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PRESS RELEASE

Clean Power Research Takes on PV Fleet Management Challenges with Ground-Breaking Data Sources and Analysis Capabilities

Utilities and ISOs can now plan and operate PV fleets reliably and cost-effectively, enabling higher PV penetration and reducing costs

Denver, Colo., May 15, 2012, World Renewable Energy Forum Booth 1018 – Clean Power Research® (www.cleanpower.com) today introduced industry-leading SolarAnywhere® High Resolution irradiance data and newly patented fleet analysis methodologies that together provide unprecedented insight into the impact of distributed PV on grid operation. SolarAnywhere FleetView™ addresses the need for fleet management by enabling utilities and ISOs to cost-effectively and reliably integrate distributed PV into the grid, allowing for higher PV penetration and reducing costs for utilities, ratepayers and PV system owners.

“After successfully deploying more distributed PV than any other state, this tool will fill a vital role in California by ensuring reliable and cost-effective integration of the renewable energy generated by those systems,” said Michael R. Peevey, president of the California Public Utilities Commission.

PV systems—from residential to utility-scale—experience rapid changes in power output due to cloud cover. As more PV systems are installed in a given area, this variability poses a challenge for utilities and ISOs who are responsible for grid stability. SolarAnywhere FleetView addresses these challenges by offering a scalable approach to estimating and analyzing the impact of any defined fleet of PV systems, whether located on a distribution feeder or spread across a load balancing area.

“Understanding how distributed PV impacts grid operations has been a clear focus for the utilities we’ve worked with in researching this technology,” said Tom Hoff, president of Research and Consulting at Clean Power Research. “But the expense and difficulty of obtaining the information needed to do integration studies has traditionally been very high. We’ve developed a scalable and affordable solution that employs satellite-derived irradiance data rather than data gathered from ground sensors. This data, combined with our patented fleet variability analytics, makes it possible to conduct a wide range of planning studies and forecast power output without large infrastructure investments. Reducing costs and enabling more PV integration benefits everyone by preserving the value that comes from renewable energy generation.”

Research Reinforces Benefits of Fleet Management Capabilities

Studies have shown that spreading PV systems out over a large service area mitigates the problem of short-term variability, making it easier for grid operators to manage. Recent research using



SolarAnywhere fleet variability methodologies found that geographic dispersion also has a similar positive effect on the accuracy of variability predictions. These results give utilities and ISOs confidence in the ability of new services such as SolarAnywhere FleetView to provide the data needed to cost-effectively maintain grid stability even as PV penetration increases.

To read more about this study, the paper “Predicting Short-Term Variability of High-Penetration PV” is available for download at: www.cleanpower.com/resources/high-penetration-pv-variability-prediction.

SolarAnywhere FleetView

Key to SolarAnywhere FleetView is the ability to collect irradiance data at the short time intervals required to calculate ramp rates for planning and short-term forecasting. SolarAnywhere High Resolution data is the first satellite-derived irradiance data available in the U.S. with a resolution of 1 km x 1 km at 1 minute-intervals.

Also key to these services is the ability to calculate variability of a defined fleet of PV systems. In April, Clean Power Research was granted three patents on the PV fleet variability methodologies used in SolarAnywhere FleetView.

Learn more in the whitepaper “Behind-the-Meter Intelligence for Distributed PV Grid Integration,” available for download at: www.cleanpower.com/resources/behind-the-meter-intelligence.

SolarAnywhere Irradiance Data

SolarAnywhere is the leading source of downloadable satellite-derived solar irradiance data for the continental U.S. and Hawaii. The lab of Dr. Richard Perez at the University at Albany (SUNY) provides models and research innovations for SolarAnywhere, which are an evolution of Perez’s work as encompassed in the “[SUNY gridded data](#)” of the National Solar Resource Database (NSRDB).

SolarAnywhere forecast, real-time and historical data is now available in three resolutions to meet a variety of planning and operational needs. Interested users can get started by accessing data free of charge at www.solaranywhere.com.

World Renewable Energy Forum 2012

Clean Power Research is exhibiting in booth #1018 at the World Renewable Energy Forum in Denver, Colo., May 13-17, and is participating in eight presentations. A full speaking schedule is available at: www.cleanpower.com/events/world-renewable-energy-forum/.

About Clean Power Research

Clean Power Research provides software, research and consulting services to power intelligent energy decisions. Solar prediction, economic valuation and program optimization products make it simple for customers to get fast, accurate, location-specific information about the energy, economic and environmental impact of their renewable energy projects. Utilities, government, state energy offices, engineers, developers, manufacturers, installers and financiers rely on Clean Power Research for project siting, planning and operations, incentive program management, and renewable energy sales tools. Founded in 1998, the company has offices in Napa, Calif., and Kirkland, Wash. For more information, visit www.cleanpower.com.

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