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Reliability and the Future of the Electricity Grid: A North American Bulk Power System Perspective

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Agenda Topics

- About NERC and what we do
- The changing resource mix
- The role of essential reliability services
- Accommodating high levels of renewables and natural gas generation
- Reliability implications of emerging environmental regulations



To ensure the reliability of the North American bulk power system

- Develop and enforce reliability standards
- Assess current and future reliability



- Analyze system events and recommend improved practices
- Encourage active participation by all stakeholders
- Accountable as ERO to regulators in the United States (FERC) and Canada (NEB and provincial governments)



NERC Reliability Assessments

- Reliability
 - Resource Adequacy
 - Operating Reliability
- Transmission adequacy
- Demand and Generation forecasts
- Demand-Side Management
- Regional coordination
- Key issues emerging trends
 - Technical challenges
 - Evolving market practices
 - System elements/dynamics
 - Potential legislation/regulation







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The Bulk Power System: By the Numbers

Generation	Transmission	Distribution
Over 5,000 plants	Over 483,000 circuit miles	Over 2,200,000 miles
Over 1,000,000 MW Total Peak Capacity	320 Transmission Operators	430 Distribution Providers
Peak Natural Gas Capacity – 42%	Over 2,000 Substations	Over 980,000 MW Peak Demand
Peak Coal Capacity – 27%	115kV – 735kV (AC), Some DC	<1% Peak Demand Annual Growth
Peak Renewables – 3%		~10 GW Solar PV
		RELIABILITY ACCOUNTABILITY



- The ability of the BPS to meet the electricity needs of end-use customers at all times.
 - Adequacy The ability of the bulk power system to supply the aggregate electrical demand and energy requirements of the customers at all times, taking into account scheduled and reasonably expected unscheduled outages of system elements.
 - Operating Reliability The ability of the bulk power system to withstand sudden disturbances such as electric short circuits or unanticipated loss of system elements from creditable contingencies.

Is there enough supply of electricity?

Is there enough supply of operational reliability and control?

Can the system operate under a variety of conditions?



NERC Regions





NERC Assessment Areas





- Retirement/displacement of conventional generation
 - Variable energy resources
 - Rapid penetration of electronically-coupled resources
- Essential Reliability Services
 - Reduced inertia
 - Frequency Reponses
 - Voltage Support
 - Ramping and flexibility needs
- Rapid penetration of new loads
- System controls and protection coordination
- Modeling and simulation constraints
- Increasing interface with distribution-centric resources





Resource Adequacy





• Reference Margin Level (Target): Determined by loss-of-load expectation (LOLE) studies (varies by Assessment Area)



Planning Reserve _____ [Available Capacity – Net Internal Demand] Margin (%) Net Internal Demand



Reliability Finding #1: Reserve Margins in all Assessment Areas appear sufficient but continue to trend downward

- Energy efficiency and conservation programs increase
- Continued growth in distributed photovoltaic solar and other behind-the-meter resources



NERC-Wide Demand; 10-Year Growth Rates for Summer and Winter



Reliability Finding #2: A changing resource mix requires additional measures and approaches for assessing future reliability

- 21 GW of coal-fired units were retired between 2012 and 2014
- An additional 27 GW are scheduled to retire by 2025 (excludes impacts of EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan)



Cumulative Actual and Forecast Confirmed Retirements between 2012 and 2025



Reliability Finding #1: Reserve Margins in all Assessment Areas appear sufficient but continue to trend downward

- All Assessment Areas meet Reference Reserve Margins in the short-term (1-5 years)
- Several Assessment Areas show declining trends in the amount of planning reserve margins despite low load growth







Essential Reliability Services





ERS Fundamentals



- "Building blocks" of physical capabilities
- Accentuated by resource changes
- Not all MWs are equal
- Some partly covered through ancillary services
- Accommodate local/regional needs





- Goal is to inform, educate, and build awareness on the implications of the changing resource mix and how industry can evolve the system in a reliable manner
- Consider technical aspects of ERS when making decisions related to interconnecting new resources or market and tariff oversight
- Policy decisions have direct influence on changes in the resource mix, and thus can also affect the reliability of the bulk power system



ERSTF work allowed NERC to:

- Inform, educate, and build awareness on the implications of the changing resource mix
- Consider technical aspects of ERS when making decisions related to interconnecting new resources or market and tariff oversight
- Have direct influence on policy decisions with regards to changes in the resource mix
 - <u>FERC NOPR</u> Reactive Power Requirements for Non-Synchronous Generation
 - <u>FERC NOI</u> Essential Reliability Services and the Evolving Bulk Power System – Primary Frequency Response



In 2015 NERC Board Approved

Framework Report

Abstract Document



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Essential for Reliability of the Interconnection

Line of defense to prevent UFLS and prevent equipment damage

Compliance with NERC Standards BAL-003-1, BAL-001

Support future regulations related to generator performance

Essential for System Restoration

Coordinated droop response is critical for the interconnected system

To accurately predict system events (models)

Tell-tale characteristics can identify system trends for proactive response



- Potential for lower inertia with retirement of coal and oil-fired synchronous generators
- Higher penetration of renewables with potentially lower frequency response
- No assurance of adequate inertia or frequency response capability for some resource dispatch scenarios
- Trade-offs between inertia and Primary Frequency Response

Conservative approach

All resources should have frequency responsive capability to assure that frequency response is available for any resource dispatch.



Frequency Excursion – Interconnection-wide Phenomena





Frequency Response Control Continuum





Anatomy of a Frequency Excursion with Recovery





Essential Reliability Measures

- Synchronous Inertial Response – Interconnection level
- Initial Frequency deviation following largest contingency
- Synchronous Inertial Response – Balancing Authority level
- Ramping capability
- Voltage performance
- Overall system reactive performance





Monitor Trends in Frequency

Synchronous inertia is declining......



ERCOT Historic Kinetic Energy Boxplots (2010–2017)



Decline in inertia \rightarrow Increase in Frequency Deviation



Calculated ERCOT System Frequency after 2750 MW Generation Trip (2010-2017)



...In Ontario



Historic boxplots and future projections of SIR at peak nonsynchronous generation penetration hour. Blue dots correspond to peak nonsynchronous generation penetration hour in each year.



...In Southern



Historic boxplots and future projections of SIR at peak nonsynchronous generation penetration hour. Blue dots correspond to peak nonsynchronous generation penetration hour in each year.



Real-time Synchronous Inertial Response (SIR) Monitor - MISO





Simulate Frequency Response With Different Resources

WECC – Loss of Two Palo Verde units (2,750 MW)



Peak Case

Robust resources and transmission online

Light-Load Case Baseload and variable resources online, no midrange units



Need to Evaluate Frequency Response





Frequency Response Example for Large Disturbance in Eastern Interconnection (with Governor Withdrawal)

Western Interconnection Example

A-to-B and A-to-C Frequency Response



This indicates improved interconnection governor response to frequency deviations (mid 2011 – mid 2014)

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C-to-B Ratio



- Increasing trend, larger differences between C (Nadir) and B (Settling) points
- Improving B-Value
- Note the number of ratio <1, (nadir higher than settling point)



BAL Standard

- Does not guarantee performance for each event, measured by median performance
- Provides consistent methods for measuring Frequency Response and determining the Frequency Bias Settings

Asynchronous Resources

- Modifying NERC Guidelines to include desired operating characteristics for all resources
- Coordinating with IEEE on Standard 1547 for DER
- Not currently required to have the capability to provide FR
- Planning
 - Frequency Response studies in the planning horizon




System Flexibility and Ramping





The Need For Flexibility: A Future, Not a Scenario



Net Load = Load - Wind - Solar

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Need More Flexibility for Ramping



CAISO Yearly One-Hour Ramp Distribution

Red shaded area represents 2 σ from the mean



Ramping Flexibility Needed in California ISO (3-Hour Ramps)





Hourly monitoring of CAISO's CPS1 Survey Found a Trend

CPS1 score dropped below 100% at steep evening upward net load ramps







Accommodating High Levels of Renewables





Reliably integrating these resources into the bulk power system will require significant changes to traditional methods used for system

planning and operation

Forecasting

- Variable Fuels Must Be Used When Available
- Forecast is only information; operator must make informed decisions
- "It's the ramps, not the ripples"
- Methods for calculating expected on-peak capacity

Flexibility

- More Ancillary Services
- Larger Balancing Authorities
- Flexible Resources
 - Storage
 - PHEV
 - Leverage fuel diversity of other variable resources

Transmission

- Interconnect variable energy resources in remote areas
- Construct/site/permit transmission to deliver power across long distances



- No fundamental, technical barrier
- Evolution of transmission planning, system operating policy, market development and cross-border cooperation
- Solutions will be needed in the following areas:
 - Large balancing areas
 - Faster markets
 - Remove barriers to transmission
 - Need for forecasting
 - Grid codes
 - Dynamic models
 - Probabilistic planning methods
 - Incorporating need for flexibility in G&T planning
 - DSM and EV as sources of flexibility



- Every resource has operating constraints that reflect characteristics of fuel and technology
 - Conventional limitations
 - Start-up times & costs
 - Minimum run times
 - Operating ranges
 - Ramp rate limitations
 - Forced outages & contingencies



- Fuel supply characteristics matter... for gas, nuclear, wind, solar, etc.
- The challenge of Variable Energy Resources (VER) is a bit different, but not unique



- Large system with diverse and dispersed generation fleet
- Majority of generators are dispatched every five minutes
- VER plants are efficiently dispatched (using a forecast that reflects their implicit resource characteristics)
- Generators (including VER) with "ride-through" capabilities
- Most generators (including VER) provide reactive support
- Even with a slow-ramping fleet (e.g., mostly coal plants), ramping is not a concern
 - Ramping capability actually increases during periods of high VER output because other units are backed down
 - More challenging when integrating distributed resources



- Inefficient VER dispatch
 - Using hour- or day-ahead forecasts
 - Lack of visibility and control
- Limited export and interchange capabilities
- Minority of generators dispatched or offering flexibility
 - Generation is self-scheduled or viewed as "can't touch"
 - Incentives discourage using/building flexibility
 - "Inflexible floor" pushes other generation out of dispatch and creates a min-gen situation when VER output is high

System-wide constraints may make it difficult to commit flexibility and maintain a robust dispatch stack, creating "ramp scarcity"



Need for Transmission

High levels of variable generation will require significant transmission additions and reinforcements.

Challenge

Interconnect variable energy resources in remote areas

Smooth the variable generation output across a broad geographical region

Deliver ramping capability and ancillary services.

Construct/site/permit transmission to deliver power across long distances.





Storage and Flexibility Functions



Rated Power (MW)





Distributed Generation





2015

Residential Distributed PV

Projected

2017

2016

2015LTRA #3: Reliability Trends and Emerging Issues

0 GW

2010

Reliability Finding #3: Operators and planners face uncertainty with increased levels of distributed energy resources and new technologies

 Distributed energy resources (DERs) are contributing to changing characteristics and control strategies in grid operations.

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 NERC is establishing a Task Force focused on examination of reliability impacts of large amounts of DER on the BPS.



2011

Actual

Non-Residential Distributed PV

2012

2013

2014



Changing Loads

- Load composition is changing
 - Electric vehicle charging
 - LED lighting
 - Variable speed drive motors
- This is changing fundamental assumptions for transmission system modeling





- Large-scale deployment of DER without adequate voltage and frequency tolerance will negatively affect bulk system reliability and performance
- Disconnections during a frequency event propels frequency decay
- Disturbances on the transmission grid can cause a wide-spread, automatic, and simultaneous shutdown of distributed resources
- IEEE 1547 inverter manufacturing standard for DERs



North America Can Learn From the Europeans





The Control Shift





The Control Shift





The Control Shift





1

All new resources should have the capability to support voltage and frequency.

Monitoring of the ERS measures, investigation of trends, and use of recommended industry practices will serve as an early warning indicator to reliability concerns if issues are not addressed with suitable planning and engineering practices.

2

3

Further examination by NERC of the forecasting, visibility, and participation of DERs as an active part of the electric grid is needed.





Natural Gas Generation Dependency





An increased dependence on natural gas for generating electricity can amplify the bulk power system's exposure to interruptions in fuel supply, transportation, and delivery.

- Gas pipeline reliability impacts electric generation
- Electric system reliability impacts gas pipeline operations
- Pipeline planning and expansion are different from the electric equivalent
- Communications between pipeline operators and electric Reliability Coordinators are generally weak—though improving!



NERC's Annual Long-Term Projection





Gas-Fired Capacity as a Percent of Total Capacity (Eastern)			
MISO	New York (NYISO)	New England (ISO-NE)	PJM
39%	55%	54%	43%





Pipeline Contingency Scenario





Electric Industry Risks and Recommendations



- Integrating fuel disruption risks into planning reserve margins
- Probabilistic assessments and leveraging NERC GADS

Dual-Fuel and Storage

- Options can help bridge temporary fuel disruptions
- Considerations: cost, availability, testing, etc.

Operator Observability

- Promoted by FERC Order 787
- Real-time information sharing to promote risk-informed decisions

Non-Firm Fuel and Gas Scheduling

- Varying options for firm and non-firm delivery
- Extreme weather considerations

Market Options

Incentives for fuel and performance certainty



- Aliso Canyon is a critical element of the Los Angeles (LA) Basin natural gas delivery system
 - Supports winter peak heating demand
 - Maintains pressure in gas distribution system (More challenging with rapid power plant ramping)
- Aliso Canyon currently has about 15 Bcf of working gas out of a total capacity of 86 Bcf
- Injections will not resume until safety testing or isolation of remaining 114 wells is completed



Aliso Canyon: LA Basin Power Supply





- Fuel availability for local generation
 - Gas system deliverability without Aliso Canyon
 - Gas system outages (SoCal or on interstate pipelines)
 - Exogenous factors affecting supply (e.g., cold weather)
 - Curtailment priorities
- Generation resource adequacy
 - 95% of in-basin generation vulnerable to gas curtailment
 - Adequate generation resources exist to supply imports into the LA Basin, but this does not take into account local deliverability issues



- Electric import capacity (transmission)
 - 20.4 GW gross import capacity on five major transmission paths to LA Basin
 - Capacity is typically limited to 17-18 GW (stability limitation)
- Operational realities
 - Gas system pressure during electric generation ramping without storage support
 - Voltage support/stability if in-basin power plants curtailed below acceptable minimum load
 - Local gas generation is relied on to manage pre- and post-contingency flows



- Single-fuel dependency increases risk of BPS-impairing commonmode failures
- Risks to natural gas generation during summer season
- Expand gas-electric planning and coordination
 - A planning-based Reliability Standard should be considered
- Operational coordination between gas and electric industries decrease likelihood of wide-spread outage





Clean Power Plan Assessments





- The CPP sets CO₂ emissions performance rates for affected power plants
- EPA identified 3 "Building Blocks"
 - Unit efficiencies
 - Transition to lower-carbon fuels
 - Transition to renewable/no-carbon generation
- EPA developes state goal –measured in mass and rate –based on each state's unique mix of power plants in 2012





August 3, 2015 – Final Clean Power Plan

September 6, 2016 – States make initial submittal with extension request or submit Final Plan

September 6, 2018 – States with extensions submit Final Plan

January 1, 2022 – Compliance period begins with three interim periods

January 1, 2030 – CO₂ Emissions Goals met

Source: EPA


Example of Envisioned Glide Slope

Example: Arizona



Source: Salt River Project



Example of Envisioned Glide Slope

Example: Kentucky





- Address roles and responsibilities of planning agencies and reliability authorities
 - NERC Planning Coordinators and Transmission Planners
- Maintain adequate Essential Reliability Services
 - Needed for the reliability operation of the Bulk-Power System
- Address future characteristics of resources
 - Cycling, availability, distribution, natural gas supply and transportation
- Identify changes to Reserve Margins needed for supply adequacy



- Emphasize implications of the reliability assurance provisions
- Lessons learned from other systems that have experienced significant resource shifts (e.g., Ontario)
- Address implications of increased distributed resources and control challenges
- Discuss potential options for solutions, including technologies that can support reliability



- Each state is required to demonstrate that it has considered reliability issues in developing its plan, including consultation with an appropriate reliability or planning agency
- EPA provides for a mechanism for a state to seek a revision to its plan in case unanticipated and significant reliability challenges arise
- Reliability safety value to address situations where, due to an unanticipated event or other extraordinary circumstances, there is a conflict between the requirements imposed on an affected power plant and maintaining reliability

Source: EPA



- Coal generators were flexible and locationally-strategic units that provided several services that are essential to the reliable operation of a power system, including:
 - capability to ramp output up and down to follow changing electric demand and to keep power transfers within reliable limits
 - voltage support to maintain network stability
 - frequency response to maintain balance in supply and demand
 - operating reserve to quickly replace a sudden generator loss
 - black-start capability to restore the system after a blackout2003
- Ontario declared coal-fired generation to retire by 2007
- The last coal plant retired in 2014



- A realistic and flexible plan, reviewed and updated frequently
- Early attention by both industry and regulators to essential reliability services and transmission capability
- Demonstrated performance of new supply
- Long-term focus on demand reduction and management
- Flexibility in gas delivery arrangements and incentives for gas infrastructure

Ontario's experience also demonstrates that with focused objectives, flexible planning, and political persistence, transforming a power system to reduce its carbon emissions is achievable while maintaining reliability.





- What will the Federal Plan look like?
- Mass versus Rate
- Parallels to previous regulations?
- Uncertainty with neighboring state plans and available transfers
- Energy efficiency expectations
- Timing and location of retirements
- Robustness of trading
- Legal impediments
- Market sensitive information sharing



Timing Considerations for Energy Infrastructure Development

Transmission

Generation

Natural gas pipeline infrastructure







Preliminary Results from Phase II





CPP Phase II Scenarios

Reference Case	No CPP
Constrained Interstate Trading	 Intrastate trading develops, interstate constrained
Full Trading	 Full intrastate and interstate trading
High Renewables	 High penetration of renewables
Nuclear retirements	 Accelerated retirement of nuclear units



Emissions Reductions by State

Required Percentage Reduction: 2012 Baseline v. 2030 Goal





Capacity Mix IPM



US. Capacity Mix (MW)

	2016	2018	2020	2022	2025	2030
Reference Case	1,053,453	1,045,032	1,048,733	1,065,837	1,085,788	1,126,684
CPP Case	1,055,516	1,048,389	1,027,661	1,037,504	1,055,964	1,100,434
National CPP Case	1,053,468	1,045,359	1,023,556	1,035,641	1,051,331	1,092,918
Low Cost Renewable CPP Case	1,055,207	1,048,055	1,034,126	1,052,093	1,076,704	1,120,590
High Nuclear Retirement CPP Case	1,054,216	1,050,231	1,031,275	1,046,222	1,056,304	1,104,614

Preliminary – Do not cite



Coal Retirements Increase under the Clean Power Plan



Preliminary – Do not cite

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Preliminary – Do not cite



Wind and Solar Capacity Increase as a Result of the CPP



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Major Driver: Natural Gas Prices Increase over Time



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RELIABILITY CORPORATION



- Profound changes occurring on the BPS—resources and policies
- Lots of uncertainty in the future
 - nuclear, carbon, natural gas, climate trends, transmission
- New system behaviors and characteristics require new measurements for reliability
- Emerging reliability issues bring new technical (and political) challenges
- Must carefully balance costs and benefits
- Changes occurring irrespective of environmental regulations
- NERC is well positioned to study, evaluate, and assess the reliability of the Bulk Power System





Questions and Answers





• 2015 Long-Term Reliability Assessment

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2015LTRA%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf

- Essential Reliability Services Task Force Measures Framework Report http://www.nerc.com/comm/Other/essntlrlbltysrvcstskfrcDL/ERSTF%20Framework%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf
- Essential Reliability Services Abstract (2-pager) <u>http://www.nerc.com/comm/Other/essntlrlbltysrvcstskfrcDL/ERS%20Abstract%20Report%20Final.pdf</u>
- The Basics of Essential Reliability Services (Multimedia Presentation) <u>https://vimeopro.com/nerclearning/erstf-1</u>
- Essential Reliability Services Task Force Website http://www.nerc.com/comm/Other/Pages/Essential-Reliability-Services-Task-Force-(ERSTF).aspx



Additional Information

NERC Reports on Accommodating High Levels of Variable Generation:

- DRAFT Joint NERC-CAISO Special Reliability Assessment: Maintaining Bulk Power System Reliability While Integrating Variable Energy Resources to Meet Renewable Portfolio Standards
- Performance of Distributed Energy Resources During and After System Disturbance
- Interconnection Requirements for Variable Generation, NERC, September 2012
- Potential Bulk System Reliability Impacts of Distributed Resources
- Methods to Model and Calculate Capacity Contributions of Variable Generation for Resource Adequacy Planning
- Ancillary Service and Balancing Authority Area Solutions to Integrate Variable Generation
- Operating Practices, Procedures, and Tools
- Potential Reliability Impacts of Emerging Flexible Resources
- Variable Generation Power Forecasting for Operations
- Standard Models for Variable Generation
- Flexibility Requirements and Potential Metrics for Variable Generation

NERC Reports on Accommodating and Increased Dependency on Natural Gas

- Primer (Phase I)
- Vulnerability Assessment (Phase II)

NERC Reliability Assessments (Long-Term and Seasonal)

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Pages/default.aspx