Synchro-Phasors and Renewable Generation Integration in Pacific Northwest

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Transmission System and Federal Dams





Wind Generation Projections



2,780 MW of wind generating capacity as of January 15, 2010



Drivers for Wind Generation

- Public policy
 - Increasing state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)
 - Increasing restrictions on CO2 emissions from power plants at the state and federal level
 - Limitations on new coal, nuclear, and hydro facilities
 - Financial incentives for qualifying renewables
- Economic
 - Large resource potential compared with other renewables in the NW
 - Commercially mature technology
 - Reduced exposure to volatile fossil fuel costs



Wind Generation Issues

- Transmission Access
 - most transmission paths are fully subscribed
 - 2008 network open season: 6,410 MW of firm transmission requests, 75% from wind
- Regulation and Load Following
 - High correlation among wind power plants due to geographic concentration
 - No correlation between load and generation
- Wind Power Plant Modeling in Power System Studies
- Wind Generation Dynamic Performance
 - Disturbance ride-through
 - Voltage control (primary and secondary)
 - Frequency control
 - Oscillation Damping



Value of Synchro-Phasors ...

- Wind power plant modeling:
 - Planning and operational decisions are based on the system studies, need good models to predict system behavior
 - WECC and IEEE are developing wind generation models
 - BPA is now requiring PMUs at POIs of wind power plants for performance monitoring and model verification
 - BPA developed tools for model verification using measurements taken at power plant POI
 - Lesson's learned sessions are performed



Lessons Learned example

- 150-MW wind power plant with type 2 machines
- Several random "instability" events observed, power output was curtailed
- PPSM data was used to study the events and develop appropriate solutions



Slide

... Value of Synchro-Phasors

- Wind generation state awareness:
 - Voltage control performance monitoring
 - Voltage stability indicators
- Voltage stability controls
 - Coordinated voltage control and reactive power management for wind mega-sites (1,250 MW of wind generation)
 - Wind voltage control monitoring and control tuning



Next Steps

- PMU is required by BPA Generation Interconnection Standards (www.bpa.gov)
- Existing projects will be retrofitted with PMUs
 - PPSMs are installed in meantime
- Model Validation tools are developed (presentation by Steve Yang at June 2009 NASPI meeting)
- Test procedures are being researched
 - Meaningful grid disturbances do not occur frequently
- Voltage control strategies are being developed





Frequency Response and Wind

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Frequency Response and Wind

- Frequency Responsive Reserves:
 - viewed as replacement for today's spinning reserves
 - WECC has been working on a standard since 1999
- Frequency Responsive Reserves:
 - How much FRR is needed interconnection-wide
 - Reserve amount, deployment frequency, response time, sustainability
 - Encompass primary and secondary response time frames
 - Distribution of Frequency Response and requirement allocation
 - Reliability issue unbalanced governor response can result in excessive power pick-up on stability-limited transmission paths
 - Frequency Response measurement
 - Need synchronized, high resolution measurements sounds like synchro-phasors ?

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• How to factor response to schedule changes ?

Frequency Response and Wind

- BPA performed conceptual study of wind generation impact on frequency response in the Western Interconnection
 - WECC light off-peak load ~75GW, design event is 2,800 MW loss (3.73%)
 - 15GW of wind generation assumed in the study
 - Looking at Frequency Response requirements interconnection-wide
- Study observations:
 - Loss of inertia effects appear to have minimal impact on system frequency , "inertia emulator" benefits seem to be negligible (need to revisit with higher wind)
 - Primary frequency response is the main issue certain amount of primary reserve is required
- We have not seen any technical evidence that wind power plants can provide meaningful primary frequency response
 - Please let us know if you have any information / performance tests

