Inconsistent GHG and RE Accounting Policies and the Western EIM

Todd Jones Director, Policy and Climate Change Programs Center for Resource Solutions Western EIM Regional Issues Forum June 18, 2019 Folsom, CA



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Source-based vs. load-based



WESTERN U.S. POLICY LANDSCAPE







The Disconnect between the Market and State Policy

- You can have both source-based and load-based policies with an organized market.
- All load-based policies require a tracking instrument.
- It's okay to have a separate system for tracking attributes.
- Negative impact on the market from load-based state policies are due to policy design (e.g. market boundaries, bundling requirements), not the accounting instrument (e.g. the REC).



Example: California's Imports Policy for Cap-and-trade

 CA's assignment of emissions (attributes) to imported power without requiring the RECs for RE raises double counting concerns.





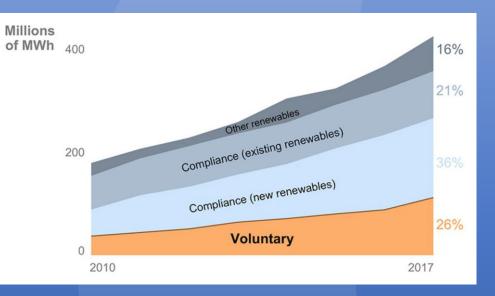
Wind facility in WA exports power to CA and the REC stays in WA

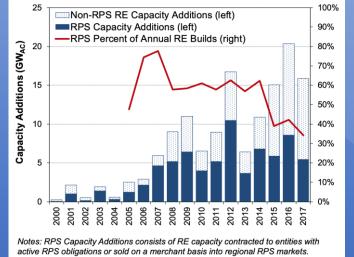
The same RE is serving load in both WA and CA, and there are discrepancies between programs in both WA and CA.

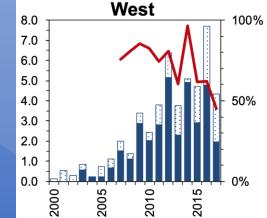
WA RPS (through 2030) – renewable WA CETA – REC may not be eligible due to CA MRR CA PSD (proposed) – not renewable, no REC CA MRR – renewable EF, no compliance obligation



The Voluntary RE Market







Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory



Over 300 facilities and over 9,500 MW of installed capacity in the WECC served the Green-e[®] voluntary market in 2017, with over 7.4 million MWh of supply.



Example: California's Imports Policy for Cap-and-trade

• CA's imports policy is affecting load-based policies.



2 problems:

- 1. Inconsistency between load-based policies in terms of tracking instrument used.
- 2. Smaller state program boundaries.

The right policies are those that don't double count, match market boundaries, and make an incremental difference.



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