

DOCKETED

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Geothermal Energy Association Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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September 18th, 2015

Dear CEC, CPUC, and CAISO, Presidents, Commissioners, and Staff,

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is supportive of this group's collective opinion that transmission planning will be a vital and important lifeline for the expansion of renewables in the State of California. GEA is excited to participate in future RETI 2.0 discussions and agrees the effective and efficient communication between the different government agencies will be essential for the goals of this proceeding to succeed. In the meantime GEA would like to remind the Energy Commission, Office of the Governor, the CAISO, and CPUC on some transmission planning issues that have hindered geothermal power's growth. Fixing these transmission bottle necks will help shift the supply curve to make more geothermal resources more available and economical.

Geothermal companies reported to GEA congestions at all state interties which hinder their ability to develop geothermal projects and import/export electricity from/to other states. Because of geothermal power's location specific characteristics, its imperative interstate ties are not congested to allow operators to trade electricity.

And within California, geothermal companies find there is a shortage or inadequate transmission lines to transport electricity to the rest of the state at the following geothermal resource areas listed below. In southern California in particular, estimated resources range from 1,700 to 2,100 MW of geothermal resources that will become available.

- Lake City-Surprise Valley, (Siskiyou County)
- Mono-Long Valley, (Mono County)
- Salton Sea, (Imperial County)
- South Brawley, (Imperial County)
- East Brawley, (Imperial Count)

Geothermal power will be vital to California's future power grid and economy. Geothermal plants can provide both flexible and baseload power generation capacity. New advances in power plant and control technology allow geothermal power plants to provide ancillary services such as grid support, regulation, load following, spinning reserve, non-spinning reserve, and replacement or supplemental reserve. In addition, geothermal power plants employ about 1.17 persons per MW at each operating power plant. These are permanent jobs that last the entire 30-50 year lifetime of the power plant. In total, adding governmental, administrative, and technical related jobs, the geothermal industry employs about 2.13 persons per MW.

GEA will be available throughout this proceeding to provide the CPUC, CAISO, and CEC any analytical support related to geothermal power that they might need.

Sincerely,

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The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) is a trade association comprised of over 100 U.S. companies that support the expanded use of geothermal energy and are developing geothermal resources worldwide for electrical power generation and direct-heat uses.