

Resource Adequacy

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Prepared by: Johannes Pfeifenberger

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Resource Adequacy vs. Reliability

For end users, "reliability" is a combination of three distinct components:

- Distribution system reliability
- Transmission system reliability
- Resource adequacy (bulk power supply vs. load)

Estimates for U.S.-wide customer cost of power outages range from \$20 billion to \$150 billion per year:

- EPRI (1993):
 - Swaminathan and Sen (Sandia 1998):
 - Primen (EPRI 2001):
 - LaCommare and Eto (LNBL 2004):

\$26 billion/yr
\$150 billion/yr
\$119 billion/yr
\$80 billion/yr
(ranging from \$22-135 billion)

Resource Adequacy's Share of Power Outages



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Why Resource Adequacy Standards?

RAS offer several attractive benefits

- Ensure adequate supply, prevent high levels of curtailments
- Address common-good/free-ridership problem
- Reduce price volatility and investment risk premiums
- Mitigate market power in spot energy markets

Do RAS distort energy markets?

- Yes, but similar to requirements imposed in other markets
- Examples: environmental rules, vehicle safety standards, building codes, appliance efficiency requirements

Will RAS be able to fully "fade away" as DR grows?

- Not likely: creating additional "non-firm" service (DR) does not eliminate the need for reliability of serving the residual "firm" load
- Only if (1) customers can choose to purchase higher reliability for their firm residual load and (2) the ISO can curtail others

What is the "Right" Level of Resource Adequacy?



<u>Source</u>: Carden, Pfeifenberger and Wintermantel, *The Economics of Resource Adequacy Planning: Why Reserve Margins Are Not Just About Keeping the Lights On*, NRRI Report 11-09, April 2011.

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Resource Adequacy Constructs

Administrative Mechanisms

- Resource adequacy achieved through administrative means
- <u>Examples</u>: Regulated utility planning, administrative PPAs, administratively-determined capacity payments
- Cost recovery through regulated approval or contract payments
- Risk of uneconomic investment decisions borne by customers

Market-Based Mechanisms

- Utilize market forces to achieve resource adequacy
- <u>Examples</u>: Energy-only markets, RA requirements for LSEs, near-term or forward capacity markets
- Challenge: achieve revenues to attract and retain supply when/where needed for resource adequacy; discourage investments during surplus
- Risk of uneconomic investment decisions borne by suppliers (but increases investment and financing costs)
- Price volatility and uncertainty are a key concern

Resource Adequacy Constructs

	Administrative Mechanisms (Customers Bear Risk)		Market-based Mechanisms (Suppliers Bear Risk)		
	Regulated Utilities	PPAs or Capacity Payments	LSE RA Requirement	Capacity Markets	Energy-Only Markets
Examples	SPP, BC Hydro, SaskPower, most of WECC, Southeast U.S.	Ontario, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Spain, South Korea	California, MISO	PJM, NYISO, ISO-NE, Brazil, Australia's SWIS, Italy, Russia	Texas, Alberta, Australia's NEM, NordPool, Great Britain (current)
Resource Adequacy Requirement?	Yes (Utility IRP)	Yes/No (Yes through PPAs; No if relying on capacity payments)	Yes (Creates bilateral capacity market)	Yes (Mandatory near- term or forward capacity auction)	No (RA not assured)
How are Capital Costs Recovered?	Regulated retail rate recovery	Long-term PPAs or capacity payment plus energy market	Bilateral capacity payments and energy market	Capacity and energy markets	Energy market only

See also: Pfeifenberger & Spees (2009, 2010). Review of Alternative Market Designs for Resource Adequacy.

Summary of RA and Capacity Market Constructs

Procurement

Forward Period



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Capacity Price Comparison Across RTOs



Additional Reading

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Speaker Bio and Contact Information



Johannes P. Pfeifenberger

Principal, Utility Practice Area Leader Cambridge Hannes.Pfeifenberger@brattle.com 617.864.7900 office 617.234.5624 direct

Note:

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Johannes (Hannes) Pfeifenberger is an economist with a background in power engineering and over 20 years of experience in the areas of public utility economics and finance. He has published widely, assisted clients and stakeholder groups in the formulation of business and regulatory strategy, and submitted expert testimony to the U.S. Congress, courts, state and federal regulatory agencies, and in arbitration proceedings.

Hannes has extensive experience in the economic analyses of electricity wholesale markets and transmission systems. His recent experience includes reviews of RTO capacity market and resource adequacy designs, testimony in contract disputes, and the analysis of transmission benefits, cost allocation, and rate design. He has performed market assessments, market design reviews, asset valuations, and cost-benefit studies for investor-owned utilities, independent system operators, transmission companies, regulatory agencies, public power companies, and generators across North America.

Hannes received an M.A. in Economics and Finance from Brandeis University and an M.S. in Power Engineering and Energy Economics from the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria

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