

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Zonal Procurement of Ancillary Services and Other Day-Ahead Reliability Constraints

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Reliability Constraints

- ISO Operators appear to require pre-specified amounts of unloaded generation capacity at various locations throughout ISO control area
 - Granularity in demand for unloaded capacity greater than current zonal boundaries
- Total amount of unloaded generation capacity required (including day-ahead ancillary services purchases) is greater than 7% of day-ahead demand forecast
 - Conclusion—Operators appear to require more unloaded capacity to operate system than Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) minimum operating reserve requirements
 - Not all of the unloaded capacity is 10-minute responsive
- Must-offer waiver denial process can also be used to ensure that sufficient capacity at needed locations is on and available to bid into ancillary services market
 - Generally not the ISO operator's primary reason for denying waivers
 - Whether these units bid into A/S market or not is not critical to reliability
 - Operators want the waiver-denied units available in real-time
 - Waiver-denied generation units are allowed to bid into ancillary services
 - Can receive market-clearing price of ancillary services if capacity is taken in market









Reliability Constraints

- For ISO operators to procure ancillary services on a system-wide basis and obtain locational unloaded capacity necessary to operate system, large amount of generation capacity may need to be issued waiver denials
 - Issuing a waiver denial requires ISO to pay start-up, no-load, minimum load operating costs and imbalance energy payments to generation owners
 - Potentially expensive way to obtain necessary locational reserves
 - Imposes additional costs on generation unit owners to keep units operating
 - May increase number of times generation unit is started and stopped



Locational Ancillary Services

ISO operators should specify locational ancillary services needs and procure to these needs

- Higher ancillary services prices at those locations in need of additional reserve capacity is proper economic signal
 - A/S prices near major load centers where it is expensive to site generation versus prices in the middle of the state where it is less expensive to site generation
 - Under MRTU, ancillary services needs could be specified at nodal level
 - Under current zonal design, operators would need to purchase locational A/S out-ofsequence (OOS) and pay as bid
- ISO operators should have freedom to set aggregate amount of ancillary services requirements above 7% minimum if reliability of grid requires it
 - Procurement criteria should be as transparent as possible
 - Different rates of responsiveness to suit needs of ISO operators
- Apply local market power mitigation mechanism (LMPM) to procurement of A/S if certain suppliers have local market power
 - Extend existing LMPM to A/S market



Locational Ancillary Services

- Issuing must-offer waiver denials to obtain unloaded capacity introduces a number of market inefficiencies
 - Sets price for ancillary services too low for areas in need for more reserve capacity and too high in areas that do not need of more reserve capacity
 - Distorts locational investment signals
- Clear criteria for amount and location of reserves as a function of system conditions will improve market efficiency
 - Only those generation units actually needed for reserves will be paid for reserves
 - Only those generation units needed for reserves will required to provide reserves



Using Interruptible Loads

Large load-serving entities (LSEs) have substantial amounts of MWs in interruptible loads

- These loads count towards LSE's resource adequacy (RA) requirement
- ISO operators have provided evidence that amount that these loads count towards RA is significantly less than nominal amount of interruptible capacity procured by LSEs

How and when should interruptible loads be used to provide reserves?

- Because virtually all interruptible contracts have maximums on number of times a customer can be interrupted, LSEs should make this determination
- If LSE makes available to ISO less than its RA requirements in generation, then ISO should assume that remainder is being supplied by interruptible customers
- ISO should procure ancillary services taking into account how LSEs are able to use interruptible loads
 - ISO should not purchase additional reserves to make up for fact that a LSE is using interruptible load to provide reserve





Concluding Comments

- Must-offer waiver denial should not be used to obtain magnitude and locational of unloaded capacity
 - Only purchase ancillary services needed
 - Limit amount of unloaded capacity
- ISO operators should have discretion to specify and purchase magnitude of reserves in locations needed to operate system in reliably
 - Criteria should be clearly specified and transparent as possible
- LSEs should have flexibility to use interruptible loads to reduce ancillary services needed
 - Criteria for how interruptible loads are used should be clearly specified and transparent as possible
- Ancillary services purchases should be subject to LMPM