Transition Approach for Eliminating Minimum Offer Price Rule

Markets Committee Meeting August 12, 2021

Brian Forshaw
Energy Market Advisors LLC



Disclaimer

 This proposal remains a high-level conceptual approach to addressing transition of the electric resource mix and elimination of the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR). The concepts presented in this presentation reflect a possible path forward consistent with the FCA #17 timeline for MOPR elimination established by ISO-NE. Ultimate support will depend on details to be developed.



Overview

- Background on Public Power Utilities
- MOPR Elimination Proposal
- External Market Monitor Proposal
- Major Market Enhancements in ISO Workplan
- Rationale for a Transition Mechanism
- Potential Transition Mechanisms



Background on Public Power Systems

- Public Power systems are generally smaller utilities that have retained the "obligation to serve" consumers within defined service territories.
- Public Power systems depend on viable and durable wholesale electricity markets to serve customer load at the lowest reasonable cost.



ISO-NE MOPR Elimination Proposal

- The Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) has become an impediment to achieving State clean energy and other policy objectives.
- In response to these concerns, and policy direction coming from FERC, ISO has announced plans to eliminate the MOPR for FCA #17, while at the same time implementing further reforms to preserve competitive market outcomes, including retention of Balancing Resources to needed to meet operating reliability and resource adequacy standards.



External Market Monitor (EMM) Proposal

- ISO-NE has asked the EMM to evaluate the incremental risk for long-term retirement and investment decisions due to the increased volatility and risk associated with future revenues attributable to eliminating the MOPR.
- The EMM is developing an "adder" that could be applied to Net CONE to reflect these incremental risks from eliminating the MOPR.



External Market Monitor (EMM) Proposal (cont.)

- In general, we agree that changes in the "weighted average cost of capital" (WACC) may be necessary to reflect the changing future risk profile, including risks associated with eliminating the MOPR.
- A number of major market enhancements are in the ISO-NE Workplan which will have at least comparable impacts on the risk profile and should be reflected in the EMM analysis.
- At this point these additional enhancements are not defined well enough to be incorporated into an FCA #17 analysis.

Major Market Enhancements in ISO-NE Workplan

- Modifying current audit-based methodology for accrediting capacity resources.
- Enhancements to resource adequacy models for modeling intermittent resources and resource operating parameters.
- Other potential capacity market enhancements to support Balancing Resources.
- Enhancements to operating reserve markets (e.g. ESI).
- Co-optimizing and pricing operating reserves in DA energy market settlement.

Rationale for Transition Mechanism

- It is becoming increasingly obvious that the FCA #17 timeline for eliminating the MOPR makes it difficult to identify solutions that will not distort long-term price signals and or could be implemented in that timeframe.
- In the past, the region has used transition mechanisms to allow development of needed enhancements and the market to adjust to changing circumstances.
- Goal of the transition should be to allow relaxing or eliminating the MOPR while assuring that FCA clearing prices don't collapse below the level of recent capacity auctions.

Rationale for Transition Mechanism (cont.)

 A transition mechanism that provides greater certainty in the near-term (one or two years) to allow further development of details of the major market enhancements can result in a more durable long-term outcome while responding to "political pressures" to pursue wholesale market changes that better support State policy objectives.



Potential Transition Mechanisms

- The most straightforward approach would be the following:
 - Suspend application of the MOPR Tariff provisions starting with FCA #17.
 - Implement a temporary "price floor" to be effective with suspension of the MOPR.
 - If a more durable solution is not in place after 2 years, implement a Net CONE adder as proposed by EMM that reflects permanent MOPR elimination and the effects of major market enhancements.

Potential Transition Mechanisms (cont.)

- Would also be willing to consider the Vistra proposal.
 - Would want to explore potential impact on Balancing Resources.
 - May need a "fall back" option to be implemented at the end of the transition period if a more durable solution is not ready to be implemented.



Questions?

Brian Forshaw

Principal, Energy Market Advisors LLC

Email: bforshaw@energymarketadvisorsllc.com

Web Site: www.energymarketadvisorsllc.com

