DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	17-IEPR-01
Project Title:	General/Scope
TN #:	222251
Document Title:	US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Description:	US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rejects Energy Efficiency Restrictions
Filer:	Raquel Kravitz
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	1/19/2018 7:44:49 AM
Docketed Date:	1/19/2018

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US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rejects Energy Efficiency Restrictions

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December 7th, 2017 by Joshua S Hill

The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has this week rejected a proposal filed earlier this year by PJM Interconnection seeking permission to restrict energy efficiency resources from entering the wholesale market, a move which has been praised by energy efficiency proponents.

Earlier this year, regional grid operator PJM Interconnection (which is part of the Eastern Interconnection and serves states throughout the east of the country) proposed a rule with the country's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which would have given states in PJM's territory the right to exclude or restrict energy efficiency resources from entering the wholesale market in their states.

PJM's proposal stems from the East Kentucky Power Cooperative's application

to the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) seeking the ability to restrict energy efficiency resources from the wholesale market, itself an effort by Kentucky utilities to reduce their spending on demand-side management programs in the face of declining energy sales.

Unsurprisingly, national business group Advanced Energy Economy (AEE) stood up to protest the proposal and <u>filed a petition</u> of declaratory order with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission <u>explaining that</u>, "while state commissions have exclusive authority on retail energy decisions, the Federal Power Act gives sole jurisdiction in the wholesale markets to FERC and the associated regional transmission organizations (RTOs)." Specifically, if states and their regulators of the retail market were allowed to restrict energy efficiency resources this would result in "unjust and unreasonable rates" which would be "a direct violation of the Federal Power Act."

Fast-forward to this week, and FERC <u>released its decision</u> preventing states from barring low-cost energy efficiency and other resources from competing in the wholesale electricity market without direct approval and permission from FERC. The ruling handed down by FERC explains that "we grant in part and deny in part the Petition" which means that they have widely denied the original PJM petition but have approved a narrow, Kentucky-specific exemption. Specifically, the exemption allows the state to

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restrict energy efficiency resources based on an exemption in the 2004 approval for the integration of the Kentucky Power Company into PJM Interconnection which granted the Kentucky Commission authority to approve or deny "any PJM-offered demand side response or load interruption programs."

"We applaud FERC for this important decision that encourages open competition in the electricity markets it regulates, which account for more than half the country," <u>said Maria Robinson, director of wholesale markets at AEE</u>.

"We look forward to working with states to ensure that consumers benefit from advanced energy technology participation in markets, driving adoption of clean, secure and lowest-cost energy resources.

"In its ruling, FERC confirmed that state utility commissions cannot bar particular technologies — in this case, energy efficiency — from participating in wholesale energy markets without its approval. This standard is critical for maintaining free and open competition, with all technologies competing on price and performance, to deliver the best electric power services at the most reasonable cost to businesses and households. This is a win for advanced energy innovators and consumers alike."





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Tags: <u>Advanced Energy Economy</u>, <u>aee</u>, <u>East Kentucky Power Cooperative</u>, <u>Federal Energy Regulatory Commission</u>, <u>FERC</u>, <u>Kentucky</u>, <u>Kentucky PSC</u>, <u>Kentucky Public Service Commission</u>, <u>PJM Interconnection</u>

About the Author



Joshua S Hill I'm a Christian, a nerd, a geek, and I believe that we're pretty quickly directing planet-Earth into hell in a handbasket! I also write for Fantasy Book Review (.co.uk), and can be found writing articles for a variety of other sites. Check me out at about.me for more.

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So, in simple terms Rentally refuse any green power sources being added into their grid? Well... IF that is the case, disconnect Kentucky from the National Grid and let them have their cake & eat it too. Anyone wanting Freedom & Independence from "stupid" can install their own along with Battery Banks and go OFF-GRID, the rest can march on the State Capitol and TELL the Governor what they think.

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Un-Effing-Believable, Why would ANYBODY want to restrict energy efficiency? Oh wait... The Kock Bros., of course!



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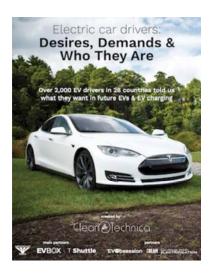
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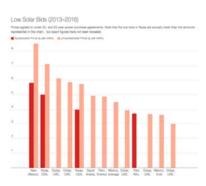
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