# Power Markets Structure and Design for Low-Cost De-Carbonization

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## WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKET DESIGN FOR RAPID DECARBONIZATION:

# A DECENTRALIZED MARKETS APPROACH

BY ROB GRAMLICH¹ AND MICHAEL HOGAN² ● JUNE 2019

"What wholesale market design would provide the best framework for integrating reliably and at least cost the new, clean resources that will be needed to de-carbonize the power system?"

This common question includes what model best provides clean sources with fair access, what model best drives timely retirement of the fossil

# CENTRAL SPOT MARKET WITH DECENTRALIZED FORWARD PROCUREMENT EVALUATION CRITERIA

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CONCLUSION

www.gridstrategiesllc.com

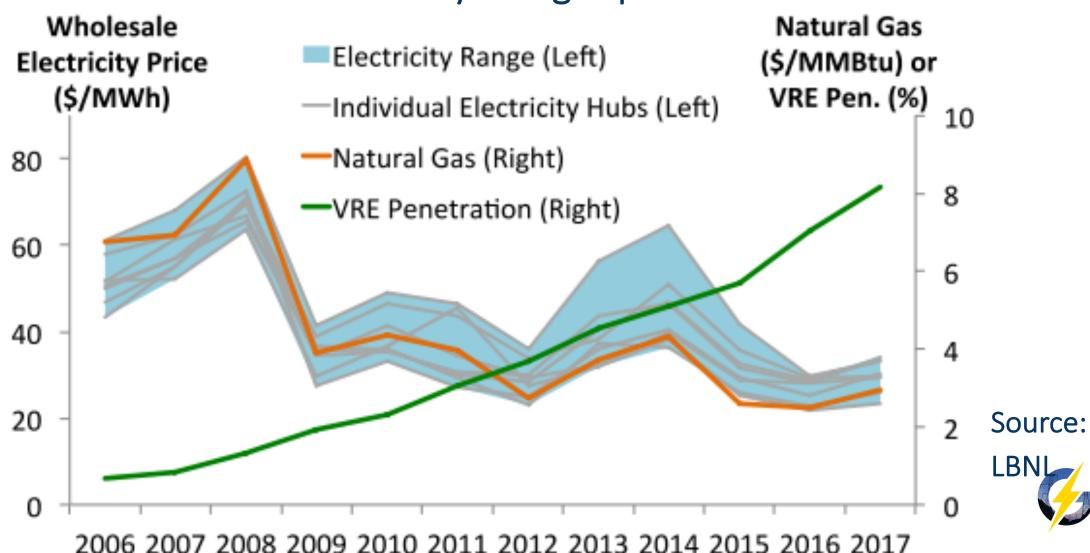
https://windsolaralliance.org



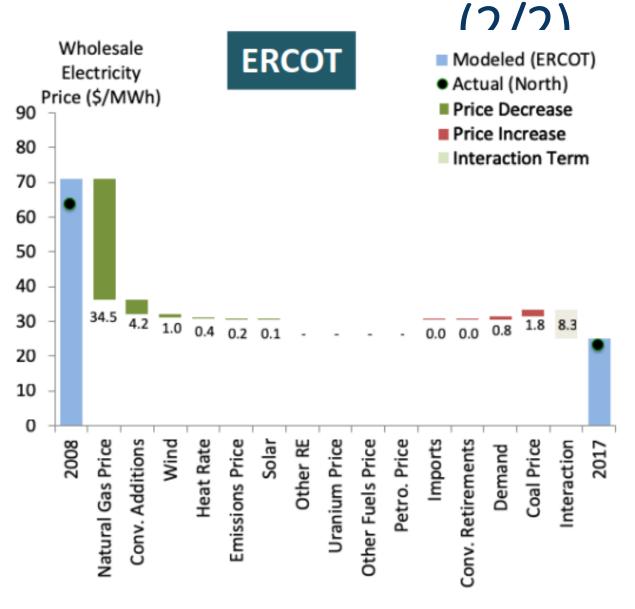
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### Q: What is Causing Low Power Prices Now?

A: Mainly low gas prices



## What is Causing Low Power Prices Now?



#### Source:

#### **LBNL**

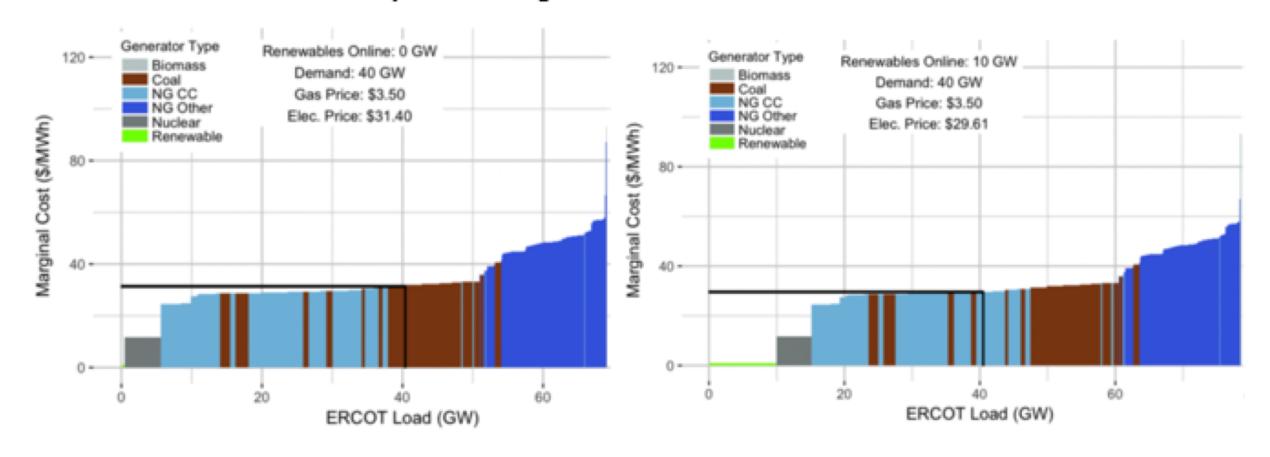
https://emp.lbl.gov/pu blications/impactshigh-variablerenewable

#### See also Jenkins

http://ceepr.mit.edu/files/papers/2018-001.pdf



#### Impact of adding zero-fuel-cost renewables

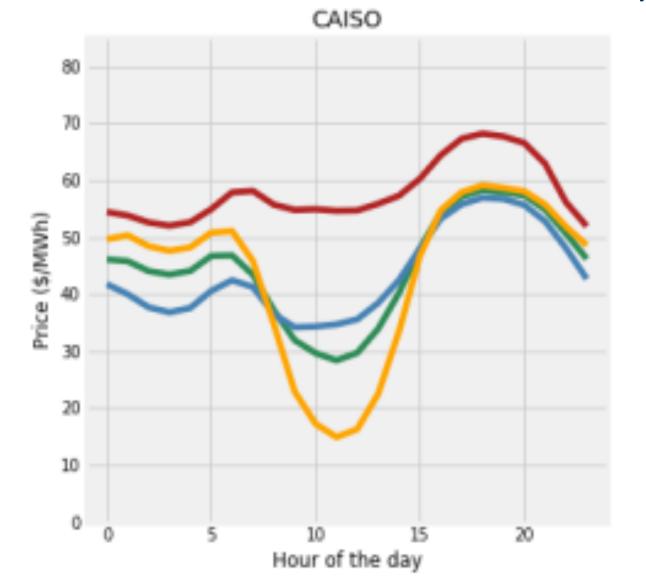


Source: UT Austin <a href="http://theconversation.com/are-solar-and-wind-really-killing-coal-nuclear-and-grid-reliability-76741">http://theconversation.com/are-solar-and-wind-really-killing-coal-nuclear-and-grid-reliability-76741</a>

### What about in the 2030s?

### Power prices w/40% renewables by hour of day

- 2016 portfolio
- Balanced: 20% wind,
   20% solar
- High wind: 30% wind, 10% solar
- High solar: 30% solar, 10% wind

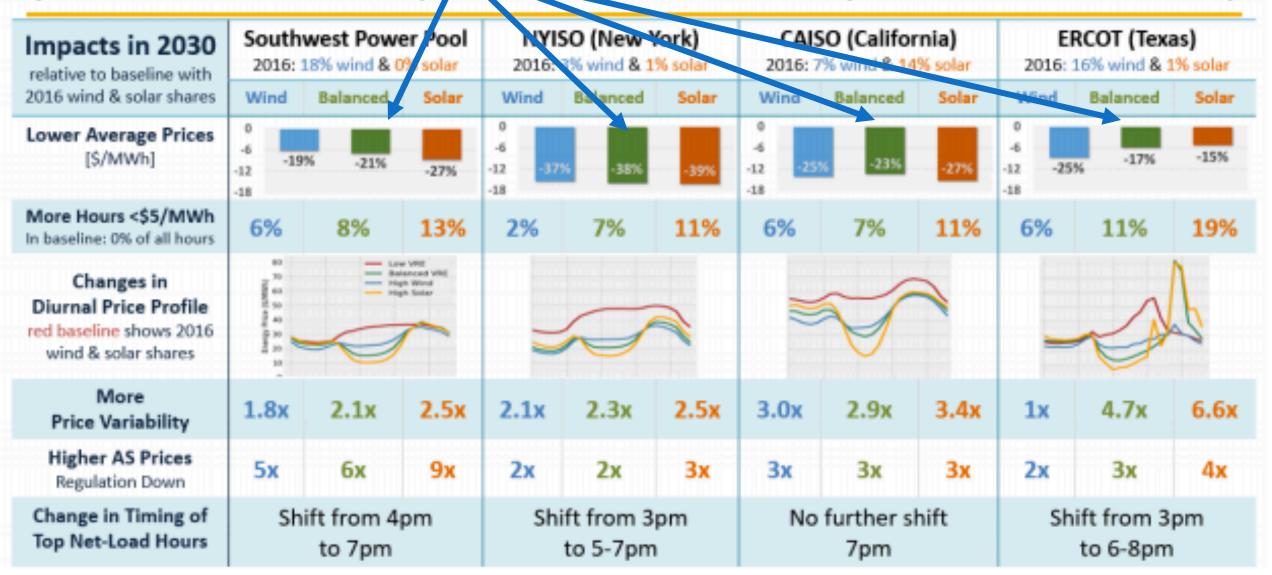


Source: LBNL



### Wholesale Price Effects of 40-50% Wind & Solar

(Wind: 30% wind & 10+% solar | Faxon et 20% wind & 20% solar | Solar: 30% solar & 10+% wind)



Source: LBNL

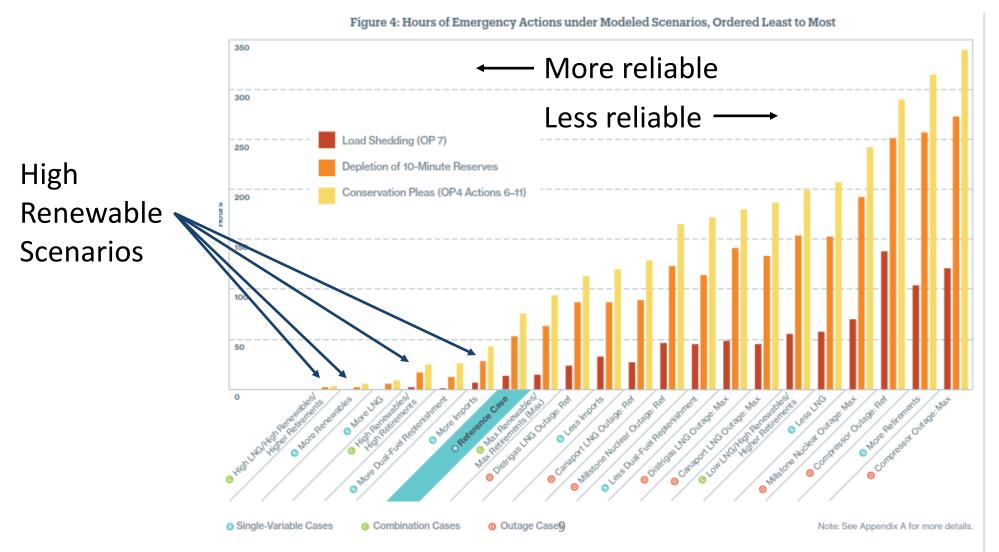
# Economic and reliability policy questions for a de-carbonized grid

- 1. Whether long run efficiency can be achieved, given:
  - high penetration of zero marginal cost resources, frequently setting prices of \$0/MWh
  - Energy and other services are needed at times and places that renewables alone won't provide, and
  - Long run efficiency requires that capital costs be recoverable.
- 2. Whether physical balancing can be achieved with highly variable supply mix
- 3. Whether frequency support will be adequate after the loss of inertia from synchronous unit retirements





# Physical Balancing With High Renewables: Fuel Security in ISO-NE





### Accepted Physical System Requirements

#### FAST

Short dispatch intervals handling fast ramps



#### • FAR

 Large regional central dispatch netting out variability and managing congestion, operating on an expanded grid

#### • FULL

- Short-term energy, flexibility, frequency and voltage support (ERSs)
  - Includes times and places when renewable output is low or rapidly changing

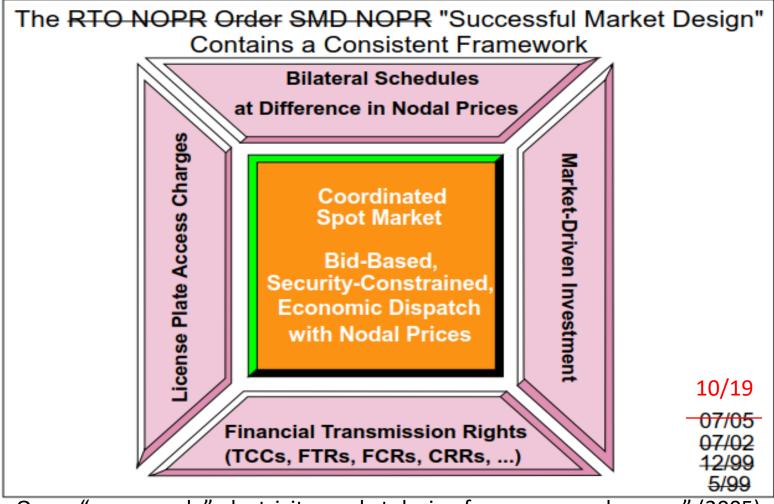


# Best Market Structure for Low Cost De-Carbonization (what isn't happening now highlighted)

- Environmental regulators internalize externalities
- RTO/ISO balances power system and administers short term spot markets
  - Procures energy and reliability services based on engineering definitions
  - Also plans transmission infrastructure for reliability and efficiency given future resource mix, recovers cost in regional tariff
- Retail suppliers competitively procure power (hedge) with PPAs to serve load
- State PUCs oversee hedging for some or all customers
  - ensure retail suppliers are credit-worthy buyers of wholesale power
- <u>Utilities</u> build, own, and operate monopoly T&D (not G) with regulated rates
- <u>Independent Power Producers</u> build and own generation to sell electricity products to retail suppliers/wholesale buyers
- Financial participants provide risk management products



## Best Market Design for Low-Cost De-Carbonization

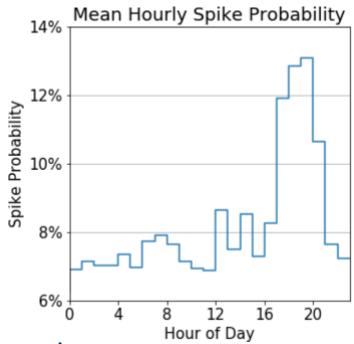




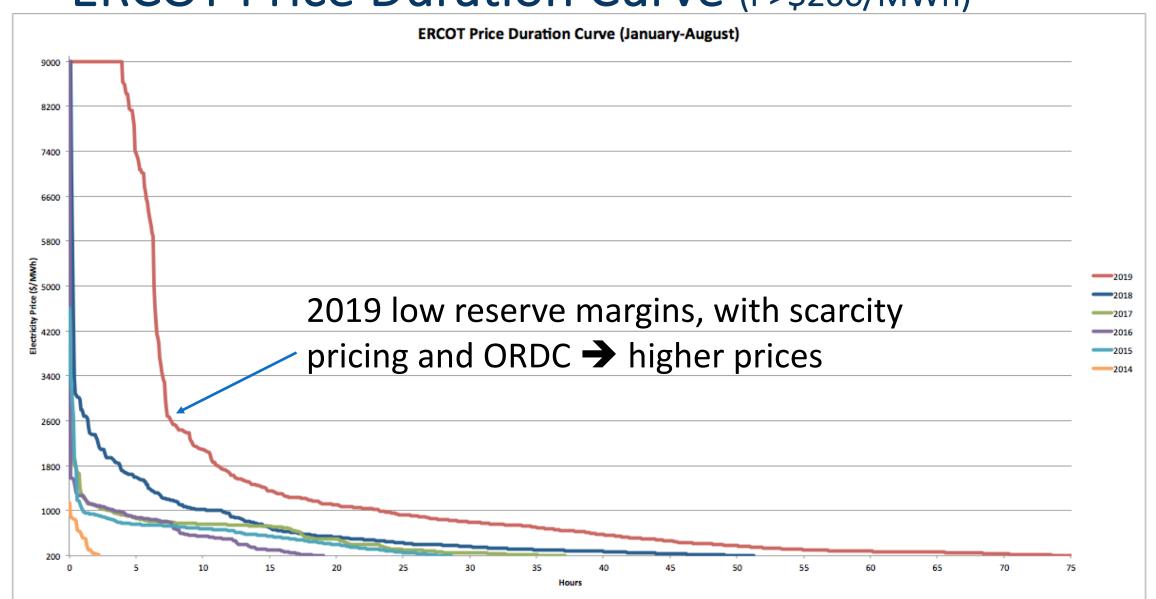
### Best Market Design, cont'd

- Spot market with bilateral contracts
  - Expect most payments and revenue in long term PPAs, priced at average cost of competitive new unit

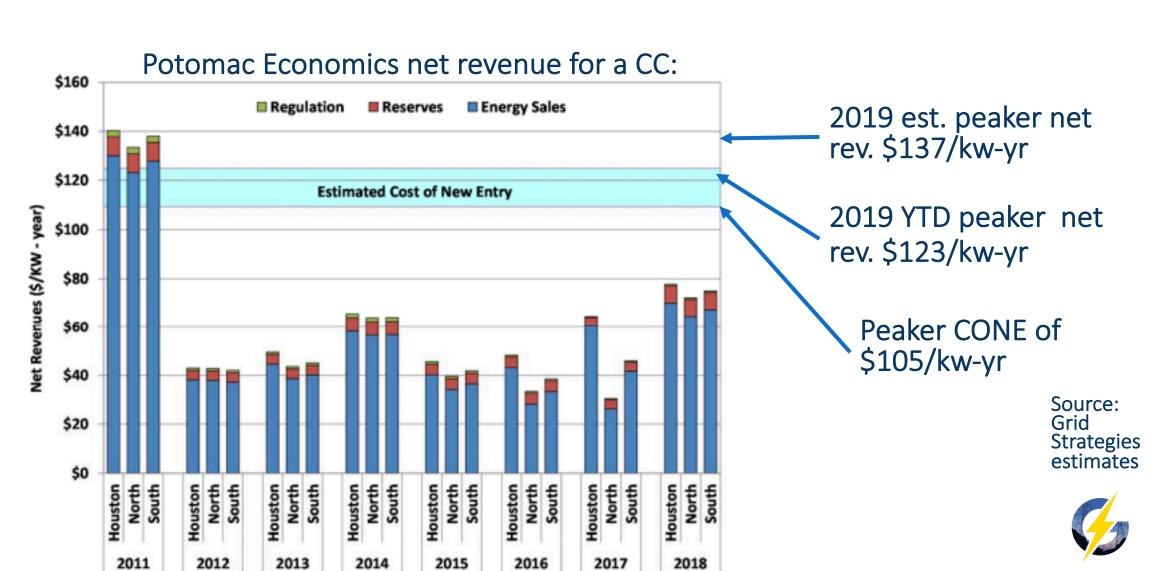
    Ascend Analytics CA model:
  - Spot market for residuals and re-balancing
- Energy at each time and location
  - Hourly locational marginal pricing (LMP)
- Reliability Services--technology-neutral
  - Operating reserves, exact needs vary by region
  - Reactive support—non-market compensation
- Scarcity pricing
  - prevents free-riding, encourages contracting, attracts flexible resources
- No mitigation of state environmental policies (broad MOPR)



# Is It Working?: ERCOT Price Duration Curve (P>\$200/MWh)



### **ERCOT Net Revenue**



## Market Prospects in ERCOT

- "We think prospects remain altogether quite constructive through the medium term with the continued rally in power boding particularly well for '20 ERCOT curves. We stress the further 0.25 std-dev improvement in ORDC parameters should drive yet higher probabilities of achieving ORDC pricing next year as well as suggesting prospects for yet another meaningful outcome on pricing (the percent of hours with ORDC & total value delivered from ORDC curves through the summer despite comparable weather earlier in the summer speaks to the benefits YoY of pricing uplift). We maintain Buy on [redacted] and perceive clear positive trends"
- -Julien Dumoulin-Smith, B of A 9/29/19



# Spot Prices Don't Finance 40 Year Assets Making Generation Financeable

- Revenue risk reduction through:
  - Physical bilateral (PPA)
  - Synthetic PPA
  - Swaps
- Buyers need capability and clear responsibility
  - Municipals, coops, IOU LSE buyers, or competitive retail suppliers
  - Sufficient financial wherewithal as creditworthy counter-parties
    - PUC credit requirements to serve load
    - Avoid free rider problem



## Typical Generator Finance in ERCOT

"The Project entered into a hedge arrangement for the output of the project simultaneously with financial close, providing certainty of revenue for the majority of the Project's output for a 12 year period from the commencement of commercial operations ("COD"), with settlement at the [redacted] trading hub. The Project also entered into a basis hedge for a period of 3 years post-COD, mitigating exposure to transmission congestion risk through to the completion of approved transmission upgrades in [year redacted]."

-Actual investor prospectus for a wind farm in Texas



# Consumer Perspective on ERCOT Revenue Sources

"Bilateral hedging activity and premium forward pricing provides a considerable revenue stream for generators beyond realized real-time pricing and the Operating Reserve Demand Curve (ORDC). This is an efficient market solution for entities wanting to avoid price risk... futures markets capture the risk that things may not go according to plan and very high prices may materialize. The market is exceptionally good at rationalizing these types of risks and pricing them appropriately, as the reaction to lower planning reserve margins demonstrates."

Texas Industrial Energy Consumers (TIEC)
<a href="http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/Documents/48551\_25\_993729.PDF">http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/Documents/48551\_25\_993729.PDF</a> p. 4.





