactive power on high-voltage electricity transmission networks. It is essentially an automated impedance matching device, designed to bring the system closer to unity power factor. If the power system's reactive load is capacitive (leading), the SVC will use reactors to consume VARs from the system, lowering the system voltage. If the power system's reactive load is inductive (lagging), the capacitor banks are automatically switched in, providing a higher system voltage.