

Retail: What's Wrong, How Do We Fix It, and Should We?

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What's Wrong?

- No margins
 - Legislated price
 - Startup/backroom costs
- Not enough forward contracting
- Supply/demand imbalances







News From the Front

The Potent Combination of Politics, Shortages and Central Markets

- Legislative Wheelin' & Dealing
 Mandated Price Break
 - California
 - Illinois
 - Maryland
 - New Jersey
 - Ohio
 - Texas

- 10 percent
- 5 to 20 percent
- 3 to 7.5 percent
- 5 to 10 percent
- 5 percent
- 6 percent

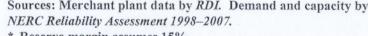


No collar on demand! No new competition!





RESERVE MARGIN BY REGION* 7% 1999 1999 7% 2002 3% 0% 2002 Total 1999 11% MAPP 2002 8% WSCC 1999 17% 1999 8% 1999 2002 18% 31% 2002 1% 17% 2002 MAAG ECAR MAIN 1999 10% 2002 7% SERC SPP Owned / In construction ERCOT 1999 6% Controlled 2002 (2%)7% Final development 1999 FRAC 9% 2002 9% 1999 7% 1999 2002 1% 2% 2002 Sources: Merchant plant data by RDI. Demand and capacity by



* Reserve margin assumes 15%. Forecasted demand assumes 3% annual growth.

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News From the Front

The Potent Combination of Politics, Shortages and Central Markets

- Centralized
 Market Structures
 - CAISO
 - PJM
 - ISO NE
 - NY ISO

Everyone pays highest price!!*



- Success Rate
 - Price Cap
 - Price Cap
 - Price Cap
 - Price Cap









How to Fix It!

Traditional Methods

- Increase shopping credits
- Educate customers re volatility risk/hedging
- Standardize business practices
- Fix wholesale markets/transmission









How to Fix It!

Triage!! Jump Start!!

- Allocation of customers
- Selling the provider of last resort/default role
- Streaming







Streaming

UDC Role

- "Aggregates" customers
- Is "back room"
- Sells at spot
- Facilitates hedging by customers
- Takes on no second-guessing risk







Streaming

- Issues/Challenges
 - Inertia
 - Customer mobility
 - Load profiles/usage
 - Customer education
 - Stranded consumer protectors
 - Lingering transmission issues





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Why Do It?

No other choice

- Regulators not likely to come up with solution that lets UDCs hedge without risk of second guessing
- Supply shortages
- Consumer revolt
- Lack of political leadership



