How an Evolving Utility Industry May Change the Current Market for Energy Efficiency

Potential Impact of Resiliency and Distributed Generation



Organization of Presentation

- Goals of Distributed Generation in the Northeast
- Overview of Effects of Superstorm Sandy
- Concept of Grid Resiliency
- Challenges to Distributed Generation
- Potential Effects of Distributed Generation on Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Goals of Distributed Generation in the Northeast

- Grid capacity mitigation
 - Avoided capital investment for transmission and generation
- Economic benefit for user(s)
- Achievement of Renewable Portfolio Standards
- Improved resiliency



Superstorm Sandy

- Tropical storm force winds extending 500 miles from center
- Peak winds approaching 100 mph
- Sustained winds of 80 mph
- Rainfall amounts up to 8.5" (VA)
- Snowfall amounts up to 45" (WV)
- Storm surge at the Battery in NYC Harbor exceeded 1821 record by over 2.5 feet



Superstorm Sandy

- Over 100 deaths in ⁶/₇
- U.S. Damage and Io⁶ 565B-\$75B
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- Gas Stations in NY ³/₂ because of power ol ¹ depleted fuel
- Power outages for more than 8 million accounts in 15 States
- Nearly 1 million accounts without power for more than a week





"Stories from Sandy"

- It's estimated that as many as ½ of backup generators did not start
- For those backup generators that ran, fuel supply quickly became an issue
- A number of PV facilities, although intact and functional, were not able to provide power to facilities because of interconnection/safety issues
- But....several campus and co-op level CHP microgrids successfully maintained power

Grid Resiliency

- Prevention: protection of distribution system
- Recovery: rapid assessment, resource deployment and availability of replacement components
- Survivability: ability to maintain basic functionality under a crisis – this is a new function for most distribution utilities

EPRI, 2012-2013.

Diverse, distributed generating resources are part of the answer. The ability to prioritize and control distribution is critical.

Challenges to Distributed Generation as a Resiliency Solution

- Economic Constraints
- Physical Constraints
- Regulatory/Institutional Constraints



Economic Constraints

- Energy costs
- Capital costs
- O&M costs



Are today's costs the right criteria?

Physical Constraints

Space

- Fuel availability for non-renewable generation (particularly for large scale or during crisis)
- Safety/grid integrity
- Prioritization and controlled deployment of resources during outages

Regulatory/Institutional Constraints

- Environmental
 - Emissions, siting, noise
- Interconnection
- Decoupling of Generation from Transmission



Potential Effect of Resiliency and Distributed Generation on EE Programs

Limited direct effect

- EE reduces the size of DG that is required
- EE reduces the operating cost of DG
- DG does not satisfy energy reduction goals
- Greatest effect is likely indirect
 - Re-prioritization of legislation
 - Re-prioritization of funding

Conclusions

- Events like Superstorm Sandy remind us of the vulnerability of our electrical infrastructure
- Distributed generation (and energy efficiency) can play an important role in deferring investment in additional generation or transmission capacity
- Diverse, distributed generation resources significantly increase resiliency – but need control
- Policy and technical challenges hinder widespread use of DG and limit overall resiliency benefits at this time
- EEPS, RPS and resiliency are interrelated and each plays an important role in achieving overall energy goals

Imagine the result

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