

# Economics of Grid-Supported Electric Power Markets: A Fundamental Reconsideration

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**Slide-Set Materials Summarizing Key Topics Addressed in:**

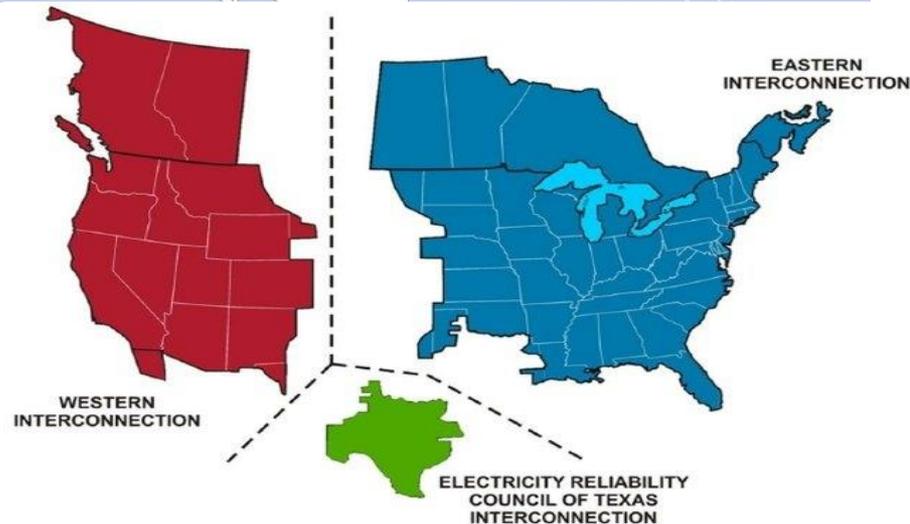
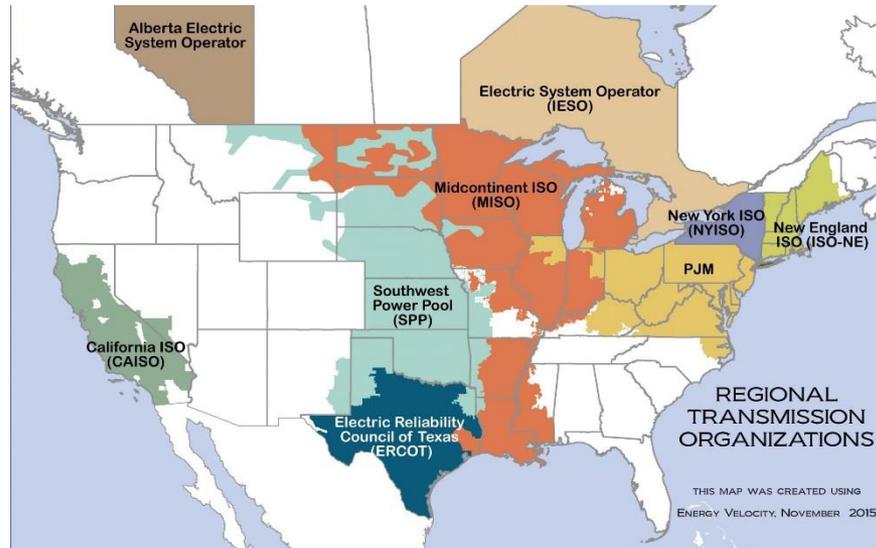
Supporting Document (Attachment A) for e-filed Comments:

L. Tesfatsion, Accession No. 20230117-5051,  
U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC),  
Docket No. AD21-10-000 (“Modernizing  
Wholesale Electricity Market Design”)

# Presentation Outline

- ❑ **Major Problem:** Current U.S. RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets are experiencing increasingly volatile and uncertain net fixed load due to increasing reliance on renewable power and increasingly diverse types of market participants.
- ❑ **Major Concern:** Three conceptually-problematic market-design aspects -- product definition & pricing, settlement timing, and supply-offer formulations -- are hindering attempts to remedy this major problem.
- ❑ **Possible Remedy:**
  - An alternative conceptually-consistent **Linked Swing-Contract Market Design** has been proposed, developed, and tested at Technology Readiness Level TRL-3.
  - This alternative design is well-suited for scalable, efficient, & reliable support of increasingly decarbonized grid operations with increasingly diverse participants.
  - Adoption of this alternative design by current RTO/ISO-managed markets would require changes in product definition, settlement rules, and supply-offer forms, but not in real-time operations.
  - Thus, adoption of this design could be implemented through gradual transition.
- ❑ **References**

# Current U.S. Wholesale Power Markets Managed by a Regional *Transmission Organization (RTO)* or *Independent System Operator (ISO)*



**Fig. 1:** Seven North-American RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets operate over a high-voltage AC transmission grid consisting of three separately-synchronized parts.

## Major Concern:

- Increasing reliance on *Intermittent Power Resources (IPRs)* (e.g., wind farms & large solar PV panel arrays **not** fully firmed by storage)
- Increasing encouragement of more active participation by *distribution-level* power resources and customers (FERC Order 2222, Final Rule, 17 September 2020)

➡ Increasing volatility & uncertainty of

$$\text{Net Fixed Load} =: [ \text{Non-Dispatched Load} - \text{Non-Dispatched Generation} ]$$

- RTOs/ISOs must function as “*fiduciary conductors*” tasked with orchestrating:
  - availability & just-in-time dispatch of increasingly diverse dispatchable power resources
  - to service just-in-time power demands of increasingly diverse customers
  - while meeting just-in-time power requirements for grid reliability.
- Grids supporting RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power market operations must function as “*flexibility-support mechanisms*”

## Potential Remedy for Major Concern (Net-Load Volatility & Uncertainty)

- **Physically-Covered Insurance:** Increase the dependable advance availability of *flexible dispatchable power-production capabilities*
  - from wholesale power resources
    - Use storage to firm-up dispatchability of *Intermittent Power Resources (IPRs)*
  - from distributed power resources (FERC Order 2222)
    - Permit aggregators (T&D linkage entities) to participate in wholesale power markets as suppliers of RTO/ISO-dispatchable power flows harnessed from *diverse* collections of *distribution-level power resources* by means of *Transactive Energy System (TES) designs*.
- **Difficulty:**

*Conceptually-problematic legacy market design aspects* affecting the core operation of current grid-supported U.S. RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets are *hindering* the pursuit of this potential remedy.

## Three Conceptually-Problematic Legacy Market Design Aspects

### 1) Product Definition and Pricing: *Static focus on grid-delivered energy (MWh), settled via conceptually ill-defined Locational Marginal Prices (\$\MWh)*

- Grid-delivered energy, conditional on delivery location and time, **strongly** fails to satisfy a unit homogeneity property that is **necessary** for the conceptual coherency of Locational Marginal Pricing (LMP).

### 2) Settlement Timing: *Pay-for-performance in advance of actual performance*

- Sequential provisional forward-market determination of LMP settlements takes place in advance of final ex-post LMP settlements for actual real-time dispatched performance.
- This results in time-inconsistent settlements, hence in unnecessarily complex and confusing settlement rules.

### 3) Supply-Offer Forms: *Revenue Insufficiency & Reliance on Out-of-Market Payments*

- Suppliers are forced to express supply costs as functions of grid-delivered energy amounts.
- Suppliers are not required to distinguish between avoidable and non-avoidable fixed costs.
- Suppliers are unable to specify and submit their market supply offers in a manner that ensures *supplier revenue sufficiency*:  $[revenue] \geq [variable\ cost + \textit{avoidable\ fixed\ cost}]$

## Product Definition and Pricing:

Two basic types of product are provided by dispatchable power resources:

- *Reserve (physically-covered insurance) for future operating-periods T*: Dependable advance availability of dispatchable power-production capabilities for possible RTO/ISO dispatch during a future operating-period T to protect against volumetric grid risk (net load imbalance);
  - *Real-time delivery of power during an operating period T* in response to RTO/ISO dispatch signals.
- 

## Settlement Timing and Supply-Offer Formulations:

A conceptually-sound definition of revenue sufficiency for a supplier requires:

- Partitioning of the supplier's Total Cost into three components:  
$$\text{Total Cost} =: \text{Unavoidable ("Sunk") Fixed Cost} + \text{Avoidable Fixed Cost} + \text{Variable Cost}$$
- Use of this 3-part partitioning to define revenue sufficiency for this supplier as follows:  
$$\text{Supplier Revenue Sufficiency} =: [\text{Market-Attained Revenue} \geq \text{Market-Incurred } \underline{\text{Avoidable Cost}}]$$

where:

$$\text{Avoidable Cost} =: [\text{Avoidable Fixed Cost} + \text{Variable Cost}]$$

Time-consistent settlements that assure supplier revenue sufficiency (as defined above) can be achieved in RTO/ISO-managed forward markets without resort to Out-of-Market (OOM) make-whole payments if suppliers are permitted to submit their supply offers in appropriate two-part pricing form.

# Fundamental Reconsideration of Product Definition & Pricing: Essential Definitions

**DEF 1: Asset** =: Anything in physical or financial form that can function as a store of value

**Examples:** Health; batteries; common stock shares, ...

**DEF 2: Spot Market for an Asset** =: Transacted asset amounts, payments for these transacted asset amounts, and deliveries of these transacted asset amounts *all occur at the same time* (“*on the spot*”).

**Example: Asset Street-Vending.** A person offers candy for sale to people who happen to pass by.

**DEF 3: Forward Market for an Asset** =: Transacted asset amounts and payment obligations for these transacted asset amounts *are determined in advance of the delivery* of these transacted asset amounts.

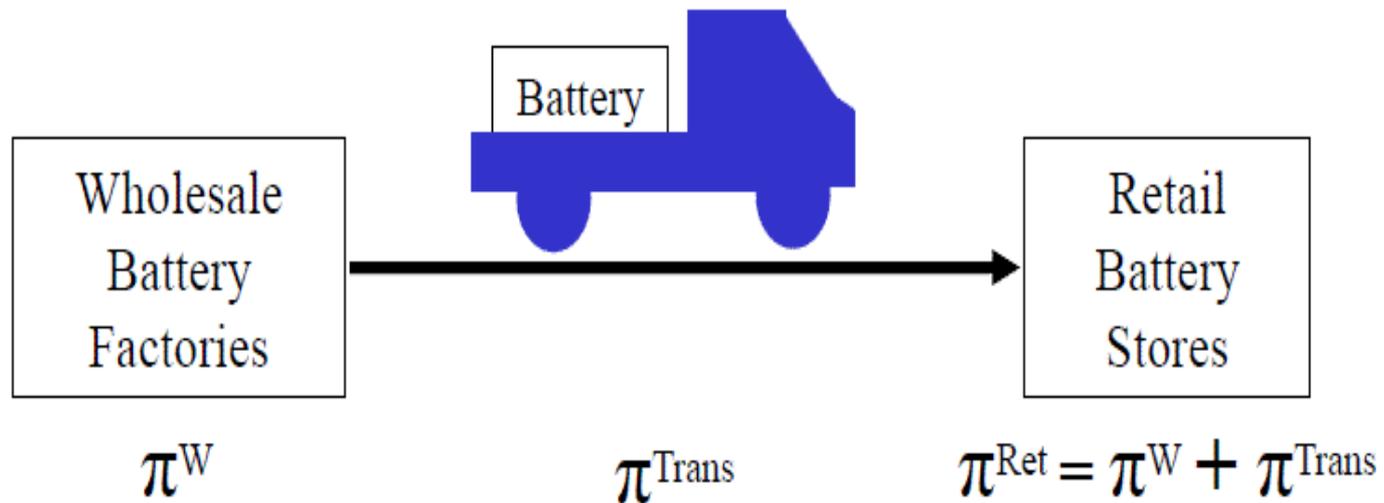
**Example: Physically-Covered Insurance Market.** In return for an up-front fee (“insurance premium”), a supplier  $i$  offers a buyer  $j$  *now* the guaranteed advance availability of production facilities for buyer  $j$ 's possible use at a designated location  $b$  during a designated *later* time-period  $T$ , where any actual use of these production facilities by buyer  $j$  at  $b$  during  $T$  is subject to an additional specified use-fee (“insurance co-payment”).

**DEF 4: Commodity** =: Physically-exchangeable asset  $A$  with standard unit of measurement  $u$  such that, conditional on location and time, each  $A$ -trader (supplier and/or buyer) considers all  $A$ -units  $u$  available for trade to be perfect substitutes (“economically equivalent”); that is, the substitution of any  $A$ -unit  $u'$  available for trade by any other  $A$ -unit  $u''$  *available for trade* does not change the economic value that the  $A$ -trader assigns to this  $A$ -unit.

**Example:** Standardized manufactured products, e.g., DURACELL AA 1.5v batteries with  $u = 1$  Battery

## Energy (MWh) as a Commodity -- A Spot Market Example

- Suppose energy (MWh) is produced and sold in the form of identical units = : identical DURACELL AA 1.5v batteries.
- At any given retail location and time, each unit (battery) sells at a common per-unit retail price  $\pi^{\text{Ret}}$  (\$/battery) that covers wholesale production cost (“W”) plus transport/damage cost (“Trans”).



**Fig. 3:** Energy (MWh) in uniform battery form can be transacted as a commodity.

**Note:** The decomposition of the “spot price”  $\pi^{\text{Ret}}$  into “energy” and “transport/damage” components is analogous to the standard decomposition of LMPs into “energy,” “congestion,” and “loss” components.

## Grid-delivered energy (MWh) is not a commodity

### □ Why Not?

- Exact way that power (MW) injected at a grid-location  $b$  during an operating period  $T$  accumulates up into a grid-delivered energy amount  $E^*$  (MWh) can matter greatly to producers, customers, and/or the RTO/ISO.
- That is, the dynamic attributes of the sequence of injections and/or withdrawals of power (MW) used to implement the delivery of  $E^*$  at  $b$  during  $T$  typically matter, not simply the static amount  $E^*$  (MWh) of grid-delivered energy.

### **Examples:**

- Producers care about depreciation costs from ramping wear & tear **during**  $T$ ;
- Customers benefit from flexible just-in-time power availability **during**  $T$ ;
- RTO/ISO, with fiduciary responsibility for grid reliability, benefits from having flexible just-in-time availability of net-load balancing services **during**  $T$ .

# LMP is Not Conceptually Well-Defined for Grid-Delivered Energy

## Point 1:

The standard economic **competitive (marginal cost = marginal benefit) spot-pricing rule** requires the transacted asset to be a commodity. *See Ref. [2] for a rigorous proof.*

## Point 2:

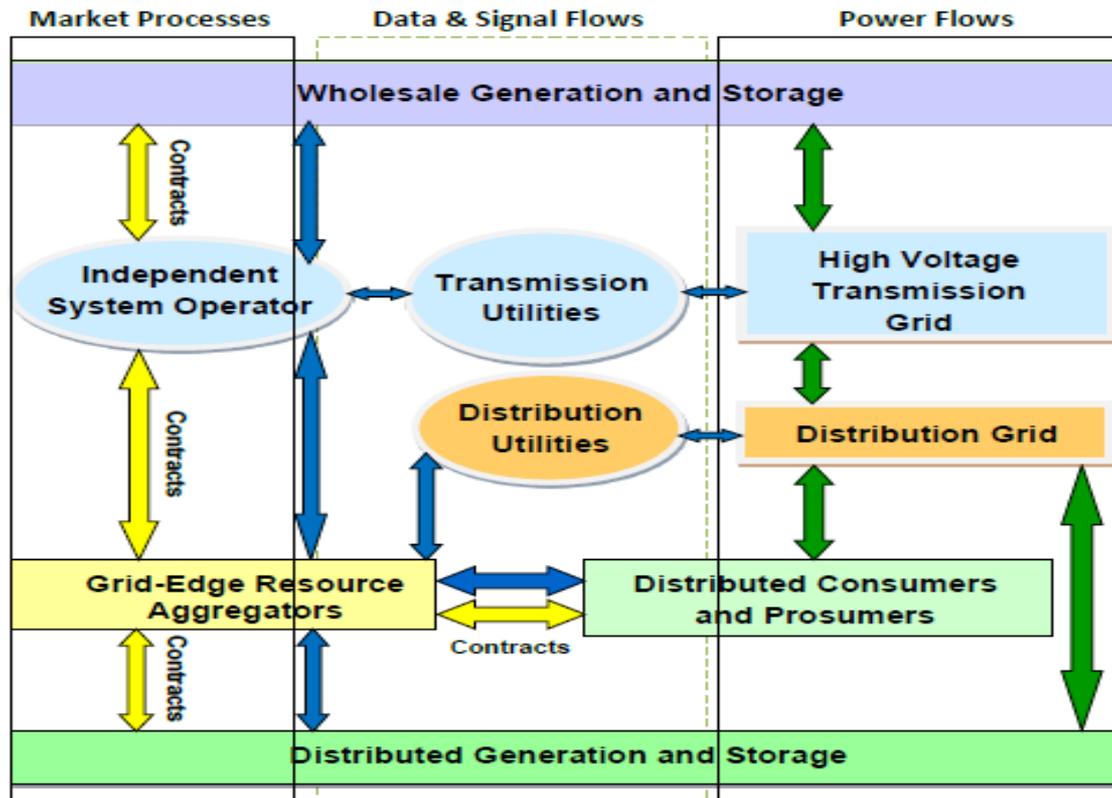
**Grid-delivered energy** is an asset with a standard unit of measurement ( $u = 1\text{MWh}$ ); but grid-delivered energy is typically not a commodity because, conditional on location and time, each trader  $k$  (supplier or buyer) does not consider all “next” units  $u$  of grid-delivered energy available for trade to be perfect substitutes (economically equivalent). Thus:

- (2.1) A supplier  $k$  of grid-delivered energy typically does not have a conceptually well-defined marginal cost (MC) function for grid-delivered energy, conditional on location and time;
- (2.2) A buyer  $k$  of grid-delivered energy typically does not have a conceptually well-defined marginal benefit (MB) function for grid-delivered energy, conditional on location and time.
- (2.3) Competitive (MC = MB) spot-pricing typically cannot be implemented in a conceptually coherent manner for grid-delivered energy (MWh), conditional on location and time.

## Major Implication of Points 1 and 2:

The justification commonly asserted for use of **Locational Marginal Pricing (LMP)** for price-settlement of grid-delivered energy in U.S. RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets – namely, the efficiency and optimality properties of competitive (MC = MB) spot-pricing -- is not conceptually supportable.

# U.S. RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets are “power-path” markets



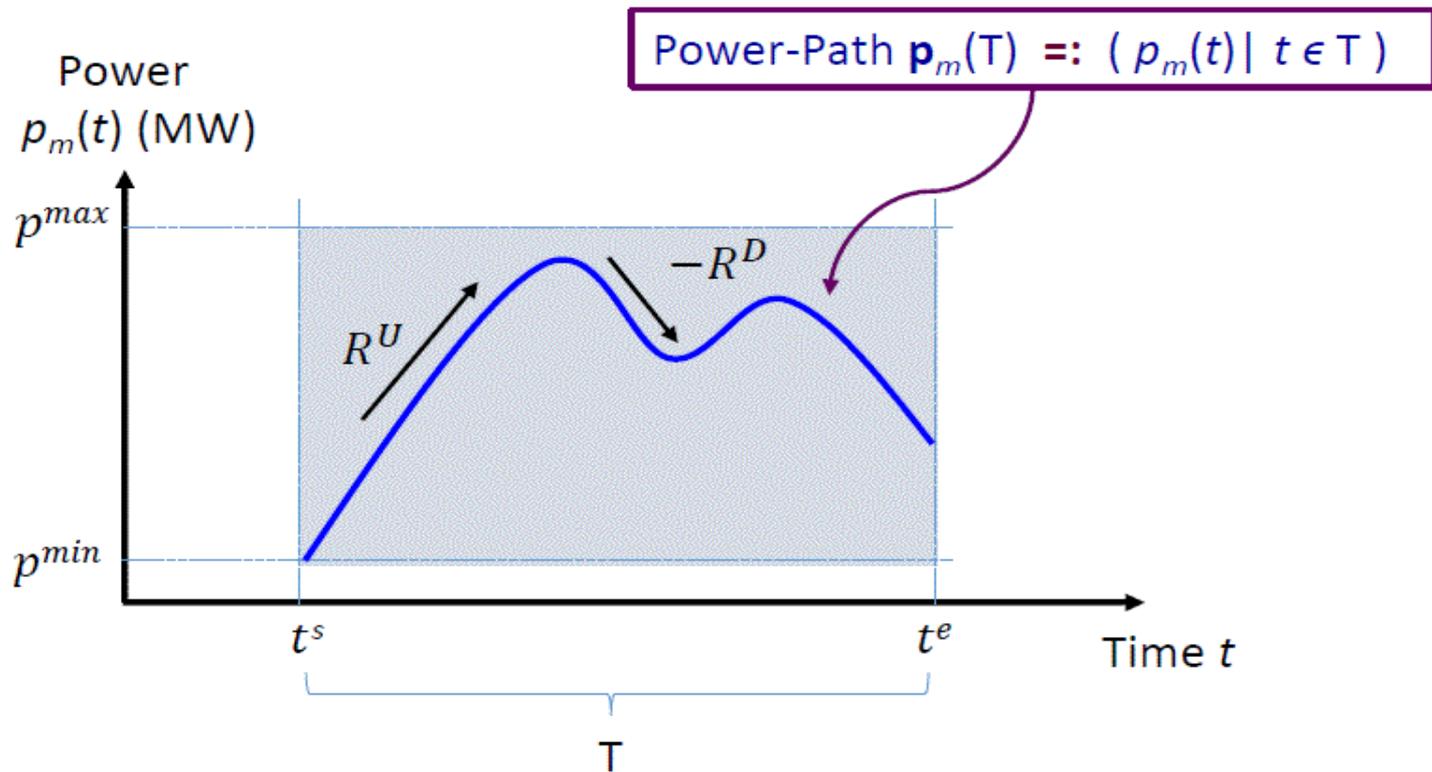
**Fig. 4:** The basic purpose of U.S. RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets is to support the efficient just-in-time production and transmission of bulk power to satisfy just-in-time customer power demands as well as just-in-time power requirements for reliable transmission-grid operation.

**Grid-Edge Resource (GER)** =: Any entity capable of power usage and/or power output that has a *direct* electrical point-of-connection to a *distribution* grid.

## Power-path for an operating period $T$ =:

Sequence of injections and/or withdrawals of power (MW) that take place at a *single* grid location *during* operating period  $T$ .

**\*Important\*:** a **power-path** is a **path through time** taking place at a **fixed location**.



**Fig. 2: Power-Path Illustration.** One of many power-paths offered by a dispatchable power resource  $m$  for possible RTO/ISO dispatch at its grid location  $b(m)$  during a future operating period  $T$ , where  $m$  has min/max limits on its generation capacity  $p$ , on its ramp-down-rate  $R^D$ , and on its ramp-up-rate  $R^U$ .

## Power-paths are not a commodity for grid-supported power markets

### □ Why Not?

- **Power-paths** have multiple types of dynamic and static attributes that affect how they are evaluated by power producers, power customers, and the RTO/ISO itself.
- Thus, power-paths do not have a standard unit of measurement  $u$  such that, conditional on location and start-time for an operating period  $T$ , each trader (supplier or buyer) considers any unit  $u'$  available for period- $T$  trade to be a perfect substitute for any other unit  $u''$  available for period- $T$  trade.

#### ***Examples of Dynamic Power-Path Attributes:***

- Down/up ramp-rate (MW/min) ***profile*** during  $T$  can affect producer cost (wear & tear) during  $T$ ;
- Active power (MW) ***profile*** during  $T$  can affect customer benefit during  $T$ ;
- Power factor (MW/MVAR) ***profile*** during  $T$  can affect power system reliability during  $T$ ,

where:

***profile during T*** =: Form that some measured attribute takes ***during*** operating period  $T$ .

- However, as carefully analyzed in **Ref. [3]**, reviewed in **Ref. [1]**, outlined in **Ref. [2]**, and briefly discussed in the following slides, “swing-contracts” are well-suited for the support of power-path transactions in U.S. RTO/ISO-managed markets.

# Linked Swing-Contract Market Design: Brief Overview

## □ Purpose

- Facilitate balancing of increasingly volatile & uncertain net load in grid-supported centrally-managed wholesale power markets.

## □ Novel Aspects

- Each swing-contract market is a *forward reserve market*;
- Reserve consists of *RTO/ISO-dispatchable power-paths*;
- Reserve offers take the form of *swing contracts*;
- Each swing (“flexibility”) contract is a *physically-covered insurance contract with two-part pricing*;
- This two-part pricing permits reserve suppliers to guarantee their *revenue sufficiency*.

# General Swing-Contract Reserve Offer Formulation

- The general form of a swing contract submitted by a dispatchable power resource  $m$  to a swing-contract market  $M(T)$  for a future operating period  $T$  consists of four components:

$$SC_m = \left( \alpha_m, T_m^{\text{ex}}, PP_m, \phi_m \right)$$

$\alpha_m$  =: offer price (insurance premium)

$T_m^{\text{ex}}$  =: Set of RTO/ISO exercise times

$PP_m$  =: Power-path production possibility set

$\phi_m$  =: Performance payment method

- The swing contract  $SC_m$  permits a dispatchable power resource  $m$ :
  - to offer the RTO/ISO a production-possibility set  $PP_m$  consisting of reserve (power-paths  $\mathbf{p}$ ) for possible RTO/ISO-dispatched delivery during  $T$  at  $m$ 's grid location  $b(m)$ ;
  - to specify with care the *swing (flexibility)* in the physical attributes of the offered power-paths  $\mathbf{p}$  in  $PP_m$ .
- The physical attributes of each offered power-path  $\mathbf{p}$  can include:
  - static attributes:** grid delivery location  $b(m)$ ; grid-delivered energy amount (MWh) ...
  - dynamic attributes:** power level *profile*; power-factor *profile*; ramp-rate *profile*; power-path *length (mileage)*; ...

## General Swing-Contract Reserve Offer Formulation ... *Continued*

➤ In addition, the swing contract  $SC_m = (\alpha_m, T_m^{\text{ex}}, PP_m, \phi_m)$

- permits  $m$  to request an **offer price  $\alpha_m$  (\$)** -- i.e., an insurance premium – that is sufficient to cover ex ante (i.e., in advance of T) any **avoidable fixed cost (\$)** that  $m$  must incur in order to guarantee the availability of the power-paths in  $PP_m$  for possible RTO/ISO dispatch at  $m$ 's grid location  $b(m)$  during T.

**Avoidable fixed cost examples:** Capital investment cost; transaction cost (insurance, licensing, ...); unit commitment cost; opportunity cost; ... *Ref. [1, Appendix A.4]*

- permits  $m$  to specify a **performance payment method  $\phi_m$**  that maps each power-path  $\mathbf{p} \in PP_m$  into a required performance payment  $\phi_m(\mathbf{p})$  (measured in \$). This allows  $m$  to recover ex post (i.e., after T) any **variable cost** that  $m$  incurs for verified period-T power-path delivery in accordance with RTO/ISO dispatch signals received during T.

**Variable cost examples:** Fuel cost; labor cost; transmission service charges; equipment wear and tear due to ramping; ... *Ref. [1, Appendix A.4]*

## General Swing-Contract Reserve Offer Formulation ... *Continued*

- The performance payment method  $\varphi_m$  should be explicitly expressed in terms of **performance metrics**.
- These performance metrics **should permit the RTO/ISO and  $m$** :
  - to agree *ex ante* (i.e., *in advance of T*) on nature of  $m$ 's *offered* power-path production *capabilities* for *possible* RTO/ISO-dispatched delivery *during T*;
  - to verify *ex post* (i.e., *after T*) the extent to which  $m$ 's *actual* period-T power-path delivery deviates from admissible dispatch set-points that the RTO/ISO has communicated to  $m$  during T (if any).

### **Example:**

Determine performance cost  $\varphi_m(\mathbf{p})$  of each power-path  $\mathbf{p}$  in  $\mathbf{PP}_m$  as a linear combination of metrics that separately assign costs to correlated attributes of  $\mathbf{p}$ , such as **delivered energy ( $E$ )**, **ramp ( $R$ )**, **duration ( $D$ )**, etc.

$$\varphi_m(\mathbf{p}) = c^E(\mathbf{p}) + c^R(\mathbf{p}) + c^D(\mathbf{p}) + \dots$$


Costs assigned to *correlated* attributes of a *single* power-path  $\mathbf{p}$

## Swing Contract Illustrative Examples: See Ref. [3, Chapter 5]

### Example 1: A simple energy-block swing contract in firm form

**Remark:** This simple type of swing contract can easily be modified to express current types of supply offers, such as ERCOT's three-part supply offer.

$$SC_m = [\alpha, \text{PP}, \phi]$$

where:

$\alpha$  = Offer price

$$\text{PP} = (b, t^s, p^{\text{disp}}, t^e)$$

$b$  = Delivery location

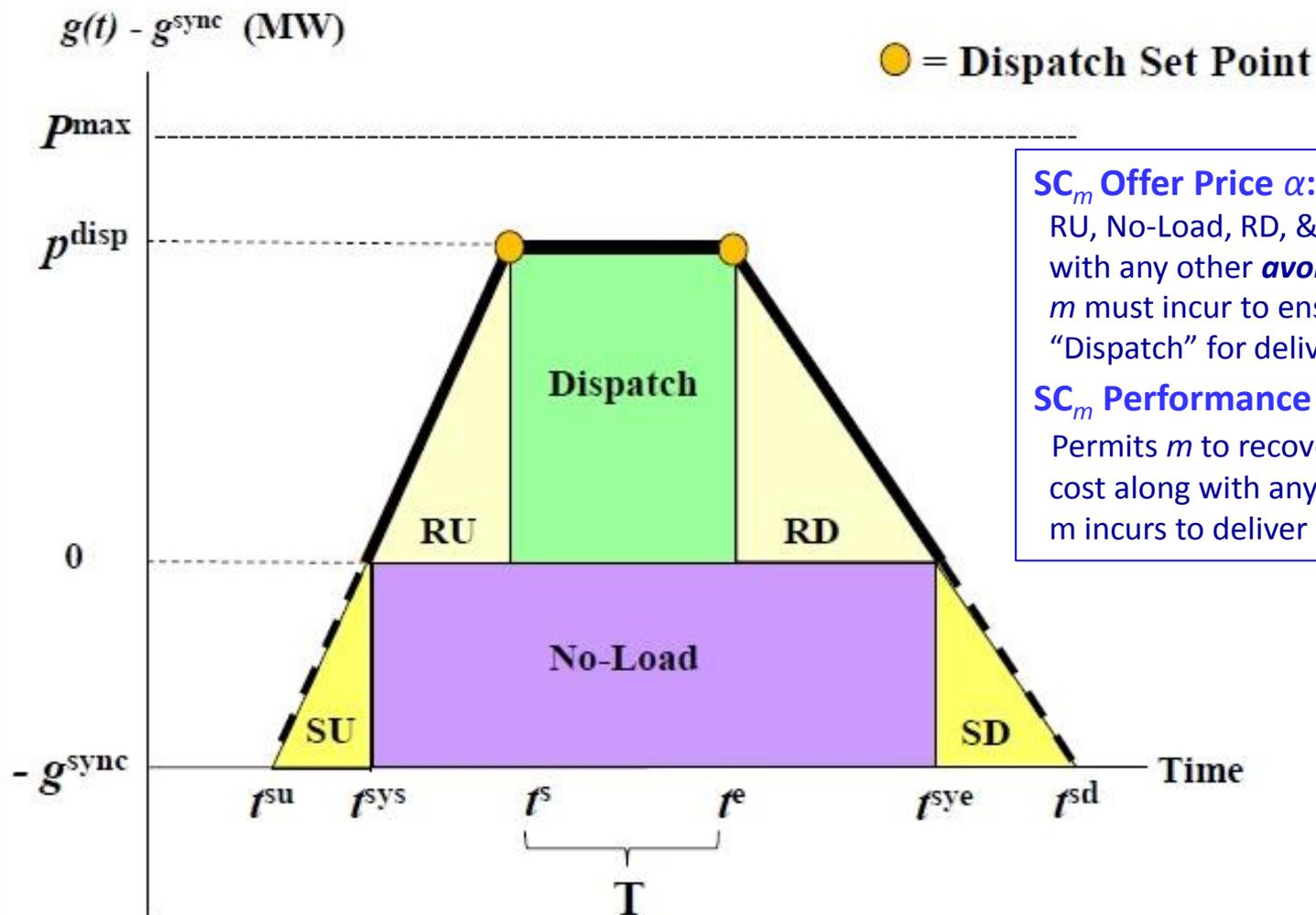
$t^s$  = Start time for energy block E

$p^{\text{disp}}$  = Maintained power injection for energy block E

$t^e$  = End-time for energy block E

$\phi$  = Pre-specified price  $\pi$  for delivered energy

## Example 1: A simple energy-block swing contract ... Continued



**SC<sub>m</sub> Offer Price  $\alpha$ :** Permits  $m$  to cover SU, RU, No-Load, RD, & SD energy costs along with any other **avoidable fixed** cost that  $m$  must incur to ensure the availability of “Dispatch” for delivery at  $b(m)$  during  $T$ .

**SC<sub>m</sub> Performance Payment Method  $\varphi$ :** Permits  $m$  to recover “Dispatch” energy cost along with any other **variable** cost that  $m$  incurs to deliver “Dispatch” at  $b(m)$  during  $T$ .

**Fig. 5:** Illustration of  $m$ 's **energy** requirements for delivery of energy-block “Dispatch” at  $m$ 's grid-location  $b(m)$  during operating period  $T$ : the energy block (“Dispatch”); start-up (“SU”); ramp-up (“RU”); no-load (“No-Load”), ramp-down (“RD”), and shut-down (“SD”).

## Example 2: A piecewise-linear swing contract in firm form

$$SC_m = [\alpha, \mathbb{PP}, \phi]$$



where:

$\alpha$  = Offer price

$$\mathbb{PP} = (b, t^s, p^s, \mathbb{RR}(R1), t^{E1}, \mathbb{P}(E1), t^{R2}, \mathbb{RR}(R2), t^{E2}, \mathbb{P}(E2), t^e)$$

$b$  = Delivery location

$t^s$  = Start-time for ramp interval R1

$p^s$  = Power injection level at start-time  $t^s$

$\mathbb{RR}(R1)$  = Set of feasible ramp-rates  $r(p^s, p_i(E1))$  for R1

$t^{E1}$  = Start-time for energy block E1

$\mathbb{P}(E1)$  = Set of feasible maintained power-steps  $p_i(E1)$  for E1

$t^{R2}$  = Start-time for ramp interval R2

$\mathbb{RR}(R2)$  = Set of feasible ramp-rates  $r(p_i(E1), p_j(E2))$  for R2

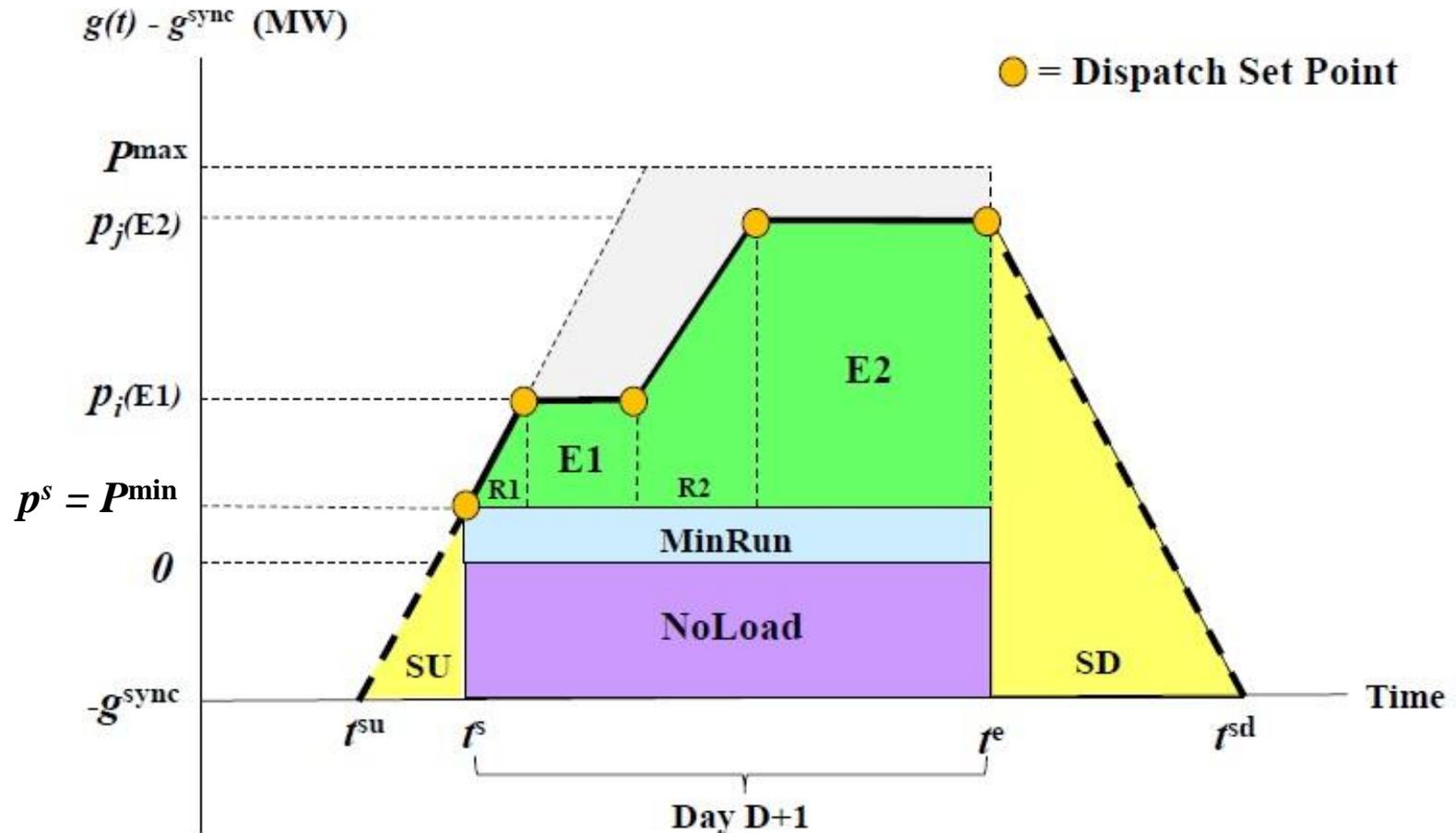
$t^{E2}$  = Start-time for energy block E2

$\mathbb{P}(E2)$  = Set of feasible maintained power-steps  $p_j(E2)$  for E2

$t^e$  = End-time for E2

$\phi$  = Payment for ramp and delivered energy calculated by means of power-path mileage and a pre-specified price  $\pi(p)$  for each  $p \in \mathbb{P}(E1) \cup \mathbb{P}(E2)$

## Example 2: A piecewise-linear swing contract ... Continued



**Fig. 6:** The depicted dispatched power-path is one among many possible power-paths  $\mathbf{p}$  the RTO/ISO could dispatch  $m$  to deliver at  $m$ 's grid-location  $b(m)$  during operating day  $D+1$  if the RTO/ISO clears  $m$ 's piecewise-linear swing-contract  $SC_m$  submitted to a swing-contract day-ahead market  $M(D+1)$  on day  $D$ .

**Example 3:** *A swing contract in firm form offering battery charge/discharge as an ancillary service*

$$SC_m = [\alpha, \mathbb{P}\mathbb{P}, \phi]$$

where:

$\alpha$  = Offer price

$$\mathbb{P}\mathbb{P} = (b, ECap^{\max}, \eta, t^s, SOC^s, RR, \mathbb{P}, t^e, SOC^e)$$

$b$  = Delivery location

$ECap^{\max}$  = Maximum energy storage capacity

$\eta$  = Round-trip efficiency

$t^s$  = Start-time for power discharge/charge

$SOC^s$  = Set of feasible state-of-charge percentages at  $t^s$

$\mathbb{P} = [P^{\min}, P^{\max}]$  = Range of feasible discharge/charge levels  $p$

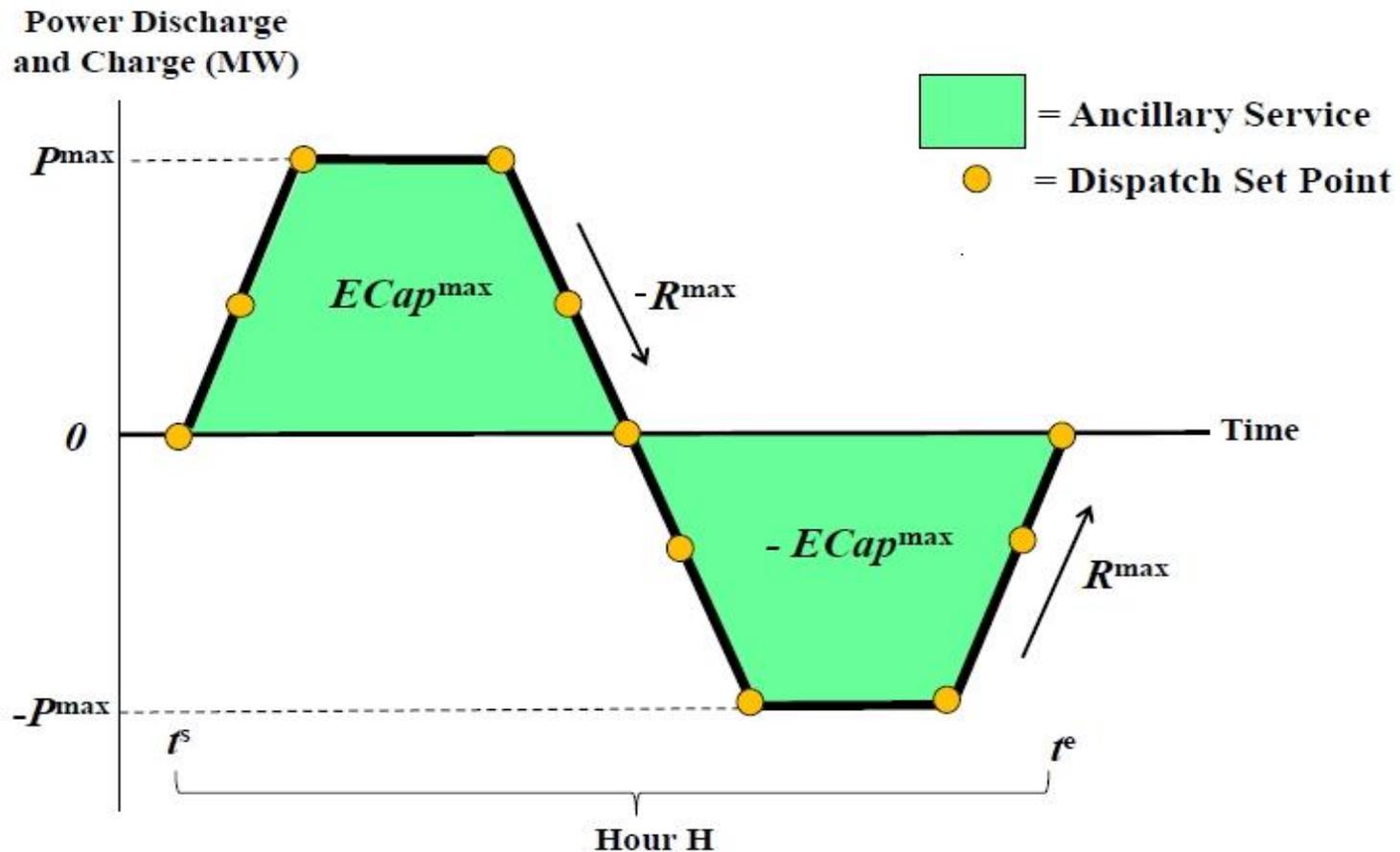
$RR = [-R^D, R^U]$  = Range of feasible ramp-rates  $r$

$t^e$  = End-time for power discharge/charge

$SOC^e$  = Set of feasible state-of-charge percentages at  $t^e$

$\phi$  = Performance payment method for down/up power-path delivery

## Example 3: A swing contract in firm form offering battery ... Continued



**Fig. 7:** Suppose  $SOC^s = SOC^e = \{100\%$ ,  $P^{\min} = -P^{\max}$ , and  $R^D = R^U =: R^{\max}$ . Then the depicted dispatched power-path is one among many possible power-paths  $\mathbf{p}$  the RTO/ISO could dispatch  $m$  to deliver at  $m$ 's grid-location  $b(m)$  during hour  $H = [t^s, t^e]$  if the RTO/ISO clears  $m$ 's battery service swing-contract  $SC_m$  submitted to a swing-contract market  $M(H)$  held in advance of  $H$ .

## Example 4: *Swing contract (firm) with flexible power & ramp*

**Note:** Proposed for Integrated T&D support (FERC Order No. 2222) in SC book *Ref. [2]*

$$SC_m = [\alpha, \mathbb{PP}, \phi]$$

where:

$\alpha$  = Offer price

$$\mathbb{PP} = (b, t^s, p^s, \mathbb{P}, \mathbb{RR}, t^e)$$

$b$  = Delivery location

$t^s$  = Start-time for power delivery

$p^s$  = Initial power level at time  $t^s$

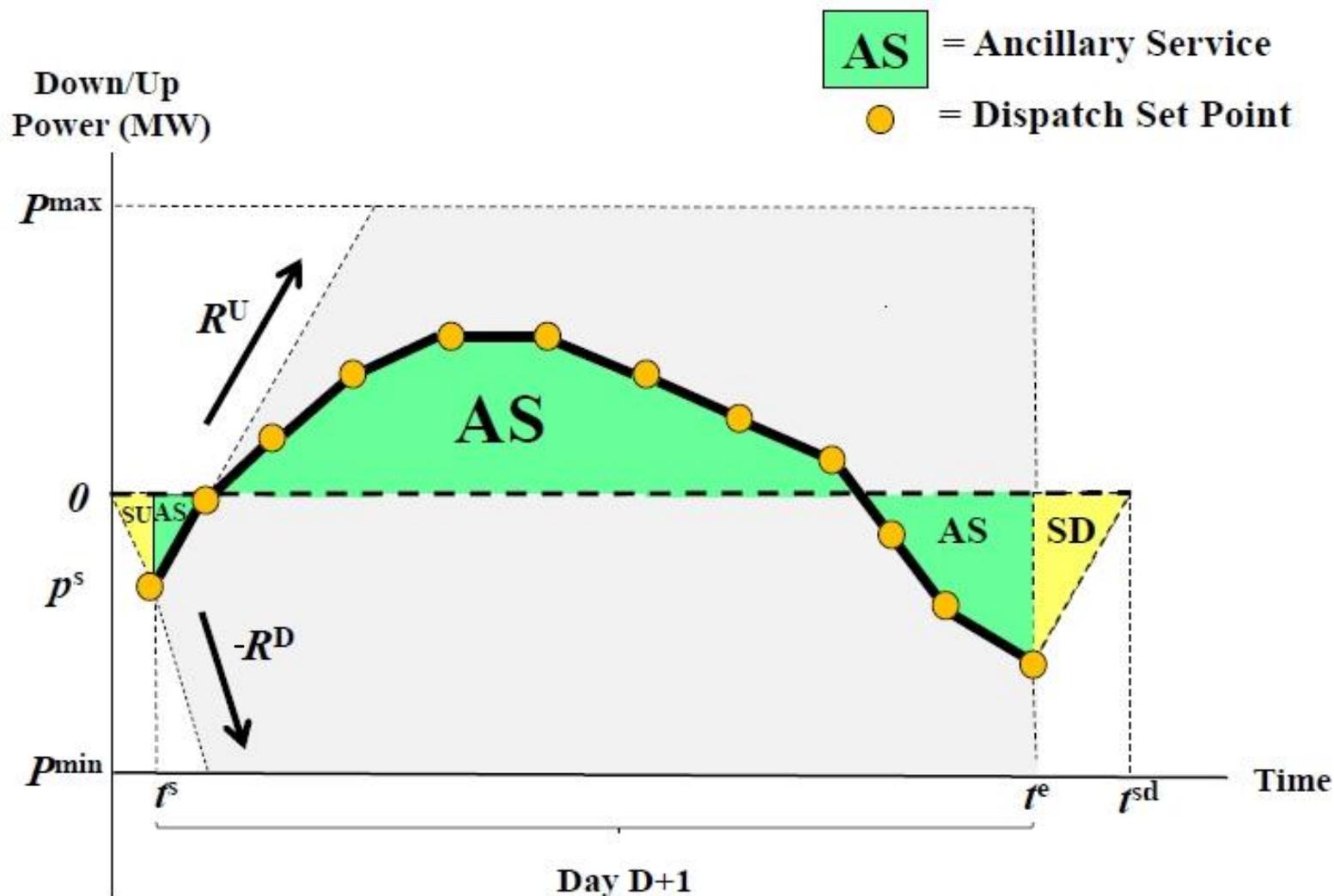
$\mathbb{P} = [P^{\min}, P^{\max}]$  = Range of feasible down/up power levels  $p$

$\mathbb{RR} = [-R^D, R^U]$  = Range of feasible down/up ramp-rates  $r$

$t^e$  = End-time for power delivery

$\phi$  = Performance payment method for power-path delivery

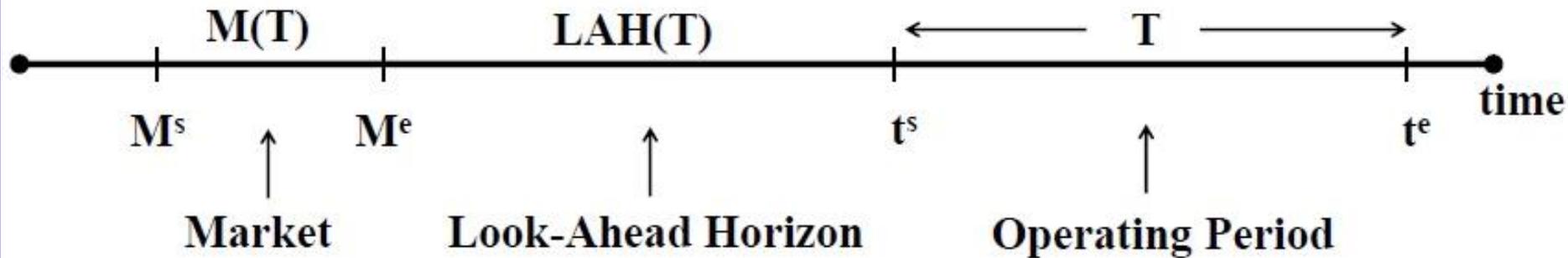
## Example 4: Swing contract (firm) with flexible power & ramp ... Continued



**Fig. 8:** The depicted dispatched power-path is one among many possible power-paths  $p$  the RTO/ISO could dispatch  $m$  to deliver at  $m$ 's grid-location  $b(m)$  during operating day  $D+1$  if the RTO/ISO clears  $m$ 's flexible power/ramp swing-contract  $SC_m$  submitted to a swing-contract day-ahead market  $M(D+1)$  held on day  $D$ .

□ Swing-Contract Market  $M(T)$ : Key Features Ref. [1, Sec. 6]; Ref. [2, Chapter 6]

- A swing-contract market  $M(T)$  for a future operating period  $T$  is an RTO/ISO-managed forward reserve market for  $T$ .
- General time-line for  $M(T)$ :



- The **Look-Ahead-Horizon**  $LAH(T)$  can range from very long (multiple years) to very short (minutes);
- The **operating period**  $T$  can range from very long (multiple years) to very short (minutes).

### ■ Load-Serving Entities (LSEs)

— Each LSE submits to M(T) a **reserve bid**, i.e., a request for power-path delivery during T in price-sensitive and/or *fixed (non-dispatched must-service)* form.

### ■ Dispatchable Power Resources (DPRs) denoted $m \in M$

— Each  $m$  submits to M(T) a **reserve offer** consisting of a portfolio

$$\mathbf{SC}_m = ( SC_{m1}, \dots, SC_{mN(m)} )$$

of  $N(m) \geq 1$  swing contracts  $SC_{mi}$ , each offering a physically characterized collection of power-paths for possible RTO/ISO dispatched delivery during T.

### ■ Intermittent Power Resources (IPRs)

— The RTO/ISO inputs into M(T) a **forecast** for IPR power-path at each transmission grid bus during period T.

### ❑ Contract-Clearing Optimization Problem for RTO/ISO Managing M(T):

- Which price-sensitive reserve bids to clear for T ?
- Which reserve offers to clear for T?

### ❑ Objective function: *Expected Total Net Benefit* of the M(T) participants from period-T operations, where:

*Total Net Benefit* =: [Reserve Benefit – Reserve Cost]

*Reserve Benefit* =: [Customer benefit expressed by their reserve bids]

*Reserve Cost* =: [Offer Cost (OC) + Performance Cost (PC) + Imbalance Cost (IC) ]

### ❑ Optimization: **Select** contract-clearing binary (yes/no) decisions **that**

**maximize** Expected Total Net Benefit

- **conditional on** initial state conditions **plus** information extracted from submitted reserve offers and reserve bids
- **and subject to** the usual types of SCED system constraints (e.g., nodal power-balance, transmission capacity limits, reserve uncertainty sets, ...)

## Swing-Contract Market M(T): Key Features ... RTO/ISO Cost Allocation Rules

- Allocate **M(T) net reserve cost** across M(T) participants based on *anticipated volatility/size* and *ex-post realization* of their **net fixed load during T**, where:

### **M(T) Net Reserve Cost**

=: RTO/ISO *net* reserve procurement cost from M(T) operations

=: [Offer cost] *plus* [performance cost] *minus* [revenue from price-sensitive demand]

### **Net Fixed Load of an M(T)-participant $j$ during T**

=: [ **Fixed** (*non-dispatched must-service*) power **demand** by  $j$  during T]

*minus* **Fixed** (*non-dispatched must-service*) power **supply** by  $j$  during T]

- Allocate **M(T) transmission service cost** across M(T) participants based on:

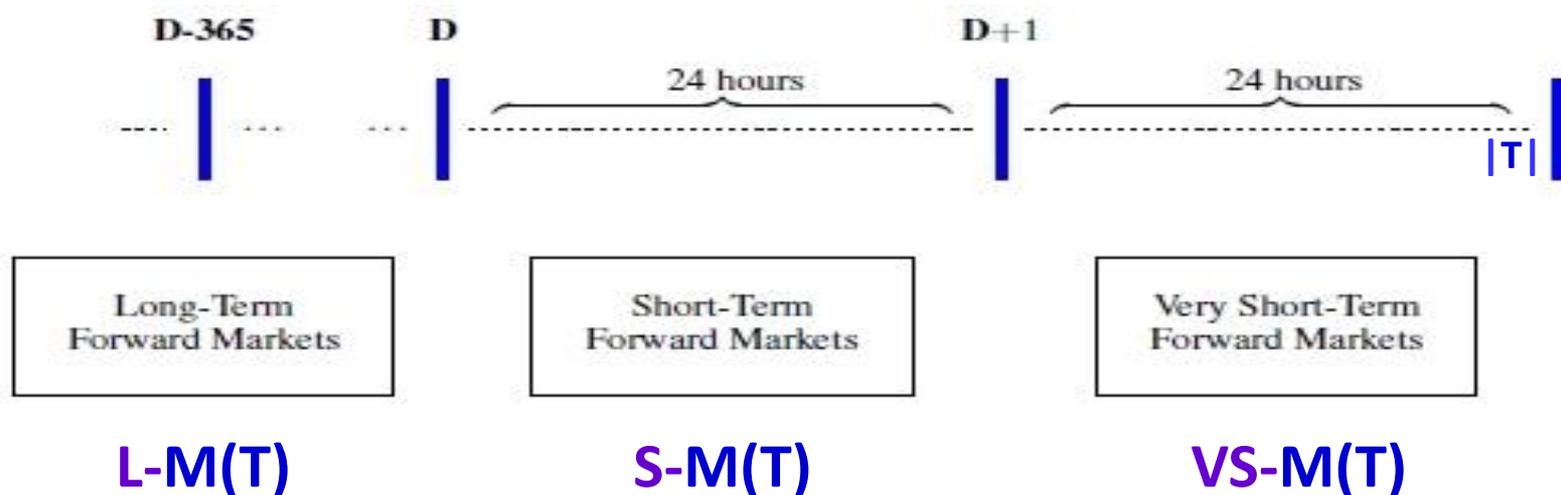
— relative power imbalance **RPI(b,T)** recorded at each grid location  $b$  during T; and

— relative contribution of each M(T)-participant  $j$  to **RPI(b(j),T)**, where  $b(j)$  =:  $j$ 's grid location.

## Case 1: Intertemporal Linkages for a Given Operating Period T

Linked SC markets  $M(T)$  for a *given* future operating period T with Look-Ahead Horizons LAH(T) ranging from *long* (L) to *short* (S) to *very short* (VS)

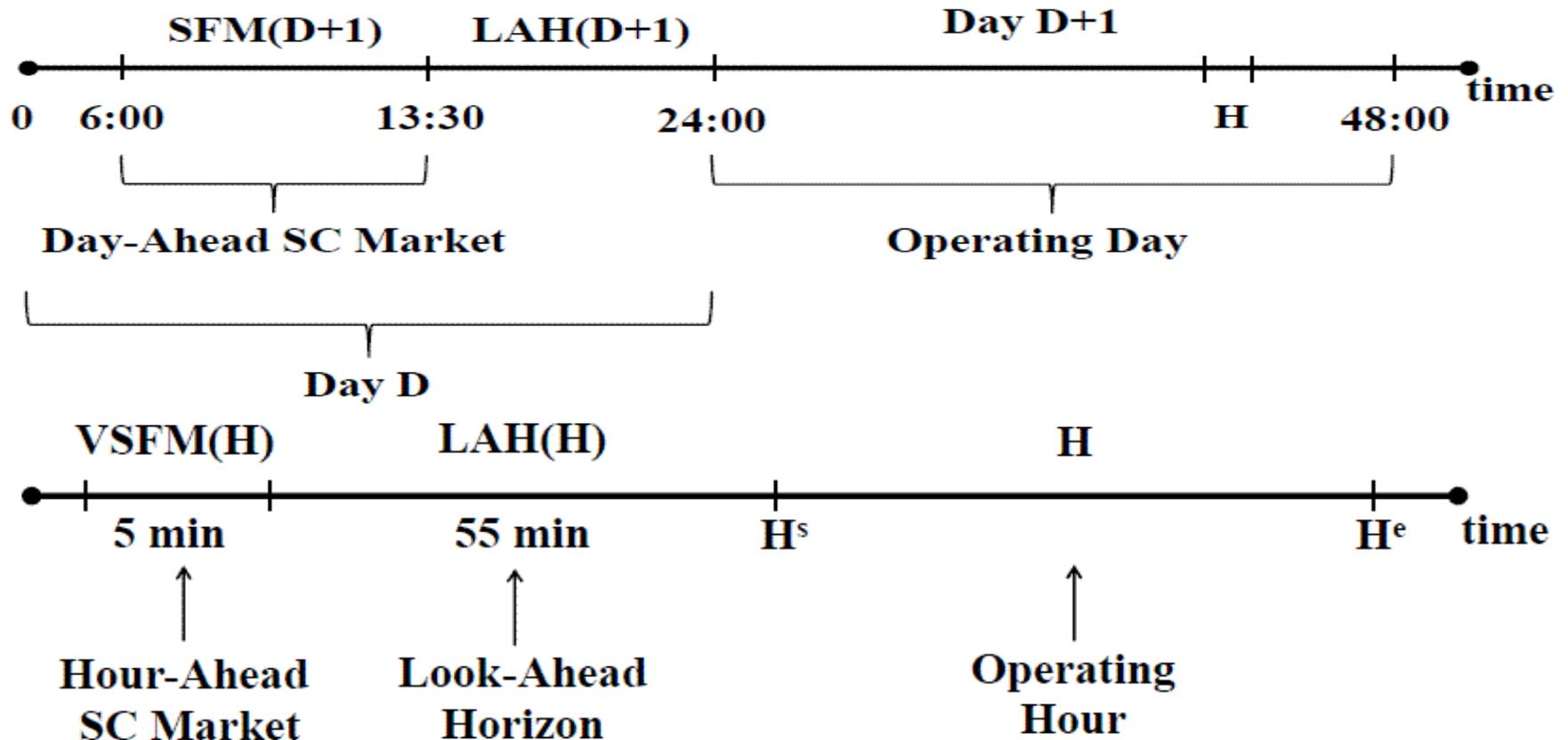
- *Linkage* is established among the *successive* SC markets  $M(T)$  for the *given* T by **ISOPort(T)** =: Portfolio of RTO/ISO-cleared reserve offers and reserve bids for T, plus past RTO/ISO-signaled dispatch set-points, that the RTO/ISO carries forward through time for use during T.
- The RTO/ISO *updates* **ISOPort(T)** in *successive* SC markets  $M(T)$  held *prior to* T to include any *newly-cleared* swing contracts for T and/or any *newly-signaled* dispatch set-points.



# Linked Swing-Contract Markets ... *Continued*

## Case 2: Nested Operating Periods

- *Linked day-ahead & hour-ahead SC markets for a given operating hour H during a given operating day D+1*



## Comparisons with Current U.S. RTO/ISO-Managed Markets

- Detailed comparisons with current RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power market designs are given in *Ref. [2, Chps. 2-3, 12-15]*.
- The next two tables outline key similarities & differences between the two designs for the special case of a **Day-Ahead Market (DAM)**.

### **Important Note:**

- The *essential differences* between current U.S. RTO/ISO-managed DAM designs and the swing-contract DAM design proposed in *Ref. [2]* are ***differences in product definition, contractual forms, settlement rules, and RTO/ISO management practices*** --- ***not*** differences in real-time operations.
- ***These differences can be introduced gradually*** into current RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets; see *Ref. [2, Ch. 16]* for a “Transitional DAM” example.

## Illustrative DAM Comparisons: Basic Features

		<b>Current DAM</b>	<b>SC DAM</b>
Similarities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted day-ahead to plan for next-day operations</li> <li>RTO/ISO-managed</li> <li>Market participants include LSEs, DPRs, &amp; IPRs</li> <li>Same types of system constraints: Nodal power balance, zonal reserve requirements, line capacity limits, ...</li> </ul>	
Differences	Optimization form	SCUC & SCED	Optimal contract clearing
	Settlement	Locational marginal prices	Swing contracts are two-part pricing contracts
	Market payments	Payment for next-day energy before actual energy delivery	Payment for resource availability now & resource performance ex post
	OOM payments	Make-whole payments	No make-whole payments
	Info released to participants	Unit commitments, LMPs, & next-day dispatch schedule	Which swing contracts have been cleared

## Illustrative DAM Comparisons: Optimization Formulations

		Current DAM SCUC	Current DAM SCED	SC DAM Optimization
Similarities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both SCUC and swing-contract (SC) market clearing are solved as Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) optimization problems subject to system constraints</li> </ul>		
Differences	Objective	Min [Start-up/shut-down costs + no-load costs + dispatch costs + reserve costs + constraint penalties]	Min [Dispatch costs + reserve costs + constraint penalties]	Min [Availability cost + performance cost + constraint penalties]
	Unit commitment constraints	Yes	No	Each DPR includes its unit commitment constraints in its submitted swing contract
	Key RTO/ISO decision variables	Unit commitments	Energy dispatch & reserve levels	Which swing-contracts are cleared
	Settlement	No	LMPs calculated as SCED dual variables	Each cleared DPR receives the offer price it has included in its submitted swing contract

# Conclusion

- ❑ This presentation first identified three conceptually-problematic aspects of current U.S. RTO/ISO-managed wholesale power markets hindering smooth transition to decarbonized grid operations with diverse participants: product definitions; settlement rules; and supply-offer formulations.
  
- ❑ Attention next focused on product definition and settlement-rule concerns:
  - Static focus on grid-delivered energy (MWh) as the basic transacted product.
  
  - Failure of grid-delivered energy to satisfy a fundamental unit homogeneity property necessary for Locational Marginal Pricing (LMP) to provide a conceptually-coherent settlement process for grid-delivered energy transactions
  
- ❑ Key features of a new Linked Swing-Contract Market Design were then briefly reviewed.
  - This design provides proof-of-concept (at TRL-3) that alternative conceptually-consistent designs can be developed for grid-supported centrally-managed wholesale power markets that are well-suited for decarbonized grid operations with diverse market participants.
  
  - Adoption of this design would require changes in current U.S. RTO/ISO-managed market product definition, settlement rules, and supply-offer forms, but *not* in real-time operations. Thus, the adoption could proceed gradually, without disruption of real-time operations.

# Key References

**Ref. [1]** Leigh Tesfatsion (2023), "**Economics of Grid-Supported Electric Power Markets: A Fundamental Reconsideration,**" Econ WP #22005, ISU Digital Repository, Ames, IA, 65pp.  
<https://www2.econ.iastate.edu/tesfatsi/EconomicsGridSupportedPowerMarkets.ISUDR22005.LTesfatsion.pdf>

**NOTE:** **Ref. [1]** is the Supporting Document ("Attachment A") for *Comments* (Accession No. 20230117-5051) e-filed in January 2023 to the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for Docket No. AD21-10-000 ("Modernizing Wholesale Electric Power Market Design").

**Ref. [2]** Leigh Tesfatsion (2023), "**Locational Marginal Pricing: When and Why Not,**" Working Paper #23003, ISU Digital Repository, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.  
<https://www2.econ.iastate.edu/tesfatsi/LMPWhenAndWhyNot.LTesfatsion.pdf>

**Ref. [3]** Leigh Tesfatsion (2021), ***A New Swing-Contract Design for Wholesale Power Markets***, 20 Chapters, 288pp., John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (IEEE Press Series on Power Engineering), Hoboken, New Jersey, USA. ([Wiley/IEEEPressBookFlyer.pdf](#)).