# MMU Position on Black Start Service Issues

Members Committee November 18, 2010 Joseph Bowring



## **Proposed BSS Filing**

- The proposed BSS filing is unnecessary:
  - The current rules provide an incentive rate for legacy BSS providers with no capital base;
  - The current rules afford a return of and on the costs to provide Black Start Service
- Piecemeal ratemaking is inappropriate
- If exposure to risks is disproportionate to potential returns, the issue should be addressed directly, not by violating cost of service ratemaking principles

### **RFP Process**

- PJM should procure BSS on an economic basis.
  - TOs with conflicts of interest should defer to PJM.
- PJM should periodically test the market for BSS, especially when incumbents' costs rise significantly.
- The existing tariff describes an orderly process to conduct RFPs at locations whenever obligations to provide BSS terminate.



#### **RFP Process**

- CIPs costs raise the prospect of (i) significant new costs for incumbents and (ii) significant differences among competing suppliers in the costs necessary for compliance.
- There are existing black start units in PJM that should be permitted to compete for inclusion in the plan; the potential for new investment should be tested.
- The BSSWG charter should be revised to the extent necessary to ensure that the tariff process is fully implemented.

## **Pumped Storage Costs**

- It is reasonable for pumped storage BSS units to include the directly incurred "fuel" costs.
- It is reasonable for pumped storage BSS units to include opportunity cost associated with water level requirements.
- The opportunity costs have to be clearly defined and measured.



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