

Subject: Response to Competitive Renewable Power Procurement
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Category: Comments - Renewable Power

Moving ahead with this effort is a mistake. The evidence is mounting that the Governors' plan is premature. It will raise the cost of electricity for nothing in return.

MIT conducted a Symposium on Managing Large Scale Integration of Intermittent Renewables, where some 75 experts attended. Large Scale Integration was determined to be between 20% and 30%.

MIT Professor John Deutch warned policymakers and regulators that intermittent sources will cost more for total operations, and they have to decide who is going to pay for it.

"as renewable capacity has increased, the intermittent nature of wind and solar generation ... has led to operational difficulties and unintended consequences for emissions and economic efficiency."

Here are a couple of excerpts from the findings.

"In addition, fuel efficiencies will decrease when thermal generation plants are operated at partial load. Lower fuel efficiencies increase emissions rates and total costs, potentially diminishing the benefits of renewable generation. Continuously altering plant output also increases the need for operation outside of normal, steady-state procedures and the likelihood of operator error."

"...when thermal generation plants are operated at partial load, fuel efficiencies will decrease, emissions will increase, and total system costs will be raised, thus diminishing the benefits of renewable generation."

Unfortunately, it looks like the more intermittent renewable we add to the grid the less effective they are. We need to look for something that works more effectively.

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