Discussion

Hugh Rudnick (Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile) I congratulate the authors on a much needed bibliography. The literature is very extensive and I understand the difficulty in deciding on the most relevant to include. I suggested several of the references to the authors, particularly from outside the US, where earlier developments on transmission open access have taken place. The subject is critical for the stability of competitive deregulated environments and an explosion of research and development further research in the US. In other countries it has implied close collaborative work between electrical engineers and economists; is that happening in the US?

New countries are adopting open access schemes as the basis of their deregulation actions. Peru and Bolivia are the latest in South America, with Colombia and Brazil most probably following [8]. An international panel on Transmission Open Access organized by Dr. T.W. Hissey, Macro Corporation, and myself, provided a global view of issues arising in the actual exercise of open access in different countries worldwide [9,24]. Europe has been considering open access [3,5], but disagreement has slowed the process [16], let aside the difficulties faced in such endeavor at a continental scale. Where is dissent to open access taking place in the US and which are the main concerns?

I suggest the following additional references:


In the United States, collaborative work between electrical engineers and economists regarding transmission access issues is in an early stage, and this is particularly true for R&D efforts. There are some indications, however, that this may soon change. For example, recently, there has been a significant increase in participation of brokerage and energy trading personnel (many of whom are economists) in traditional power engineering conferences such as the IEEE PES, the American Power Conference, and others. There are several areas where such engineer-economist collaborative efforts seem appropriate; two of them are:

1. Development of appropriate prices for a menu of unbundled transmission related or ancillary services and
2. Development of organizational and procedural methods of providing individual participant autonomy required by the market while still satisfying the coordination needs required to retain acceptable levels of system reliability.

Regarding Dr. Rudnick's second question, we believe most of the U.S. electric energy industry recognizes that competition will play a major role in the future, and any "dissent" correctly characterizes the expressions of only a few people. However, there are several issues that have focused discussion, and this discussion is ongoing. As an example, the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has recently released a "Notice of Proposed Rule Making" (NOPR) [1] which solicits comments from affected parties regarding many of these issues. We therefore refer Dr. Rudnick to this and other similar documents as timely summaries of current critical issues and main concerns regarding transmission open access in the United States.

In closing, we again thank Dr. Rudnick for his comments and for the significant addition of references to the bibliography. We note that several of these references were published in the nine-month period between May 1994, when this paper was submitted, and January 29, 1994, the date of the IEEE PES Winter Meeting. This shows the large amount of activity related to the bibliography subject, suggesting that periodic updates may be appropriate.


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