

BPA Wind Integration Team Initiatives
Update to WIT email list
October 2011

This is the monthly update on BPA's Wind Integration Team initiatives for October 2011. If you have questions, contact WIT Program Manager Eric King at 503-230-5236.

CAISO intra-hour scheduling pilot under way

The joint pilot between BPA and the California Independent System Operator began Oct. 17. The pilot will help Northwest wind energy producers gain more value from unexpected surges of wind power by selling the electricity into California.

The new pilot project doubles the pace of the interstate energy transfers to better match the ups and downs of wind energy. Participating wind facility operators can now schedule additional energy as often as every half-hour, helping them find buyers for extra wind output that could have gone unsold when sales were limited to once an hour. Participants also can adjust schedules if a wind facility is generating less energy than scheduled, making up the difference with a CAISO resource.

The pilot project with the CAISO allows wind producers to sell up to 200 megawatts of electricity into California each half hour, about a third the output of an average coal power plant.

New outlets for wind energy may ease the need for federal hydroelectric dams to balance unexpected changes in wind generation. In some instances, intra-hour transactions have helped wind producers sell additional energy instead of cutting it off when the balancing capacity of the hydroelectric system is exhausted.

Customers sign up for committed intra-hour scheduling

Two customers have requested to participate in BPA's committed intra-hour scheduling program for a total of 600 megawatts. The customers are preparing to qualify for the pilot by demonstrating they meet certain scheduling accuracy metrics. They are expected to begin participating in the pilot in December. BPA is also discussing potential participation with additional customers.

Under the new business practice, posted in early October, participants must commit to submit schedules every 30 minutes and meet scheduling accuracy metrics. In return, participants will receive a 34 percent reduction in the rate for variable energy resource balancing and are exempt from persistent deviation penalties. The pilot is limited to 1,200 MW.



BPA accepts requests for supplemental service

BPA posted its [final business practice](#) for the new Supplemental Service Pilot in late September. Several customers have expressed interest in the optional service, but they have not yet started the process to acquire or ask BPA to acquire resources to provide this service.

Customers have two options for supplemental service. They can purchase an eligible balancing resource and provide that resource to BPA, or they can ask BPA to purchase supplemental reserves on their behalf from suppliers in the market.

Once the resource is acquired, BPA will integrate it with the agency's automatic generation control system. BPA will call on that resource when a Dispatcher's Standing Order 216 curtailment is issued. The service is not a guarantee against curtailments during a DSO 216 event, but it would provide the participating customers an additional margin of protection.

CSGI phase II begins after delay

Phase II of the Customer Supplied Generation Imbalance Pilot, originally expected to begin Oct. 1, began Nov. 1 after a slight delay. BPA and Iberdrola extended the phase I participant agreement while they worked out technical details of the phase II agreement.

CSGI phase II will continue through BPA's 2012-2013 rate period. Since phase I began in October 2010, Iberdrola Renewables has supplied its own energy reserves to balance wind generation, freeing hundreds of megawatts of federal power for other uses.

During this second phase, BPA will continue to test the pilot's effectiveness and ultimately determine whether the agency should expand or reshape the initiative.