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FERC Commissioner Spitzer Highlights Market Solutions at NYISO Symposium on the Future of the Grid

Panels Address Broader Regional Markets, the Carbon Constrained Economy and Interregional Planning

Albany, N.Y. — Developing necessary energy infrastructure will allow the markets to thrive as long as regulation is consistent, according to Commissioner Marc Spitzer of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the keynote speaker at a symposium, *Planning the Sustainable Grid of the Future*, conducted by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) in Albany, N.Y., on April 27, 2010.

In the keynote address, delivered to the gathering of more than 300 government, industry and academic leaders, Commissioner Spitzer said this three-pronged approach of market-based solutions, infrastructure improvements and consistent application of the rule of law is the most effective way to enhance and sustain a reliable electric grid.

Commissioner Spitzer further stressed the importance of placing a price on carbon, giving the energy industry the certainty it needs to plan for the future.

On the topic of the smart grid, Commissioner Spitzer said that attention to energy issues is growing, not only for policy makers, but also for consumers who are now discussing energy issues “around the kitchen table.”

“The smart grid can allow consumers to take control of their lives when it comes to energy use,” Commissioner Spitzer said.

Commissioner Spitzer said that while there continues to be challenges at the national level in adopting new federal energy and climate change policies, it is important to reflect on the progress being made at the state level, including the successes of the NYISO.

“New Yorkers should be proud of their commitment to energy markets, reliability and the rule of law,” Spitzer said.

Commissioner Spitzer has been a member of the FERC since 2006. He has stated FERC’s primary missions are to ensure that America’s ratepayers have safe, economic, and reliable supplies of electricity and natural gas; and transparent, robust and competitive wholesale markets.

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Panel Discussions

The NYISO's April 27 symposium also included three sets of panel discussions.

The first panel, "Grids without Walls – Developing Broader Regional Markets," was moderated by Garry A. Brown, chairman, NYS Public Service Commission. It focused on the value of enhanced regional power markets as well as the benefits and challenges associated with improving regional market efficiency. Panel participants included Gordon van Welie, president and CEO, ISO-New England; Terry Boston, president and CEO, PJM Interconnection; Stephen G. Whitley, president and CEO, NYISO; Kevin Burke, president and CEO, ConEd; and Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, chair, NYS Assembly Energy Committee.

The second panel, titled, "The Carbon Constrained Economy," was moderated by Paul A. DeCotis, vice president of power markets, Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). The panel discussed the technology, challenges, and benefits associated with greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives. Panelists included Arshad Mansoor, vice president of power delivery and utilization, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI); Gavin Donohue, president and CEO, Independent Power Producers of New York (IPPNY); Senator George Maziarz, chair, NYS Senate Energy Committee; Frank Murray, president and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); Marilyn Brown, professor, School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology, and member of the National Academies of Science Board on Energy and Environmental Systems; and Odin Knudsen, managing director of carbon strategy and business development, JP Morgan.

The final panel, "Transmission Planning in the United States: The Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative and the Value of Enhanced Interregional Planning," was moderated by Maureen Harris, commissioner, NYS Public Service Commission. It focused on the need for a collaborative process for developing the framework for broader interregional planning. Panel participants included Tom Congdon, NYS deputy secretary for energy; David Whiteley, executive director, Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC); Patricia Hoffman, principal deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; William Hogan, professor, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and research director, Harvard Energy Policy Group; and Mary Ellen Paravalos, vice president, transmission regulation and commercial services, National Grid.

"As we move ahead to address the issues discussed today, the NYISO will continue its efforts to sustain and enhance the reliability of the electric system; maintain, monitor, and evolve New York's competitive marketplace for electricity; and make the grid smarter, greener and more efficient," said Stephen G. Whitley, NYISO president and CEO.

Information on the symposium can be found on the NYISO website (www.nyiso.com) at the following link: [Planning the Sustainable Grid of the Future](#)

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For more information, please contact:

Ken Klapp (518) 356-6253 / kklapp@nyiso.com

Howard Masto (518) 786-6488 / howard.masto@mastopr.com

The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) is a not-for-profit corporation responsible for operating the state's bulk electricity grid, administering New York's competitive wholesale electricity markets, conducting comprehensive long-term planning for the state's electric power system, and advancing the technological infrastructure of the electric system serving the Empire State.