

## **COMMENTS OF SEMPRA ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC ON CAISO's "CATALOGUE OF MARKET DESIGN INITIATIVES"**

Sempra Energy Solutions LLC (SES) appreciates the opportunity to review the CAISO's "Catalogue of Market Design Initiatives," which was released June 12, 2009. This catalogue will be used as the basis for deciding on new market enhancements and setting priorities for their implementation in the CAISO's "Roadmap" process.

SES is an electric service provider in California and in other competitive retail markets in the United States. As such, SES has extensive experience in other jurisdictions and is operating under every other ISO. The successful implementation of MRTU has been a significant achievement for the CAISO, but to ensure that California is able to capture the full benefits of the new nodal markets, market participants require timely, accurate and easily accessible information. Accordingly, now is the time to explore significant improvements to the CAISO's public web portal.

SES proposes that the CAISO add a new market initiative to the current catalogue: Development of a Comprehensive Public Web Portal. SES further recommends that the new portal be similar in look, feel and usefulness to PJM's eData web portal.<sup>1</sup>

The current tools available on the CAISO's web site for monitoring market conditions are inadequate. While OASIS is available to the public, it is difficult and awkward to use. Useful information is either unavailable or hard to find. For example, to examine nodal prices, the user must scroll through thousands of nodes in a small window. More information is available to Scheduling Coordinators. In the CAISO's Post-Summer Release of market enhancements, it plans to upgrade to the user interface in SIBR and provide additional reports

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<sup>1</sup> The public can easily access this web portal by visiting [www.pjm.com](http://www.pjm.com) and clicking on the "eData Guest Login."

through API. However, these are only tiny steps toward a more comprehensive and user-friendly interface and do not make any additional information available to the public.

By contrast, a wide variety of useful visual and quantitative information is easily accessible to the public through PJM's eData portal. Moreover, the information is presented in one customizable window, rather than requiring the user to click on a series of links and tabs. The visual and graphical data presented in the eData window include LMP contour maps for each region showing prices by color, real-time market data, intertie flows, weather maps and temperatures, ACE, average day-ahead and real-time prices by region, reserve quantities by region, and current wind generation.

To determine the specific look and feel of the CAISO's public web portal, the CAISO should conduct a stakeholder process to determine the types of information market participants would find most useful, as well as innovative ways to present that information in a web portal. SES suggests, for example, that the CAISO's web portal include a roll-up of average day-ahead and real-time prices at Trading Hubs and Scheduling Points for both on- and off-peak, visual depiction of select LMPs on a five-minute basis, transmission outage information, and visual weather information.

In summary, SES believes that the new CAISO markets urgently require improvements to the interface providing market information to the public. SES respectfully requests that the CAISO add this initiative to its Market Design Initiatives Catalogue, set it as a high priority in its Roadmap process, and conduct a stakeholder process to design a useful, comprehensive and innovative public web portal.

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