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Description:	LEAD COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP ON INCREMENTAL EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NATURAL GAS POWERPLANT FLEET FOR ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCY Panelist Questions
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LEAD COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP ON INCREMENTAL EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NATURAL GAS POWERPLANT FLEET FOR ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Panelist Questions

December 2, 2020

Panel 1: Incremental Technology Upgrades and Benefits

1. What goal(s) is driving your upgrade plans?
2. For those of you that have installed upgrades, have the objectives been achieved, surpassed, or not been met?
3. What specific project or system benefits have been realized through the completed upgrades?
4. What upgrades can be completed as part of normal planned maintenance?
5. Are you able to allocate costs of the upgrades to certain power plant functions to effectively bid into the market to recover costs for all services intentionally and unintentionally provided?
6. What are expected lead times to order and deliver equipment? Does the Covid-19 pandemic lengthen those lead times, and/or lengthen installation and commissioning times?

Panel 2: Opportunities and Process Improvements

1. Based on what you have heard today, are there any upgrades that might require extended procurement negotiations, fabrication times, permitting review, or installation time compared to other upgrades or improvements?
2. Are there opportunities to prioritize and improve permit review, project design, procurement, installation, and commissioning?
3. What are the most important information needs to adequately describe the upgrades to enable a complete review, without resorting to iterative data requests and responses?
4. What can owners, vendors and regulators do to clarify the scope of the California market to help vendors initiate production of an adequate inventory?
5. Many load-serving entities (LSEs) are looking to meet reliability needs statewide with lower carbon alternatives. What technology or market improvements would help make gas generators a great fit for these LSEs?

Panel 3: Finance and Governance Opportunities

1. Do you have any thoughts you'd like to share about what you've heard so far today?
2. Is your organization considering these types of additions?
3. How would one determine if these upgrades are cost-effective compared to other potential supply or demand-side resources?
4. Do you view these upgrades as critical or do you see other supply or demand side options that might be more cost effective for the Summer of 2021? What about for the Summer of 2022?
5. What do you view as the impediments to the development these incremental additions to the fossil fleet (e.g., load migration, power content label, cost allocation)?
6. Should these types of investments be undertaken by individual load serving entities or should this be done in a centralized fashion?
7. Do you see any issues with leaning if you use the load-serving entity model?
8. What about timing – could these upgrades be made for the summer of 2021, given that this is only 6 months away? And would it make sense to make these upgrades for only a portion of the Summer of 2021?
9. Would the opportunities for upgrades and improvements to the gas fleet be a needed component of the replacement capacity needed to address OTC retirements from 2021 to 2025?
10. Has the pandemic changed demand and consumptions patterns that make the incremental upgrades more needed or less needed?