Energy Markets and Water Power: Square Peg in a Round Hole?

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U.S. Case Study: Flexible-Hydro is Currently Underutilized and Undervalued



Optimized operating strategies, accounting for existing market rules and DA/RT uncertainties, can increase storage revenues 2–5 times.

Energy Markets "Bottoms Out" with Clean, Low-Marginal-Cost Generation

Ontario experience: very low or negative prices with a 90% clean and low-marginal-cost fleet.



10 TWh Curtailments of Non-Emitting Ontario Resources in 2017!

High curtailments of hydro and other non-emitting Ontario resources point to insufficient hydro-system and market-operational flexibility



Changing Supply Mix = Need for More Flexibility

The resulting cleaner, more diverse supply mix requires significantly more flexibility, an attribute hydro resources are especially able to supply





Electricity Demand and Supply Mix with High Renewable Generation

(High-Solar Example)



Source: The Brattle Group.

Regional Efforts to Incentivize Flexibility



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Revenue Sources will Shift from Energy to Other "Products"

Markets designed for a clean, low-marginal-cost resource mix will need to focus more on flexibility and clean-energy products

Market	Value	Market Implications
Average Energy		 Lower energy prices during low-load and on average in most hours will most strongly affect baseload and dominant variable resources
Scarcity Pricing		 But higher peak prices, driven by volatility, scarcity pricing, and demand response/storage; rewards fast-response resources
Flexibility & Reserves		Need for greater quantities and new types of flexibility productsHigher ramping needs reward flexibility
Capacity		 Value may go up or down Down if additional clean energy contributes to excess supply for a period, or if new capacity sellers are attracted by other value streams Up if new fossil plants are needed for capacity, but only a small portion of their capital costs can be recovered from other markets
Clean Attributes		 Some form of CO₂ pricing and/or clean energy payments introduced to meet policy and/or customer demand Value must be large enough to attract new clean resources
Adjacent Customer & Distribution Markets		 Technology and consumer-driver demand for adjacent products and services (smart home, electric vehicles) Participation may overlap with wholesale, clean, and retail/distribution markets
Geographic Diversification		 Increasing value of larger markets and trade/diversification across market seams through inter-regional grids

How Will Clean Energy Products be Integrated into Regional Markets?

For wholesale markets to stay relevant, clean energy product markets are the "missing link" to align with customers and policy makers' preferences.



Product Markets Mobilize Competition from a Wider Range of Resources

Hydro resources are well positioned to compete in the productsbased energy markets of the future

	Resources/Technologies (Existing and New)													
		RoR	Hydro w/						Battery				Competing	
<u>Products</u>	Nuclear	Hydro	Storage	Coal	СС	СТ	Wind	Solar	Storage	DR	EE	Imports	Technologies	
DA Energy	✓	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	0	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	0	0	 Image: A start of the start of	10	
RT Energy (5 min)	0	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	0	0	0	9	
Regulation	X	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	0	0	0	\checkmark	0	X	0	7.5	
Spinning Reserves	X	0	\checkmark	✓	✓	\checkmark	X	X	\checkmark	0	X	0	6.5	
Non-Spinning Reserves	X	X	\checkmark	х	\checkmark	\checkmark	X	X	\checkmark	0	X	0	5	
Load following / Flexibility	0	0	\checkmark	0	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	0	\checkmark	0	X	0	7.5	
Capacity / Res. Adequacy	✓	0	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	0	0	\checkmark	✓	✓	10	
Clean Energy	✓	✓	✓	х	0	0	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	0	✓	\checkmark	9	
Reactive / Voltage Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	0	0	\checkmark	X	X	0	8.5	
Black Start	X	✓	✓	0	\checkmark	\checkmark	X	X	0	X	X	0	6	
LegendTechnical Capability to Provide Service✓Well Suited (1.0)ONeutral (0.5)XNot / Poorly Suited (0)												b	rattle.com 8	

Takeaways

Existing hydro resources are well positioned to compete in a markets-based wholesale power industry

- Wholesale power market regulations and designs will need to be evolve with evolving customer preferences, technological changes, and associated system needs
- Hydro resources will need to be better optimized into (DA+RT) energy, ancillary services, flexibility, and capacity markets
- Upgrades to existing resources may be warranted to increase operating flexibility and capture additional market revenues

Parting Thought: New hydro investments will be challenged

- Substantial lead-times, permitting challenges, scale, high costs, and capital-intensive nature are a significant handicap of new hydro resources
- Rapid technological change (e.g., low-cost wind, solar, and batteries) combined with general uncertainty about future industry direction will favor shorter-lead-time, less capital-intensive technologies
- Who really should or would want to take the substantial investment risk?

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Mr. Johannes (Hannes) Pfeifenberger is an economist with a background in power engineering and over 25 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 wholesale power markets and transmission systems. His recent experience includes the analysis of hydro and battery storage economics, transmission benefits, reviews of wholesale power market designs, testimony in contract disputes, cost allocation, and rate design. He has performed market assessments, market design reviews, asset valuations, and costbenefit 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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- Demand Forecasting Methodology
- Demand Response and Energy Efficiency
- Electricity Market Modeling
- Energy Asset Valuation
- Energy Contract Litigation
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