

## Differences between Western US Markets for Renewables

Symposium on PNW Power Markets Seattle, WA July 8, 2013

#### U.S. Power Assets & Customers (by NERC region)





MAP-US2101, Rev. 12/31/2012



#### U.S. Power Assets & Customers – Mid-Continent, South (SPP, ERCOT)





#### **Renewable Development - Basics**

- Resource (wind, solar, etc.) is most important economic driver
- Location
  - Ability to get site control and permits
  - Constructability
  - Tax regime/incentives
- Market
  - Transmission busbar vs. delivered; congestion
  - Offtakers long-term vs. short-term
- Technology
  - Wind: Hub height, blade diameter
  - PV Solar: Thin film vs. crystalline, Tracking vs. fixed, AC/DC ratios
- Ownership/Financing
  - Cost of capital (Levered, Unlevered)
  - Tax efficiency

# Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and RPS Goal States



IBERDROLA RENEWABLES



#### **Generation Mix**

	WECC	SPP	ERCOT
Coal	18%	40%	34%
Hydro	29%	4%	
Nat Gas or Cogen	41%	48%	45%
Nuclear	4%	3%	12%
Renewables	8%	5%	9%

Approximate 2012 generation sources



#### **Renewable Market - WECC**

- In general, WECC is a fragmented set of sub-regions with some points of liquidity but no jurisdiction that manages one marketplace.
- CA is largest component of the market; 33% RPS is a major driver of activity across the WECC though:
  - In-state preference created by 3 "buckets" affects procurement behavior
  - Declining costs of in-state PV have been game-changer in pricing
  - Bulk transmission to import renewables has been slow to materialize
  - Coal and Nuclear coming offline presents opportunity
- WA and OR RPS are mostly satisfied in the near-term; much of existing supply feeds CA via intertie but not competitive currently.
- NV, AZ and CO rebounding from recession, load decreases. Each have sizable RPS and renewable supply within their borders.
- Other high-wind/low-load states such as MT, WY and NM present opportunities if transmission is made available.



#### **Renewable Market – SPP/ERCOT**

- SPP and ERCOT are both organized markets with LMPs, etc.
- Extremely high wind resources make wind cost competitive without much of a REC component; drive procurement beyond RPS.
- ERCOT has a coastal wind resource which is peak-coincident.
- ERCOT is de-regulated with retail competition, making municipals and co-ops only long-term buyers.
- Power prices highly correlated with price of natural gas; ERCOT has significant rate caps of \$5,000/MWh (going up to \$9k).
- New EPA rules regulating existing coal plants could have significant impact in both regions; more gas-fired development is expected.
- SPP has been able to expand its transmission significantly by spreading across large geographic footprint; not all members happy.
- Texas approved Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) which built \$2B+ of new rate-based transmission to the panhandle.



### Renewable Development – Regional Matrix

	CA	Pacific NW	Desert SW	SPP	ERCOT
Wind Resource	25-35%	30-35%	25-50%	50%	40-50%
Solar Resource	25-35%	20-30%	30-35%	20-30%	20-30%
Permitting	Difficult	Medium	Medium	Light	Light
Interconnect \$	High	Low	Low	High	Low
Liquidity	Yes	No	No	Price- taker	Yes
RPS demand	Strong in 2015+	Late Decade	Some	Weak	Late Decade
Politics	Supportive	Supportive	NV Yes, AZ no	EcoDev yes, RPS no	Not a priority



#### Conclusions

- California is strongest market in the West but most challenging within which to develop. Will CA accept imports?
- Pacific Northwest currently oversupplied from an RPS standpoint but demand will increase again closer to 2020.
- Texas has gotten out ahead of its RPS so renewables is not a priority but energy shortages and price spikes are very much so.
- Other WECC and SPP states will be impacted by Obama climate initiative with a) older coal plants being shuttered and newer emitting plants being cost prohibitive and b) transmission availability.
- Natural gas is a key driver of how competitive renewables will be on a cost basis across the West. Gas and renewables could be complementary.