Pay for Performance Regulation: Market Monitor's Perspective

RPSTF July 13, 2011 Tom Blair Joseph Bowring



What is the problem?

- Regulation results in PJM performance which is evaluated against BAAL (and CPS).
- Current regulation results in PJM meeting both standards.
- Therefore there is no current performance problem.
- There is no clear statement of an expected problem in PJM.

What is the demand?

- Purpose of regulation is to meet the BAAL standard (dampen ACE and maintain interconnection frequency).
- PJM's RegA signal was developed to direct regulation resources to satisfy a defined goal.
- RegA signal is not a single standard, but is a function of the available resources and the goal.
- Regulation resource goal is to follow the RegA signal.

What is the demand?

- Based upon expected response profile of the current fleet of regulating units, PJM defines an hourly requirement for regulation.
 - Requirement is "MW available within 5 minutes".
 - Requirement is both up and down from a resource set point; or simply MW.
- Existing regulation is tested to ensure performance based on the existing definition.

Cost of regulation

- Could the demand for regulation be met at lower cost?
- If "MW available within 5 minutes both up and down from the set point" were changed could regulation be provided at lower cost?
- For example, if the 5 minute limit were changed to 1 minute (or less) could the BAAL standard be met at lower cost?

Definition of the product

- The regulation product has multiple possible definitions.
- Few studies of the costs and benefits of alternative definitions.
 - None with definitive answers.
- One issue is the unit of measurement.
 - Traditional regulation is MW (available within 5 minutes).
 - Rapid response units provide RegA correspondence (ACE offset).
- Relationship between two units of measurement is undefined.

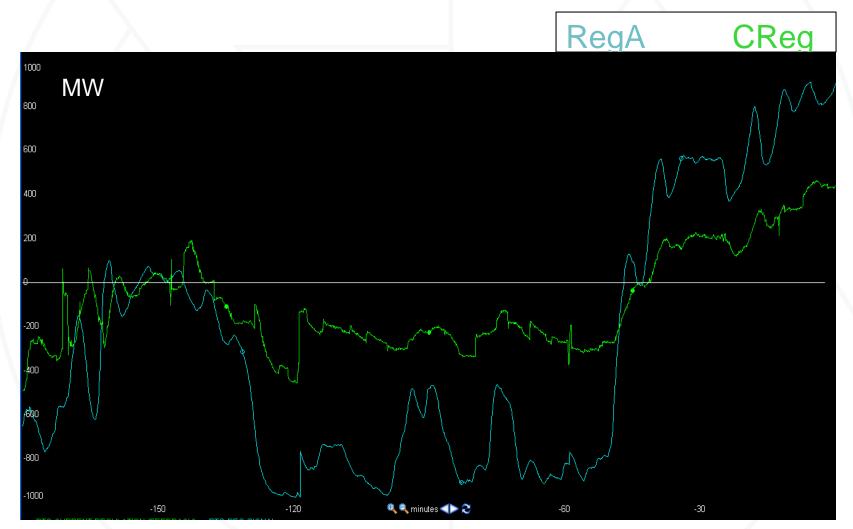
Definition of the product

- Rapid response regulation will have greater RegA correspondence per MW of regulation capacity over the range it can respond.
- Inconsistency between current definition of product in MW and product defined as RegA correspondence.

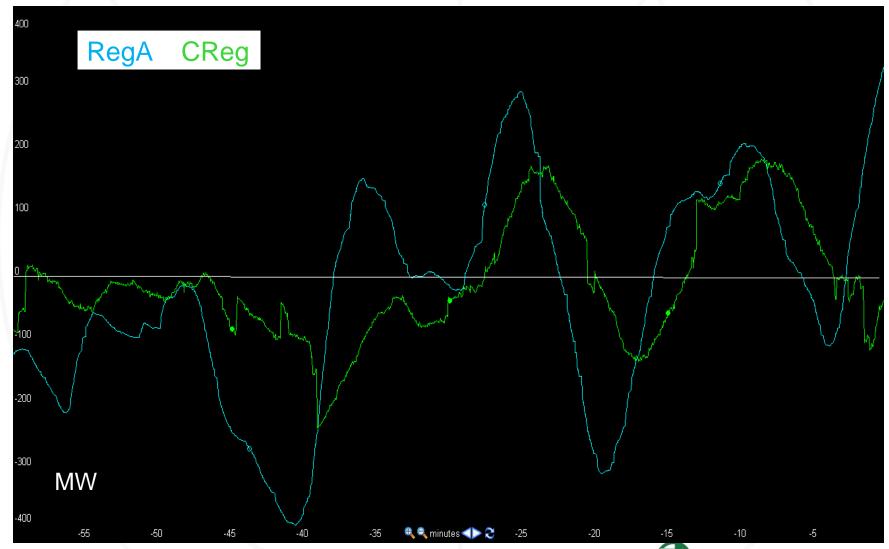
How do products meet demand?

- MW available in 5 minutes is measurable and testable.
- MW of RegA compliance is difficult to define. It depends on the nature of the RegA signal.
- Fast response units can track some RegA signal patterns and not other RegA signal patterns.
- When RegA is negative or positive for a long period of time, fast response units (which are not generators) may exhaust their capacity.
- When RegA has many small displacements and crosses zero often, fast response units will more closely track RegA than traditional units.

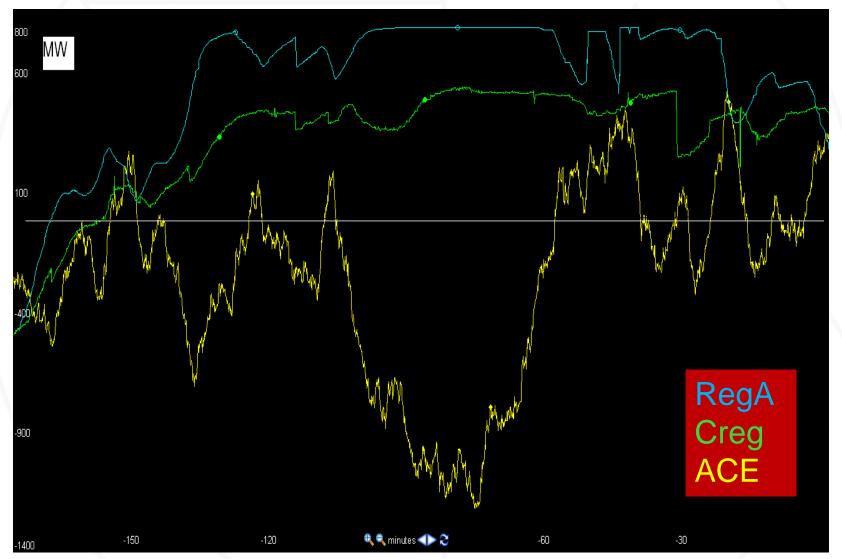
Example 1. Fast Regulators Cannot Track RegA



Example 2. Fast Regulators Can Track RegA



Example 3. MW of Regulation Needed



Some Solutions Proposed by Others

- No change to existing Regulation Market and operation.
- No change to existing Regulation Market and operation plus pay "performance incentive" to rapid response regulation.
- Change definition of regulation product.
- Create a second RegA signal for rapid response regulation.

- A logical market design for regulation must include:
 - A definition of the single product
 - A definition of the units used to measure the product
 - A definition of the demand for the product
- These elements exist for the current regulation market design
 - The current regulation market design can accommodate fast response technologies
 - Prices in the regulation market will increase under current proposals for scarcity pricing

- If fast response regulation is a different product, then there should be a separate market for that product.
- That market design must include:
 - A definition of the single fast response regulation product
 - A definition of the units used to measure the fast response product
 - A definition of the demand for the product
- These elements do not yet exist for the fast response regulation market design
 - There is no defined demand for the fast response regulation product

- Paying an incentive premium is not an adequate approach to the market design issue.
- The same questions need to be addressed for a market premium:
 - A definition of the single fast response regulation product
 - A definition of the units used to measure the fast response product
 - A definition of the demand for the product
- These elements do not yet exist for the fast response regulation market premium
 - There is no defined demand for the fast response regulation product

- The costs and benefits of paying an incentive premium require careful evaluation of a specific proposed market design.
- No such analysis has been performed.
- Market power metrics require a consistent and well defined market design.

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