Issue 212

NERA
ECONOMIC CONSULTING

Reporting on energy regulation issues around the world

January 2017

Global Energy Regulation

Contents

General Editor

Tomas Haug

Regional Editors

Amparo Nieto: North America

Oscar Arnedillo: Spain, Portugal, European Union and Latin America

Marco Schönborn: Italy

EUROPEAN NEWS

European Union

Belgian And Dutch Day-Ahead Markets Transferred To The Epex Trading System

EPEX SPOT announced that all trading products for the Dutch and the Belgian day-ahead market were successfully transferred to the EPEX Trading System. This migration is an important milestone in the harmonisation of trading systems following the integration of former APX Group into EPEX SPOT in 2015. All of the EPEX SPOT markets in Central Western Europe (Germany, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland) now run on a unified power trading system.

EPEX SPOT, 24/01/17

ACER And CEER Publish Overview Paper On European Commission’s Clean Energy Proposals

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, ACER, and the Council of European Energy Regulators, CEER, published a joint overview paper on the key elements of proposals set out on 30 November 2016 in the European Commission’s “Clean Energy for All Europeans” Package. ACER and CEER broadly welcomed the Commission’s proposals and expressed support for efforts to restore price signals to markets and to maximise cross-border capacity, among other things. However, they cautioned against net metering and over-prescriptive rules that could stifle market operation and innovation. Their paper notes that ACER’s effective regulatory oversight of EU-wide bodies is needed to ensure that regional developments remain consistent with the main objective of creating a well-functioning EU-wide internal energy market. Both agencies also announced that a series of short regulatory white papers analysing other Commission proposals will be published in the coming months.

ACER, 23/01/17; CEER, 23/01/17

Austria

E-Control Lodges Complaint Against ACER Decision To Split Market

The Austrian energy regulator, E-Control, lodged a complaint against ACER's decision to split the common Austro-German electricity market zone along the border between the two countries. E-Control had announced this move in November 2016, when ACER published the decision. E-Control believes that ACER does not have the authority to rule on the matter. Instead, ENTSO-E, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, should perform a thorough analysis of potential bottlenecks, according to E-Control. The ultimate power to act on ENTSO-E's findings would then lie with the affected member states and not with ACER.

ACER's board of appeal now has two months to react to the complaint. If E-Control is unsuccessful in its appeal, it may choose to file an action for annulment with the General Court of the European Union. The court previously ruled that a recommendation made by ACER in 2015 on the same subject had no legal effect.

E-Control, 18/01/17

Belgium

Belgian Capacity Reserve To Be Increased By Next Winter

Following an analysis by transmission system operator Elia and a review by the national energy regulator CREG, the Belgian energy ministry announced an increase of 150 MW in the national electricity capacity reserve ("réserve stratégique") by next winter, bringing the total from 750 MW at present to 900 MW. At the same time, the Belgian energy minister Marie-Christine Marghem encouraged debate over the creation of wider capacity remuneration mechanisms.

The decision reflects the ministry's view that additional reserve capacity is warranted to ensure security of supply in case of demand peaks and import restrictions such as those witnessed in November 2016. Elia may have to tap into the strategic reserve during periods of particular stress on the transmission network. The strategic reserve can be provided through generation capacity withheld for this purpose or, alternatively, through demand-side measures. The strategic reserve will apply for a period of three years.

L'Avenir, 14/01/17; Belga, 13/01/17

France

National Assembly Committee Doubts Adequacy Of EDF's Decommissioning Plan

A report commissioned by a National Assembly committee concerned with renewable energy cast doubt on the adequacy of state-controlled utility EDF's provisions for the cost of decommissioning French nuclear power plants. In 2016, EDF made provisions amounting to US$23,861 million for dismantling its nuclear fleet and disposing of nuclear waste. However, the report's authors, Julien Aubert and Barbara Romagnan (both members of parliament), found evidence of under-provisioning and concluded that EDF showed excessive optimism over the decommissioning of its nuclear power plants. EDF rejected these findings and pointed out that the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and the Sea had backed the cost estimate for dismantling the nuclear fleet.

Les Echos, 02/02/17; World Nuclear News, 02/02/17; Reuters, 01/02/17

CRE Approves RTE's Investments For Interconnector Linking France And Great Britain

On 3 February 2017, the French energy regulator, CRE, approved the investment plan submitted by the national electricity transmission system operator (TSO) for construction of the IFA2 interconnector, after having reviewed opinions submitted during a public consultation in December 2016. The new lines are classified as a European Project Of Common Interest (PCI) and will increase French-British interconnector capacity by 1,000 MW. The new interconnector will be built jointly by the French TSO, RTE, and the British TSO, National Grid. The CRE reassessed RTE's investment plan, as the first version submitted to the regulator in April 2016 relied upon the United Kingdom remaining in the European Union.

The investment costs to be incurred by RTE are subject to incentives outside of the general regulatory framework. For instance, 30% of any savings between the forecast costs and the costs actually incurred will be paid out to RTE during the grid's first 10 years of operation. Likewise, if costs exceed RTE's forecast cost share of US$398 million, 30% of the over-run will be excluded from allowed revenues. A similar incentive scheme applies to actual capacity utilisation compared to forecast utilisation. However, the rate of return earned on the IFA2 interconnector by RTE is also subject to a floor and a ceiling. Based on the current nominal pre-tax cost of capital of 6.1%, the floor and ceiling would be 3.7% and 8.6%, respectively.

CRE, 19/01/17

French Regulator Publishes Final Tariff Decision For LNG Terminals

On 18 January 2017, CRE published final tariffs (ATTM5) for the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals operated by Elengy at Fos Cavaou and Montoir-de-Bretagne and the terminal operated by Fosmax LNG at Fos Tonkin. These tariffs will apply for about four years, starting from 1 April 2017. The final decision sets the real pretax weighted average cost of capital (WACC) at 5.25%, thereby confirming the draft decision of December 2016 (see previous issue of GERN). Compared to the prior decision (ATTM4), this new rate represents a decrease in the real pretax WACC from 6.50% to 5.25%. Like the ATTM4 decision, the ATTM5 decision includes an additional premium of 2% added onto the real pretax WACC to compensate investors for the specific risks of operating regulated LNG terminals.

CRE, 18/01/17

French Ministry Asks CRE To Set Higher Cost Of Capital For Enedis, But CRE Dismisses The Query

The CRE rejected a request to adjust the cost of equity for the nationwide electricity distribution network operator, Enedis (formerly ERDF), after French Energy Minister Ségolène Royal recommended a higher compensation for risk in a letter to the regulator dated 12 January 2017. The CRE set the nominal pretax cost of equity for Enedis at 6.7% in November 2016. In doing so, the regulator set different asset betas for electricity distribution and transmission, with the asset beta of 0.34 for Enedis set lower than the value of 0.37 for the transmission system operator.

In her letter, Royal argues that the cost of equity for Enedis was insufficient to compensate investors for risks related to the transition towards renewable energy sources, such as the installation of storage systems and the expansion of own-consumption or electric transportation. The CRE rejected the non-binding request from the minister, noting that the allowed cost of equity would already account for risks related to the energy transition.

CRE, 19/01/17; Les Echos, 19/01/17; Journal Officiel de la Republique, 17/01/17

Germany

BNetzA Initiates First Tender For Support For Offshore Wind Farms

On 30 January 2017, the German networks regulator, the Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA), published rules for the first tender to determine the level of support to offshore wind installations. The BNetzA plans to allocate support to projects with a combined generation capacity of up to 1,550 MW. Awards will be made to the lowest bidders, and all bids are capped at €0.12/kWh (US$0.128/kWh). The tender is open to installations that will be commissioned after 31 December 2020 and that were approved before August 2016 or are in an advanced stage of the approval process. Further conditions apply to the location of the plants in either the North Sea or the Baltic Sea. All bids must be submitted by 3 April 2017.

This is the first of two bidding rounds to allocate support to a total of 3,100 MW of offshore wind power generation capacity, to be commissioned during a transition period from 2021 to 2025. The next round will take place in 2018. Support for wind parks commissioned in 2026 or later will be allocated from 2021 onwards, according to the offshore wind law.

Bundesnetzagentur, 30/01/17, 30/01/17

Netherlands

Decision On Appeal: ACM Maintains FTRs On Dutch-Belgian Border

On appeal, the Consumer & Market Authority (ACM) decided to maintain the auction of long-term financial transmission rights (FTRs) on the border with Belgium. In a decision released on 2 October 2016, the ACM had approved revised auction rules for long term cross-border capacity allocation (Allocation Rules for Forward Capacity Allocation, known as EU HAR). These revised rules introduced FTRs on the Dutch-Belgian border, among other things. Following representations by Energie-Nederland, the Dutch energy association, the ACM commissioned a further study and decided to maintain the sale of FTRs.

ACM, 05/01/17

ACM Adopts Code Amending Improvement Of The Functioning Of Wholesale Gas Processes

The ACM announced that it would adopt the joint proposal of Netbeheer Nederlands (the association of energy networks) and NEDU (the Dutch energy data exchange) to abolish the daily allocation of gas fed into or taken out of the network by a consumer, and to increase the frequency of meter readings for connections in consumer category G2C from an annual to a monthly basis. To implement this decision, the ACM will change the Gas Distribution Metering Code, the Gas Allocation Code, the Gas Definitions Code, and the Electricity and Gas Information Code.

The daily allocation is, in any case, no longer needed. In the previous balancing regime, the daily allocation, also called the provisional allocation, was used to settle imbalances. In the new balancing regime, imbalances are settled on the basis of the control signal. The decision also affects G2C connections (large-scale consumers with annual consumption of 170,000 m^3 or less, and without a telemetry meter). The hourly energy consumption of these consumers is estimated for settlement purposes using a standard consumption profile, as is done for small consumers. However, differences between consumers within this group give rise to deviations from the standard consumption profile. Previously, the rules required a physical meter reading at least once every 36 months and a reading by other means at least once a year. Under this system, errors were only settled in the third year after they occurred. The latest decision imposes an obligation for monthly meter readings, to remove such errors and the resulting distortions. Interested parties have six weeks from the date of the decision to submit any objections.

ACM, 20/01/17

Portugal

Government Approves Incentives To Small Generation Units

The Portuguese government decided to extend the remuneration regime for small generation units for one year. This regime consists of a feed-in tariff equal to €95/MWh (US$102/MWh) for new small generators. In 2017, the General Directorate for Energy and Geology (DGEG) will run auctions to induce the entry of up to 15 MW of new generating capacity under this regime.

Diário da República, 11/01/17; Expresso, 14/01/17

Regulated Electricity Tariffs Extended Until End Of 2020

The Portuguese Secretary of State for Energy announced that regulated transitory tariffs for electricity consumers will be extended until the end of 2020. This regime was originally scheduled to end on 31 December 2017. In addition, in order to facilitate the consumer switching process in the electricity and natural gas markets, the government is planning to create a Supplier Switching Logistics Operator. Currently, 1.3 million out of 6 million residential consumers in Portugal remain in the regulated market.

Portuguese Government, 07/01/17

Spain

Congress Ratifies New Social Electricity Tariff Regulation

The Spanish Congress validated a Royal Decree-Law issued by the government, which establishes a new financing mechanism for social electricity tariffs and reinforces protection measures for vulnerable energy consumers. The Royal Decree-Law enables the government to issue regulations redefining the types of vulnerable consumers eligible and the levels of the corresponding discounts in electricity tariffs. These regulations will also prohibit the disconnection of extremely vulnerable consumers and will implement measures to increase customer protection and transparency in electricity supply contracts. As required by a ruling of the Spanish Supreme Court, the law modifies the financing of the support scheme, so that it will now be borne by all electricity retailers.

Ministry of Energy, Tourism and the Digital Agenda, 31/01/17

Government Approves Market Maker In Organized Spot Market For Gas

The Ministry of Energy has nominated Gunvor International to act as market maker in the organised spot market for gas, MIBGAS. In this role, Gunvor International will be responsible for guaranteeing minimum levels of liquidity in the gas market. In addition, the Ministry has requested that the energy regulator (CNMC) issue a draft methodology allowing large gas companies to also become market makers at MIBGAS.

Ministry of Energy, Tourism and the Digital Agenda, 20/01/17

Government Will Run A New Renewables Auction for Non-Mainland Territories

The Spanish government announced that a new auction for renewable generation capacity in the Canary and Balearic Islands will be held in the first quarter of 2017. This auction will be open to all renewable generating technologies, with a single rate of remuneration for all of them. According to the government, this mechanism will result in the lowest possible cost to consumers. This auction is additional to the 3,000 MW renewables auction for mainland Spain, which will also be held in the first quarter of 2017.

Ministry of Energy, Tourism and the Digital Agenda, 10/01/17

Switzerland

Low Water Levels In Reservoirs Put Security Of Supply On Agenda

Water levels in Swiss reservoirs supplying hydroelectric dams are at a historic low. During the last week of January 2017, operators of hydroelectric dams used 7% of available storage capacity for electricity generation, reducing the average water level to below 30% of overall capacity on 29 January 2017. With electricity wholesale price peaks exceeding US$190/MWh due to cold weather and the lack of available Swiss and French nuclear generation capacity, the increased generation from hydroelectric dams was profitable for operators. However, the Swiss electricity regulator, ElCom, expressed concerns over security of supply. For this reason, the regulator moved ahead a meeting with industry representatives ahead to 9 January 2017. More generally, ElCom found that security of supply in Switzerland was at risk in the long term due to the lack of incentive to renew the fleet of generating plants, the future decommissioning of nuclear power plants, and the unreliability of electricity imports.

Handelszeitung, 05/02/17; ElCom, 13/01/17

President Of Swiss Regulator Reports Difficult Relationship With EU

In a speech on 13 January 2017, Carlo Schmid-Sutter, the president of ElCom, acknowledged that relations with European institutions were under strain. His assessment was based on the exclusion of Switzerland from European day-ahead and intraday market coupling, as defined by the CACM network code, under which Swiss participation is conditional on the country implementing the main provisions of EU legislation on the internal electricity market. Referring to the draft of the European Electricity Balancing Code, Schmid-Sutter criticised the EU for pushing national TSOs of member countries to sign agreements with the Swiss TSO Swissgrid and for urging Switzerland to adopt European legislation without any democratic legitimacy. More generally, Schmid-Sutter reported that technical coordination with TSOs in neighbouring countries had been fruitful.

ElCom, 26/01/17, 13/01/17

Turkey

Russian Duma Ratifies Turkish Stream Pipeline Agreement

On 20 January 2017, Russia’s lower house, the State Duma, ratified the intergovernmental agreement between Russia and Turkey on the Turkish Stream pipeline, clearing an important hurdle before construction on the project can begin. Russia and Turkey signed the agreement in October 2016, and Turkey has already taken the necessary legislative steps to adopt the agreement since then. Construction can begin after Russia’s upper house and President Vladimir Putin approve the agreement. If approved, the Turkish Stream pipeline will run beneath the Black Sea and across Turkey, entering the EU at Turkey’s border with Greece. The pipeline is planned to have a capacity of 15.75 billion cubic metres per year. Construction is expected to begin in 2017 and to conclude by the end of 2019.

Russia Direct, 25/01/17; Hurriyet Daily News, 01/02/17

UK

French Regulator Gives Green Light to UK-France Interconnector

CRE approved a 1,000 MW interconnector between the UK and France. The subsea link, which is being developed by British TSO National Grid and French grid operator RTE, will run between Chilling in Southampton and Tourbe in Normandy. The CRE approved the project following a delay to assess the impact of the Brexit vote on 23 June 2016. The interconnector is expected to be completed by 2020 at a cost of €740 million (US$790 million).

Utility Week, 26/01/17; Reuters, 27/01/17

British Gas Business Fined For Customer Service Failings

The British energy regulator, Ofgem, fined energy supplier British Gas Business (BGB) £9.5 million (US$12 million) for failings in its registration, complaints, and billing processes for business customers. The problems arose following BGB's implementation of a new £40 million (US$50 million) IT billing system, which left thousands of its business customers with delayed and inaccurate bills. The penalty will be paid directly to affected business customers and to the charity Money Advice Trust, which provides services to help energy customers in need.

Ofgem, 24/01/17; Utility Week, 24/01/17

Ofgem Launches New Supplier Cost Index

The British energy regulator, Ofgem, launched a new Supplier Cost Index (SCI) to track the main elements of costs that energy suppliers face. The SCI replaces the previous Supply Market Indicator (SMI), which Ofgem withdrew in 2015 during the energy market investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority. The new indicator gives a year-ahead view of the cost of energy, based on a combination of wholesale costs, network charges, and charges to suppliers associated with government programmes.

Ofgem, 19/01/17; Utility Week, 19/01/17

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

US

Hawaii Regulators Pass Bill To Use Performance-Based Rates For Hawaiian Electric Company

The Hawaii House of Representatives introduced a bill (HB 1283), requiring the state public utilities commission (PUC) to establish by 1 January 2020 a set of incentives and penalty mechanisms linked to Hawaiian Electric Co.'s performance on specific performance metrics. Hawaiian regulators believe the current regulatory structure rewards utilities for "increasing capital expenditures, irrespective of utility performance" and have indicated that a new business model should be adopted to resolve the issue. The new bill requires the PUC to evaluate eight main aspects of the electric utility's performance: (1) the economic incentives and cost-recovery mechanisms; (2) exceeding the state's renewable portfolio standards; (3) electric rate affordability and ratepayer volatility risk; (4) electric service reliability; (5) customer satisfaction, including customer options for managing electricity costs; (6) public access to utility system information, including electric system planning data and aggregated customer energy usage data, and individual access to each customer's energy usage data; (7) integration of renewable energy sources, including customer-sited resources; and (8) timely execution of competitive procurement and other business processes. The new law will take effect on 1 July 2017 if the PUC does not delay the implementation of its requirements.

State of Hawaii (openstates.org), 24/01/17; Utility Dive, 30/01/17

FERC Commissioner Resignation Could Delay Pipeline Approvals

Former Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Norman Bay announced his departure from the Commission on 26 January 2017, effective 3 February 2017. His departure leaves FERC with just two members, Acting Chairman Cheryl LaFleur and Commissioner Colette Honorable. FERC must have at least three members to form a quorum and to vote on orders such as those required to issue certificates to build pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. Four Marcellus gas pipeline projects now face possible delay: the NEXUS project (DTE Energy Co. and Spectra Energy Corp.), the Rover project (Energy Transfer Partners), Atlantic Sunrise (Williams Cos. Inc.,), and the Northern Access 2016 project (National Fuel Gas Co.). Regulatory delay could hold up construction of these projects and push back their entry into service.

NPR, 28/01/17; SNL, 27/01/17

FERC Proposes Reforms To Uplift Cost Allocation and Transparency In RTO And ISO Markets

On 19 January 2017, FERC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) that aims to advance price formation in organised wholesale energy markets by enhancing transparency and improving the allocation of uplift costs to deviations (imbalances). Uplift costs are out-of-market payments made by a regional grid operator to a dispatched resource when the market clearing price is below the resource's offer price. FERC indicated that the current uplift cost allocation is inconsistent with cost causation and may distort market outcomes.

Among the proposed changes, FERC will require each RTO/ISO to have detailed information about uplift costs, posted in a machine-readable format on a publicly accessible portion of the RTO's/ISO's website. Such information may enable market participants to evaluate possible solutions for reducing the incidence of uplift. For example, with more granular information on the location, amounts, and types of uplift, market participants can better evaluate the benefits of additional transmission upgrades that could reduce the need to commit high-cost units. FERC expects its newly proposed allocation of uplift costs among market participants will more closely reflect the cause of the costs and to reduce the need for grid operators to take uplift-creating actions, resulting in lower total production costs. Comments on the NOPR (R-17-13) are due 60 days after its publication in the Federal Register.

FERC, 19/01/17; SNL, 19/01/17

FERC to Investigate Rates on Kinder Morgan Pipelines

FERC plans to investigate rates for Kinder Morgan's Natural Gas Pipeline Co. of America LLC (NGPL) and Wyoming Interstate Co. LLC (WIC) using its authority under the Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act. FERC directed the companies to file cost and revenue information for the last 12 months after concerns arose regarding the earnings of the companies. FERC estimated NGPL's return on equity for 2014 at 28.5% and for 2015 at 20.8%. Staff estimated WIC's return on equity at 17.7% and 19% for those years, respectively.

SNL, 19/01/17; FERC, 19/01/17

US Shale Success Forces Out New York Nuclear Power Plant

Sustained low gas prices have forced Entergy Corp to close the Indian Point Nuclear facility, with one reactor closing by 2020 and another ceasing operations by 2021. Gas prices are too low for the nuclear generator to continue to compete in the market. Entergy executive Bill Mohl said that without a price on carbon emissions, nuclear simply cannot produce at such low prices. The source of replacements for the power produced at Indian Point, which supplies New York City, is unclear.

SNL, 10/01/17; The New York Times, 06/01/17

Mexico

Mexican Energy Regulator Presents Release Program For Pemex´s Gas Contracts

On 25 January 2017, the Mexican Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) published a resolution setting out the procedure for Pemex's gas contracts release program. In three stages spread over four years, Pemex must release gas contracts representing 70% of the volume sold in 2016. In Phase I, 20% of the volume must be transferred; in Phase II, another 20% will be transferred; and in Phase III, the final 30% must be transferred. During Phase I, gas contracts are to be released by random selection in a public event to be held at the beginning of February 2017.

Pemex's clients may choose to remain with Pemex as their supplier of natural gas or to sign contracts with other marketers, regardless of whether their contracts were selected for the program.

CRE, 19/01/17; SENER, 25/1/17; Mexico´s Federal Official Gazette (dof.gob.mx), 25/1/17

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICAN NEWS

Chile

Government Approves Bidding Terms Of New Electricity Auction

The Ministry of Energy published the bidding terms for an auction to purchase 4,200 GWh/year of electricity. The auction will be held in October 2017, and the generation will be used to supply regulated customers in the Interconnected Systems (SIC and SING) during the period 2023-2042. According to the minister, the auction terms have been modified from a draft version to make the auction more attractive to national and foreign participants who are new to the Chilean market.

National Energy Commission, 24/01/17

Peru

Government Approves Electricity Transmission Development Plan 2017-2026

The Ministry of Energy and Mines approved the Electricity Transmission Development Plan 2017-2026. This document sets out the transmission network's need for reinforcement and lists projects that must be executed in the coming years to ensure quality and security of supply.

Ministry of Energy and Mines, 02/01/17

Government Cancels Natural Gas Pipeline Concession And Announces New Tender

The Peruvian government announced that it had cancelled the concession to build and operate a natural gas pipeline, Gasoducto Sur Peruano, as the licensee group failed to secure financing before the deadline of 23 January 2017. The Ministry of Energy and Mines then announced that the government will launch a new tender within 12 months, offering better terms and conditions.

Odebrecht, the leading company within the licensee group, paid of US$262 million in penalties to the government for breach of concession terms. The company is involved in an international investigation into corruption and has admitted paying bribes to government officials in several countries, including Peru. The gas pipeline concession, which was awarded in 2014, is an extension of more than 1,000 km and requires an estimated investment of US$7,328 million.

Ministry of Energy and Mines, 27/01/17, 25/01/17; EFE, 24/01/17

ASIA PACIFIC NEWS

New Zealand

Energy Minister Considers Investigation Into Petrol Pricing

The Automobile Association (AA) issued an announcement querying recent petrol price rises, with the national price of fuel rising by NZ$0.05 (US$0.04) per litre in January 2017, with no increase in commodity pricing, and with differences of more than NZ$0.30 (US$0.22) per litre across islands. Energy Minister Judith Collins met with officials at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to discuss the matter and plans to make an announcement regarding any inquiry in early February 2017. AA does not believe the price rise is justified, but fuel suppliers Z Energy and BP claim that there is significant discounting of prices across the country, which is not taken into account in weekly figures published by MBIE. Z Energy, the largest supplier of fuel in New Zealand, said it would cooperate fully if any inquiry takes place.

stuff, 31/01/17; Newstalk ZB, 31/01/17

MIDDLE EAST NEWS

Oman

Oman To Publish Guidelines For Grid-Connected Solar PV Systems

Oman's Authority for Electricity Regulation (AER) announced that it had completed a draft version of standards for small-scale grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) solar power systems. The standards specify the requirements for PV plants to be allowed to operate in parallel with the distribution system. The AER is currently finalising the incentive scheme for grid-connected solar power systems, which will set the incentives for customers to export electricity produced by PV panels into the electricity grid. The AER has also announced that it will hold a public consultation on the draft standards (and the incentive scheme), to engage with the relevant stakeholders and the public. Hilal Al Ghaithi, project manager for the solar PV standards, said he anticipated that the new regulatory framework would be issued by end of March 2017. Once the framework takes effect, households and other customers will be able to install solar PV systems and to export their surplus electricity generation into the distribution networks.

AER, 05/01/17; SeeNews Renewables, 05/01/17

About Our Practice

NERA is at the forefront of the continuing transformation of energy industries worldwide. Our experts have developed approaches for introducing competition in segments such as power generation, where competition is workable, and for improving the regulation of sectors where it is not. We work with companies and governmental bodies worldwide to design competitive power markets and to develop tariffs and rules of access for regulated transmission and distribution systems for electricity and gas and transport of oil and oil products. With industry restructuring, we also help companies develop strategies for exploring new opportunities and minimising new risks, including issues related to climate change and other environmental initiatives.

NERA helps our clients to develop new regulatory strategies and, when needed, support our clients with analysis and testimony before regulatory commissions, antitrust and competition policy agencies, and domestic and international courts. Our economists help clients to decide which lines of business to pursue; to divest assets no longer consistent with their strategy; to identify and evaluate opportunities for mergers, acquisitions and investment; and to develop bidding, trading, contracting, and marketing strategies and organisations. Our work also includes designing and conducting energy auctions and providing strategy and valuation advice on mergers and acquisitions, the financing of energy companies, and the financial restructuring of distressed companies.

About NERA

NERA Economic Consulting (**www.nera.com**) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For over half a century, NERA's economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world's leading law firms and corporations. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 25 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

Subscribe

NERA produces two newsletters that report and analyse energy matters around the world. *Energy Regulation Insights* summarise NERA's views on the economics behind topical developments in energy sector regulation. Previous issues have discussed regulators' use of "benchmarking", unbundling of networks, regulation of pipelines for CO_2 and other gases, and competition policy in electricity markets. The *Global Energy Regulation* Newsletter compiles brief summaries of news stories about energy regulation around the world. The coverage includes network regulation, industry restructuring, and the organisation of electricity and gas markets. The "GERN" allows energy sector professionals to easily keep in touch with looming problems, the latest developments in regulatory methods, and innovative solutions. To view the latest editions or to receive our newsletters each time they are published, click here: **www.nera.com/publications/newsletters-briefs.html**.

NERA
ECONOMIC CONSULTING

Office Contacts

EUROPE

Berlin
NERA Economic Consulting
Unter den Linden 14
10117 Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 30 700 1506 01
Fax: +49 30 700 1506 99
Contact: Tomas Haug

London
Marble Arch House
66 Seymour Street
London W1H 5BT, UK
Tel: +44 20 7659 8500
Fax: +44 20 7659 8501
Contact: Sean Gammons

Madrid
Goya 24, 6th Floor
28001 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 212 6400
Fax: +34 91 521 7876
Contact: Oscar Arnedillo

Paris
1 rue Euler
75008 Paris
France
Tel: +33 1 45 02 30 00
Fax: +33 1 45 02 30 01
Contact: Jeanne Lubek

Rome
Via Basento 37,
2nd Floor
00198 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 488 8101
Fax: +39 06 485 838
Contact: Marco Schönborn

NORTH AMERICA

White Plains
360 Hamilton Avenue
10th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
USA
Tel: +1 914 448 4000
Fax: +1 914 448 4040
Contact: Jeff Makholm (Boston),
Chantale LaCasse (Washington DC)

ADDITIONAL NERA OFFICES

Austin, TX	+1 512 371 8995
Auckland, New Zealand	+64 9 373 7230
Beijing, China	+86 10 6533 4395
Boston, MA	+1 617 927 4500
Brussels, Belgium	+32 2 282 4340
Chicago, IL	+1 312 573 2800
Denver, CO	+1 303 465 6844
Frankfurt, Germany	+49 69 710 447 500
Geneva, Swtizerland	+41 22 819 94 94
Los Angeles, CA	+1 213 346 3000
Melbourne, Australia	+61 3 9623 9800
México City, Mexico	+52 55 5999 3110
New York, NY	+1 212 345 3000
Philadelphia, PA	+1 215 864 3880
San Francisco, CA	+1 415 291 1000
Shanghai, China	+86 21 6335 3358
Sydney, Australia	+61 2 8864 6500
Tokyo, Japan	+81 3 3500 3290
Toronto, Canada	+1 416 783 3355
Washington, DC	+1 202 466 3510
Wellington, New Zealand	+64 4 474 1320

For further information, please visit our global website at:
www.nera.com

Disclaimer: the information contained in this document is publicly available. It does not incorporate NERA research.