Role of the Smart Grid in Facilitating the Integration of Renewables

Invited Speech

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"Smart grid" is a concept with many elements where monitoring and control of each element in the chain of generation, transmission, distribution and end-use allow the electricity delivery and use to be more efficient.
Electric Power Grid
Motivation for a Smart Grid

Desire to make the grid smarter, safer, reliable and more cost-effective using advanced sensors, communication technologies and distributed computing.
Difference Between a Normal Grid and a Smart Grid

Normal Phone

Smart Phone

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Starting and End Points of a Smart Grid

From Generator to Refrigerator

- Power Plant
- Transmission
- Distribution
- Home Business
- End-use Appliances
Smart Grid Building Blocks

- Technology
- Standards
- Rates & Regulations
- Consumer Awareness & Education
Evolution of the Grid

**Before** Smart Grid:
One-way power flow, simple interactions

**After** Smart Grid:
Two-way power flow, multi-stakeholder interactions

Source: Altalink, Alberta, Canada
Intelligent Load
Demand or price-driven control of appliances

Distribution Network
Interconnected micro grids

Sensors
Detect outages, fluctuations, and disturbances

Distributed Arch.

Microgrid

Bulk Power Plant

Wind Power Park

Smart Inverters and Storage
Minimize voltage and power fluctuations

Local Monitoring and Control

Control Room Functions
Balance electricity supply/demand across the grid

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Merging Power Flow with Information Flow:

Integrated Communications
Electric Power & Communication Infrastructures

1. Power Infrastructure

2. Information Infrastructure

Source: EPRI
Changing Landscape for the Electric Utility
Issues with Distributed Generation

- Wind and solar are intermittent
- Hydro is space limited
- Resource is free but not always usable
Off-shore Wind turbines, Blyth, U.K.
BPA Wind Output and Load Mismatch (January 2013)
BPA Wind Output and Load Mismatch (April 2013)
BPA Wind Output and Load Mismatch (July 2013)
BPA Wind Output and Load Mismatch (Oct 2013)
1-minute Variation of a 150MW Wind Farm Output in Texas, 2008

Wind output can drop 43.7 MW in 1 minute for a single 150-MW wind farm

Source: NREL
Wind output can drop 113 MW in 10 minutes, and increase 106 MW in 10 minutes.
Hourly wind power variation (MW) in Texas, USA (01 and 02 Jan 2008)

01 Jan 2008

02 Jan 2008

Installed Capacity 4,541 MW
Hourly wind power variation (MW) in Texas, USA (03 and 04 Jan 2008)

Installed Capacity 4,541 MW
Roof-top Solar Photovoltaics in Virginia
Solar Panels in Winter
7-Day Solar PV Output
7-Day Solar PV Output (intermittent)
Daily PV Output

PV AC Power Output During One Sunny Day

AC Power (W) vs. Time (Minute)
Daily PV Output (intermittent)

PV AC Power Output During One Cloudy Day

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7
Can the Intermittency be Absorbed by the Network?

- Battery storage
- Compressed Air Storage
- Pumped Storage
“Demand Response is a customer action to control load to meet a certain target. Here the customer chooses what load to control and for how long”.

This is different from Demand Side Management (DSM) where the load is controlled by the electric utility and the customer has no control beyond the initial consent.
New Paradigm for the Power System

• Historically: Demand driven supply (supply responds to demand)

• New Reality: Supply driven demand (demand needs to adjust to meet fluctuating supply with help from storage)

THE SMART GRID ECOSYSTEM
**THE SMART GRID ECOSYSTEM**

**Smart grid:** Bi-directional flows of energy, remote control/automation of power, integrated distributed energy…

**Smart city:** Complex system of interconnected infrastructures and services…

**Smart Campus:** A collection of buildings managed by the same facility manager…

**Smart buildings:** Intelligent building automation systems, smart devices, productive users, grid integration…

Supported by ICT and distributed networks of intelligent sensors, data centers/clouds
What makes a Building Smart

A single platform for monitoring and control of HVAC, lighting, water supply, sensor networks, security camera & fire emergency

Cumulative Benefits of Building Load Control

- A large number of buildings can be controlled to absorb large fluctuations of supply in the short term
- Minimal storage is required
- Investment is for monitoring and control
Addressing the Intermittency in Renewable Generation

• Smart vs. not-so-smart load control
  (adjust temperature set points in an air conditioner or water heater vs. turning the unit off)

• Size the storage to take advantage of demand dynamics

• Control the renewable generation to avoid instability (output control from PV inverters)
I would like to see a broader IEEE

We need to ensure that we are “READY FOR RECOVERY”, when we get back to the “NEW NORMAL” after COVID-19. Let us enhance cooperation, collaboration and community spirit.

For this we need to make IEEE broader so that IEEE is more relevant to the work our members do regardless where they work.

We need more participation from volunteers globally in IEEE governance. A broader based IEEE will make the Institute more relevant to technologists and academics from all parts of the world.

I would like to see more IEEE Senior Members and IEEE Fellows from Regions 8, 9 & 10
Prof. Saifur Rahman (s.rahman@ieee.org)

Past-President of IEEE Power & Energy Society
Past-Chair, IEEE Publication Services & Products Board

PES accomplishments:
  PES University
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