## **Gas – Renewables Integration Risks & Solutions**



# 2020 GAS/ELECTRIC PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE







### Integration Risks & Mitigation: WECC Gas-Electric Interface Study

The Path Forward



#### Drivers of Gas-Renewables Integration & The Resilience of Gas

# Gas-electric integration challenges have traditionally been driven by economics and reliability, but sustainability is increasingly important

• Utility IRPS with support of State PUCs historically ensured system reliability



- Coal to gas switching
   supporting power sector carbon intensity reductions, but market / regulatory limits
- Gas CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions creating resistance for gas
- Consumers demanding cleaner energy solutions
- States setting mandates for > 50 % renewable power generation



## Economics and stakeholder pressure are driving industry players and policy-makers to set increasingly aggressive clean energy goals

How are we as an industry working to balance all three factors?



- Stakeholder pressure to close critical baseload / peaking
  infrastructure e.g. Aliso Canyon, coal / oil / nuclear gen
- Regulatory hurdles to build pipes & CCGTs e.g. CA, Northeast
- CA targeting 100% clean energy by 2045
- 15 other states / districts / territories, and hundreds of cities and counties are targeting 100% clean energy by 2050



## Gas is a key part of the long-term solution playing a critical role enabling the continued transition to a cleaner power system

Solar, wind and battery storage are the fastest growing generation sources in the WM outlook, reflecting ~40% of power generation and ~50% of installed capacity by 2040



6%

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Source: Wood Mackenzie H2 2019 North America Power Tool



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## **Overview of The WECC Gas-Electric Interface Study**

#### Challenge

Identify potential threats to grid reliability at present and in the future under two major energy transition events: baseload plant retirement and increasing renewable energy penetration on power generation

#### Approach

Together with E3 and Argonne National Laboratory, Wood Mackenzie has derived the potential solutions for WECC through the following methodology:

- Assess gas and power market dynamics in Western Interconnection and model 10 natural gas disruptions scenarios and impact on bulk power system (BPS)
- Evaluate capability and cost of potential mitigation options as well as provide actionable recommendations to improve current operation, procedures, and protocols

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Decommissioning baseload generation, in addition to Aliso Canyon retirement, would create reliability
  issues with the potential to result in load losses across the Western Interconnection in severe events
  - Desert Southwest and Southern California are the most vulnerable to major gas disruptions due to heavy reliance on gas generation to meet peak demands and limited gas storage capability
- Other WECC regions, such as Pacific Northwest, are more resilient, but still at risk to gas system disruption due to increasing market-area gas storage and more robust interstate transmission connectivity
- A portfolio of regional mitigation solutions will be necessary to address the reliability risk
  - To include the following initiatives: gas infrastructure expansions, dual-fuel generation capability, renewable energy and energy storage (batteries) deployment, demand response programs, winterization of key gas supply infrastructure (processing, etc.) and fuel assurance vs. firm generation reporting and other gas-electric coordination opportunities
- As a regional entity, WECC has the capability to foster gas-electric coordination amongst key regional stakeholders while also influencing policymakers in implementing mitigation solutions in the Western Interconnection to maximize compensation capability for handling future disruptions



## A number of gas-electric disruption scenarios modelled across the Western Interconnection resulted in material economic impact

Unserved energy in the key EPNG and freeze-off scenarios results from the configuration of the gas network, which limits deliverability to isolated "islands" of plants in Phoenix & SoCal



#### Outage nameplate capacity (GW)

Notes : (1) Economic impact estimated based on cost of unserved energy in each state for each type of demand sector

(2) Risked Economic Impact estimated based on probability of each disruption

(3) Unmet spinning reserves in GWh representing the addition of all unmet reserves in MW for each hour Source: Wood Mackenzie, E3, Argonne National Labs

#### Unserved energy & unmet reserves<sup>3</sup> (GWh)



## Resource adequacy problems: an EPNG rupture results in unserved energy while a severe freeze-off exhibits unmet spinning reserves

August 6 2026 – EPNG Base case Western December 28, 2026 – Freeze-off low hydro case Inter. Load and Gen. Capability (GW) Western Inter. Load and Gen. Capability (GW) While no unserved energy appears, The system is experiencing a the system is unable to meet its resource adequacy issue spinning reserves on peak hours during 6-8 peak hours 180 180 160 160 140 140 120 120 100 100 80 80 60 60 40 40 20 20 0 0 23456 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 3 4 5 6 78 428 **Unserved Load (GWh)** 0 **Unmet spinning** 236 23 reserves<sup>1</sup> (GWh) Base Generation Capability ₋oad Generation capability post-disruption Spinning reserves

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Source: Argonne National Labs , E3, Wood Mackenzie

(1) Unmet spinning reserves in GWh representing the addition of all unmet reserves in MW for each hour

# Reconciliation and improvement of natural gas/electric coordination will be key to maximizing ability to manage increasing gas demand

#### Recommendations

Resource Adequacy Accounting

Curtailment Priorities

Improved Regional Coordination

Forecasting & Execution

Gas-Electric Day Mismatch

#### Report all firm contracts and explicitly link to power plants served in IRP process and other firm reserve reports

- Re-visit classification of electric generation as "non-core" end-use
- Designation of plants critical to grid reliability as core end-use
- Conduct regional contingency planning exercises led by WECC to prepare for a number of disruption scenarios
- Require intra-day LDC core load balancing to ensure fair implementation of OFOs and penalties
- Additional clarity around interstate
   pipeline curtailment protocol
- Split weekend nomination period into daily blocks, resulting in a 7-day nomination cycle

#### **Benefits**

- Allows for more robust planning processes, especially as gas and power capacity dynamics tighten
- Ensuring that critical power plants are not the first to be curtailed allows for additional flexibility for compensation via transmission
- Maximizes compensation ability for utilities across the Western Interconnection
- Higher accountability for prior-day forecasting allows easier utility operation
- Explicit interstate curtailment protocols allow for better contingency planning
- A feasible step for both gas and electric sides that would minimize response lead times over the weekend period



## Meeting the future needs of the Western Interconnection across economics, reliability & sustainability requires a portfolio of mitigants



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Source: Wood Mackenzie, E3, UC Davis, Argonne National Lab

- 1. Verified on best-efforts basis
- 2. Analyzed for EPNG disruption scenario

# The energy transition is accelerating, while initiatives are just getting kicked off on WECC & national gas-electric interface issues









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## The Path Forward – Final Thoughts

- Increasing clean energy utilization requires a balanced portfolio (energy and capacity) to achieve renewable standards, counter intermittency and sustain grid reliability in the face of regional vulnerabilities – other NERC regions face key risks (e.g., NE-ISO, NYISO)
- There is no silver bullet a balanced perspective around economics, reliability, and sustainability is necessary to drive maintenance and new investments in gas & electric infrastructure to ensure the system can reliably meet bulk power system capacity needs
- The success of the Energy Transition will require collaboration amongst policy-makers, regulators and gas-power industry participants to conduct gas-electric vulnerability assessments and adapt regulatory/commercial constructs to incentivize investment



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