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# ENERGY STORAGE FEDERAL REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

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## **Introduction to Federal Regulation**

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent government agency, officially organized as part of the Department of Energy.
- FERC is responsible for regulating, among other things, the interstate transmission of electric power and wholesale sales of electricity.
  - States regulate retail electric power
- Five-member Commission
  - Presidential appointees (confirmed by Senate)
  - No more than three from same political party



## **FERC Jurisdiction**

- FERC has authority under the Federal Power Act to ensure that the rates, terms, and conditions of jurisdictional service are just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential.
- FERC has authority over "public utilities"
  - Includes traditional investor-owned utilities, power marketers, regional transmission organizations, independent system operators
- RTO/ISO market activities are conducted pursuant to FERC-jurisdictional tariffs and market rules.

## **Energy Storage - Need for Federal Reform**

- FERC has long recognized the potential for storage to bring economic and reliability benefits to consumers.
  - Various FERC rulemakings and administrative issuances have focused on issues relevant to storage since at least 2011.
- Over the past several years, FERC had been evaluating the need for reforms to better accommodate storage participation in wholesale markets.
- Significant focus on ensuring efficiency and competition in RTO/ISO markets.



## Order No. 841

- On February 28, 2018, FERC issued its long-awaited final rule:
  - Electric Storage Participation in Markets Operated by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators, Order No. 841, 162 FERC ¶ 61,127 (2018)
  - Followed a lengthy stakeholder process that attracted significant industry attention.
- Objective = "Level the Playing Field"
  - Mandates that RTOs/ISOs create market rules that facilitate the participation of electric storage resources.
  - Rules must recognize physical and operational characteristics of electric storage resources.
  - Resource Neutral: Any storage participation model modified to comply with Order No. 841 must be made available for all types of electric storage resources.

### **Storage Market Rules**



### **Resource Eligibility**

#### What is an Electric Storage Resource?

A resource that:

- Is capable of receiving electric energy from the grid and
- Is capable of storing electric energy for later injection back to the grid

The resource can be located on:

- the interstate transmission system
- a distribution system
- Behind the meter

But once the resource injects electric energy back to the grid, that is interstate commerce and subject to FPA and FERC regulation.



# **Pending Regulatory Issues**

- Jurisdictional concerns
  - Impact to the distribution grid; associated costs
  - State opt-out
- Transmission access charges
  - Charging energy
  - Provision of ancillary services
- Ability to provide all services
  - Sufficiency of registration options
- Metering and accounting challenges
- Distributed Energy Resources ("DERs")