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NYISO Readies the Grid for More Wind

NYISO implements centralized wind forecasting system

Rensselaer, NY -- The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) has introduced system and operating changes to better utilize New York State's existing wind resources, and pave the way for continued growth of economical, emission-free, renewable power resources in the Empire State.

The enhancements, which were completed in September, help accommodate the variable nature of wind-powered generation with a centralized forecasting system.

"A primary issue in the industry has been with forecasting the availability and timing of wind-powered generation. As the grid operator, we constantly adjust all generation supplies to meet the changing demand for electricity in real time," explained Steve Whitley, NYISO President and CEO. "If the anticipated level of wind generation changes, then other adjustments must be made on the system to accommodate those changes."

The NYISO contracted with AWS Truewind, of Colonie, N.Y., to provide the NYISO with wind power forecasts for each wind power project, based on meteorological data and historical operating characteristics of the wind power projects. The data is fed directly into the NYISO operational systems that determine the balance of load and generation.

The NYISO is one of the first ISO/RTOs in the country to implement such a system. This forecasting method is considered "best practice" in the industry worldwide. The NYISO is supporting New York State's leadership role in renewable energy by actively getting systems ready for wind development and integration.

As of September 1, there were over 700 megawatts of wind generating capacity in commercial operation in New York State. Wind capacity in New York is projected to grow to more than 1,200 MW by the summer of 2009. Proposed projects adding another 6,500 MW of wind capacity to be developed by 2011 are proceeding through the grid interconnection study process administered by the NYISO.

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The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – www.nyiso.com – is a not-for-profit corporation that began operations in 1999. The NYISO operates New York's bulk electricity grid, administers the state's wholesale electricity markets, and conducts comprehensive reliability and resource planning for the state's bulk electricity system.