Opportunities for Solar Development on Wind-Constrained Transmission Systems

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Presentation Overview

• Objectives and key questions
• Modeling approach
  – Study locations
  – Wind/solar resource regimes
  – Sample analysis
  – PV deployment scenarios
• Findings
  – Estimates of solar value
  – Estimates of energy and economic losses
  – Sensitivity analysis
Study Objectives/Key Questions

Objectives
• Evaluate the opportunity to load both wind and solar generation capacity onto a constrained transmission system while engendering only minimal losses
• Correlate wind, solar and co-located wind/solar generation with system loads and energy prices
• Quantify the economic and energy opportunities and costs associated with pursuing this strategy in two Texas locations

Key questions
• How much solar generating capacity can be reasonably accommodated in locations where transmission is already constrained by existing wind generation?
• Where in Texas does solar/wind co-located generation make the most sense?
• What losses (energy and revenue) can be expected from solar and wind generation operating together in a transmission-constrained environment?
Modeling Approach

**Definition:** For the purposes of this study, solar/wind “co-located” generation refers to the presence of solar and wind generating capacity upstream from a transmission constraint. It does not necessarily mean the solar and wind capacity is co-located on the same property or is operated jointly by a single project owner.

1. **Model development:** Develop and deliver to Austin Energy a flexible model with settable solar and wind nameplate capacity, transmission limit

2. **Model outputs:** Raw energy and economic value produced; energy and value losses due to limits

3. **Base case:** Develop and report on a base case scenario assuming 30 MW solar, 100 MW wind, and 100 MW transmission limit

4. **Sensitivity analysis:** Perform and report on sensitivity analysis on each variable from the base case

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**Diagram:**

- **Transmission limit**
- **Solar capacity**
- **Wind capacity**

**Base Case:**

- Solar capacity: 30 MW
- Wind capacity: 100 MW
- Transmission limit: 100 MW
Locations and Wind/Solar Regimes

3 wind regimes
- GLO Lease Site
  - ERCOT UPLAN at McCamey A bus
- Randado N. Site
  - CREZ 17 (inland)
  - CREZ 24 (coastal)

4 solar technologies
- Solar thermal w/ 6 hours TES
- PV 1-axis tracker
- PV fixed tilt due south
- PV fixed tilt southwest

All solar production modeled with NREL’s Solar Advisor Model (SAM) with custom UPLAN- or CREZ-matched solar data

GLO Lease Site
Capacity Factors
- Wind: 45%
- Solar Thermal: 36%
- PV: 17-23%

Randado N. Site
(inland/coastal winds modeled separately)
Capacity Factors
- Wind: 38% (coastal), 33% (inland)
- Solar Thermal: 23%
- PV: 15-18%
Sample Analysis – GLO Lease Site

Average Annual Wind, Solar and Combined Production by Hour

Base Case
Sample Analysis – Randado N. Site

Inland (CREZ 17) Winds

Average Annual Wind, Solar and Combined Production by Hour

Base Case
Sample Analysis – Randado N. Site

Coastal (CREZ 24) Winds

Average Annual Wind, Solar and Combined Production by Hour

Base Case
Summary Findings - Base Case

- Solar value generally correlates positively with generator capacity factors
  - Exception: PV fixed SW earns higher value than PV fixed S despite lower total production
- Randado N. Site benefits from high South MCPE levels in 2008
- Solar paired with inland wind at Randado N. Site earns greater value than solar paired with coastal wind.
  - High positive correlation of coastal wind, solar and MCPE leads to losses at peak.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wind +</th>
<th>GLO Lease Site</th>
<th>Randado N. Site - Coastal</th>
<th>Randado N. Site - Inland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solar thermal</td>
<td>$6,692,552</td>
<td>$6,307,415</td>
<td>$7,094,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV tracker</td>
<td>$3,970,710</td>
<td>$4,467,989</td>
<td>$4,715,764</td>
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<tr>
<td>PV fixed S</td>
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<td>$3,500,772</td>
<td>$3,610,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>PV fixed SW</td>
<td>$3,185,196</td>
<td>$3,715,711</td>
<td>$3,866,563</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary Findings - Base Case

Base case energy and economic value losses at each site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GLO Lease Site</th>
<th>Randado N. Site - Coastal</th>
<th>Randado N. Site - Inland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Solar MWh Lost</td>
<td>% Solar Value Lost</td>
<td>% Solar MWh Lost</td>
<td>% Solar Value Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind + Solar thermal</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar thermal</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV tracker</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV fixed S</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PV fixed SW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• All losses accrue to the solar generator in the base case
• Solar losses generally correlate positively with generator capacity factors
  – Exception: Randado Coastal/PV fixed SW - PV peaks in late afternoon along with wind
• GLO Lease Site economic losses are lower than MWh losses (lost solar MWh tend to occur during periods when prices are relatively low)
• Randado N. Coastal is opposite, indicating lost solar MWh tend to occur during periods when prices are relatively high
• Randado N. Inland losses are mixed
Sensitivity of Results

- Solar losses increase as constraints are tightened (+ solar, + wind, - transmission limit)

- Solar losses at GLO Lease Site are:
  - Less than 1% at 30 MW solar, 1000 MW wind, and 1000 MW transmission limit
  - 18-22% at 30-150 MW solar, 1500 MW wind, and 1000 MW transmission limit
Conclusions

• Base case study is a start, findings may be useful in evaluating strategies for co-locating solar and wind resources on the grid.

• Location-specific conclusions
  – The GLO Lease Site has the greatest wind and solar production capability but lower MCPE levels in ERCOT’s west zone reduce overall value
  – Solar paired with coastal wind regime at the Randado N. Site generates significant overall energy but carries a higher risk of loss due to curtailment
  – The best outcomes for solar generation occur where solar production is strongly negatively correlated to wind, and strongly positively correlated to price and/or peak loads

• Solar energy losses range from 1.7% to 11.2% in the base case; economic losses range from 1.3% to 14.7%. Losses at the GLO Lease Site are less than 1% at 30 MW solar, 1000 MW wind, and 1000 MW transmission limit.

• Solar generation can be reasonably accommodated within transmission systems already constrained by existing wind generation while experiencing minimal energy and economic losses.