

Cracking the California Code

Improving California Market Efficiency through Simpler Models and More Information

October 12, 2000



Current State

◆ Secret, black-box models used to price transmission and dispatch in real time.



◆ Limited data release. ISO and PX provide little detailed data on unit status, actual flows, and bid curves.



Analytical Monopoly - only the market analysis entities within ISO and PX have enough information to ascertain what is going on.



How Did We Get Here?

- Market was originally designed by economists and system operators.
- ◆ Significant market design oversights:
 - Did not anticipate importance of transaction intermediaries (legacy of vertically integrated utility mindset).
 - Did not anticipate power of external control areas to influence operating rules.
- Many market participants, both generation owners and distribution companies, have worked hard to ensure that little data gets released by the PX and ISO.
- CAISO has not made data release a top priority.



Why Does It Matter?

- ◆ Econ 101: Information dissemination is a defining characteristic of a market.
- ◆ Increase efficiency of short-term and real-time markets.
- ◆ Information withheld from new generation developers. Increases risk of investment.
- ◆ Everyone needs to understand what is going on. Bust the information monopoly.



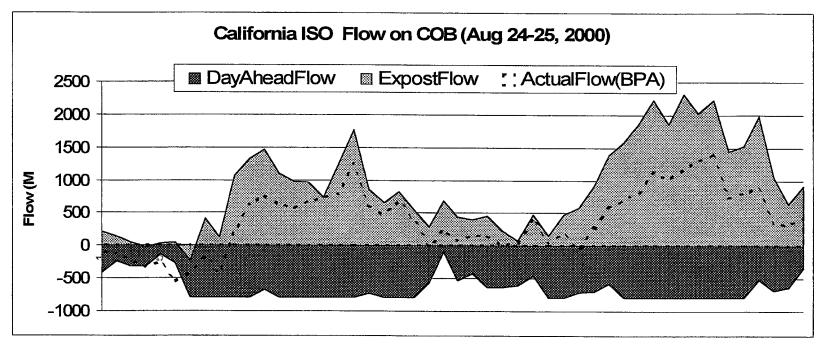
The Need for Simpler Models

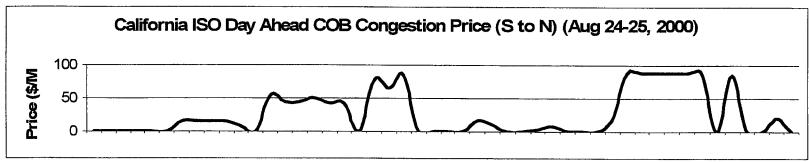
Example: Congestion Management

- ◆ Complex, proprietary software used to calculate congestion charges.
- ◆ Implicit transmission auction through complicated inc/dec process.
- Congestion prices don't always reflect actual system conditions.



COB Whiplash: CA ISO Day Ahead and Real Time Flow







Congestion Management Proposal

- ◆ Explicit bidding for physical transmission rights.
- Physical right required for scheduling.
- ◆ Large scale release of rights in forward market.
- ◆ Mandatory capacity release to avoid hoarding.

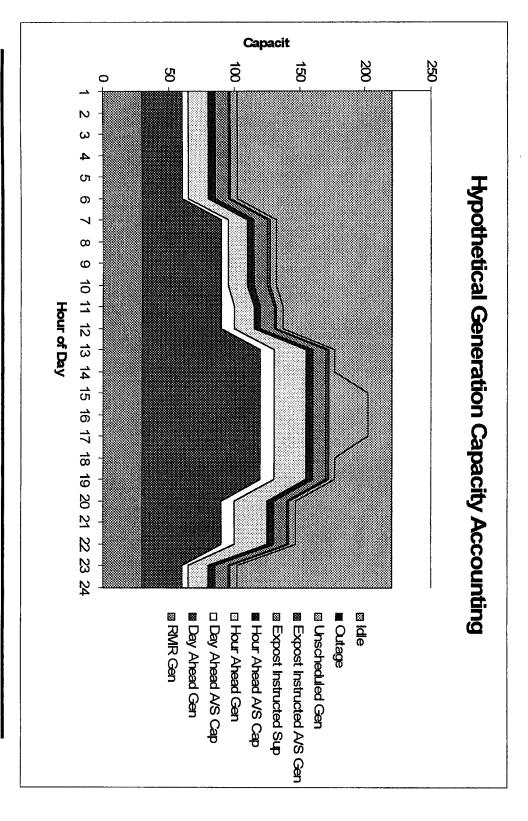


Status of Data Release: ISO and PX Release Hodge-Podge of Data

- ◆ ISO/PX provides incomplete information on system status (e.g., neglects to provide basic information such as actual flow on interties and actual load by zone).
- ◆ ISO/PX does not supply participant specific information (with the exception of Ex Post market).
- ◆ ISO/PX supplies little data on submitted bid or offer curves.

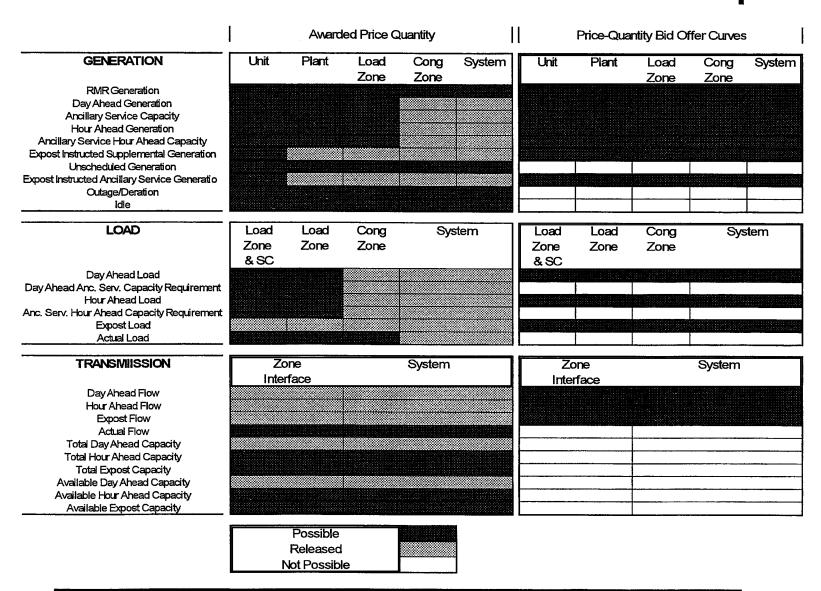


Data Release Nirvana: Every MW in System Tracked Publicly



Cracking the California Code

CA ISO Information Dissemination Map





Summary

- ◆ Information is good and more is better (high benefit, low cost).
- ◆ Declassify market models: Changing market models is difficult, but providing information about model operation, assumptions, inputs, and outputs is easy.
- ◆ Bust the Information Monopoly: Regulators must press for full, public information dissemination from ISO.
- Northwest and Southwest RTO should heed shortcomings in California market design.