

CURTAILMENTS

SEAMS ISSUE PAPER FOR WORKSHOP BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

ISSUE: What are the seams issues associated with RTO curtailment procedures?
What are potential solutions?

BACKGROUND:

Present operating practices and limitations for curtailments result in numerous market concerns that curtailments are not done in an equitable way. Curtailment practices are a subset of the congestion management process and related to loop flow practices, in that curtailments occur when forced outages result in congestion on the path or loop flows cause excessive actual flows on a path.

The present practice for curtailments is that during the “emergency period”, security takes precedence and schedules are curtailed according to what is doable. This results in large schedules and entities that can respond most quickly often taking a larger than prorata share of curtailments. After the emergency period, curtailments are adjusted according to scheduling rights. Economic efficiency suggests that the lowest value schedules should be curtailed first, possibly using the same stacking as used for congestion management.

The Unscheduled Flow Mitigation Plan requires path to accommodate unscheduled flow by curtailing schedules if necessary. An alternative loop flow mitigation plan may mitigate the need for curtailments.

Numerous issues arise within the curtailment procedures. At interfaces, double cutting occurs because the entities on the two sides of the interface may have different cutting orders. For example, physical rights will be curtailed based on reservation priority while financial rights will be curtailed based on bid value.

Some cutplane limits are poorly defined as a result of practices that predate open access. Some control area operators use interconnection flows to measure system stress although the limiting cutplane is internal to their network. This can lead to inequitable curtailments when generation is connected between the monitored interconnection and the limiting cutplane.

The NWRTO has three challenges to address with respect to curtailments:

1. Coordinate its curtailments practices with internal congestion management and loop flow practices;
2. Address inequities due to traditional operating practices;
3. Address seams related seams issues with other regions.