

FERC OKs coordination deals to help MISO take on Entergy

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utility joining the ISO. The parties will be working out ways to increase that limit on some days if it is needed.

Starting in about a year, the limit will be calculated ahead of the operating day – two days at first and then one starting in 2015. The agreement contemplates being replaced by April 1, 2015.

FERC accepted the deal, ruling that it would support a reliable transition as Entergy joins MISO and backdated its effectiveness to Aug 16 as requested.

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Cheap natural gas has made the fuel the dominant source for new, dispatchable capacity in the electric industry. As gas takes on a greater share of generation, issues have started to crop up as those plants are leaned on more and more in the winter when the fuel is also in high demand for home heating. How will the electric and natural gas industries adapt? What is the long-term solution? Find out answers to these questions

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NEM fall roundtable heads for much-changed Pennsylvania

The National Energy Marketers Assn (NEM) is convening its Annual Fall Policy Leadership Roundtable at the end of this month in Harrisburg, Pa, it said yesterday.

“NEM is honored to host our 2013 Policy Leadership Roundtable in Pennsylvania. When we selected the commonwealth to hold NEM’s Annual Roundtable in 2010, electric rate caps had just expired or were near expiration and consumer shopping was minimal,” NEM President Craig Goodman said in prepared remarks.

“However, since that time, the growth

of the competitive electricity market in Pennsylvania has been stunning and we attribute this phenomenal success to the well-planned, proactive energy policies and strong leadership of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.”

The PUC recently set the stage for the next phase in the development of the retail power market and just launched an investigation into the state’s natural gas market to ensure customers can benefit from choice there, too, said PUC Chairman Robert Powelson.

“We are delighted that NEM chose Pennsylvania as the location for this

year’s conference,” said Powelson. “Our state is a hotbed for retail electric competition, with over 2 million customers shopping for an electric supplier. However, we recognize that there is room to grow.”

The roundtable will include regulatory and legislative leaders in Pennsylvania’s capital including Powelson and the rest of the PUC commissioners, state representatives, commission staff and others.

The event is being held at the Harrisburg Hilton from Oct 29-30.

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EMRF report finds retail, traditional utility models both work

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competition while others still use rate regulation, the report noted.

Trade-offs between the two systems were described in the report but it concluded those largely come to a draw. Both ways work to ensure reliability, though they go about it differently.

ISO/RTOs with restructured states rely on capacity markets or, in ERCOT’s case, an energy-only market. Those

approaches can lead to price volatility and might not achieve resource adequacy in the long term at economically efficient levels, the report warned.

Traditional regulated utilities use integrated resource planning with the drawback of sometimes making the wrong decision on long-term investments, which can mean higher costs for consumers.

Environmental costs are likely to be reflected in both systems and given the focus of the EPA’s most recent rules, they will likely affect those regions with the most coal capacity.

EMRF will look into how the two systems get enough generation capacity built for its first in depth report because policymakers and regulators around the country are increasingly concerned with resource adequacy under both systems, it added.

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1 story in 30 seconds

Gas futures add 4.4¢ after storage report:

NYMEX November natural gas futures held the upside after EIA’s weekly storage report came in within the range of expectations and above historical norms, analyst Jackson Mueller reported. The contract tacked on 4.4¢ to close at \$3.723/MMBTU after pulling back from a knee-jerk high of \$3.795/MMBTU, hit just after the report’s release. The EIA reported a 90-BCF build – in the middle of the expected range and above the 84-BCF, five-year average and the 72-BCF reported in the same week last year. The report was relatively bearish but the market focused on coming cold weather that will put a dent in storage builds in the next few weeks.

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