Unlocking the Queue with Grid-Enhancing Technologies: Case Study of the Southwest Power Pool

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Unlocking the Queue

Study Outline

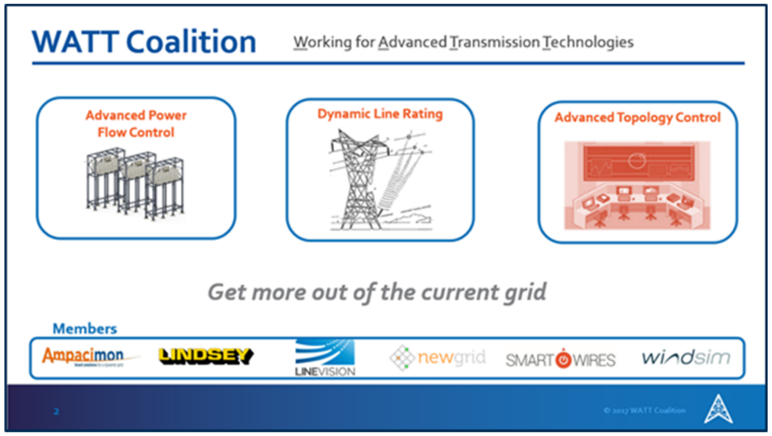
- The SPP GI Queue shows over 9 GW of renewables with signed Interconnection Agreements (IA) awaiting in the KS/OK region.
- Can GETs (Dynamic Line Ratings, Advanced Topology Optimization, and Advanced Power Flow Control) help integrate these projects?
- Analysis performed for test year of 2025 (not enough time to build new transmission).
- Analysis looks at the combined benefits of the 3 GETs.

Slides following are excerpted from the full report.
The full report is available at: https://watt-transmission.org/2021/02/22/unlocking-the-queue/

Study Overview

Goal: Analyze how much additional renewables can be added to the grid using Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs):

- GETs enhance transmission operations and planning.
- GETs complement building new transmission—they can bridge the timing gap until permanent expansion solutions can be put in place, and improve the B/C ratio of new transmission projects.
- The study focuses on the combined impact of the following three technologies:
  - **Advanced Power Flow Control**: Injects voltage in series with a facility to increase or decrease effective reactance, thereby pushing power off overloaded facilities or pulling power on to under-utilized facilities.
  - **Dynamic Line Ratings (DLR)**: Adjusts thermal ratings based on actual weather conditions including, at a minimum, ambient temperature and wind, in conjunction with real-time monitoring of resulting line behavior.
  - **Topology Optimization**: Automatically finds reconfiguration to re-route flow around congested or overloaded facilities while meeting reliability criteria.



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Study Approach

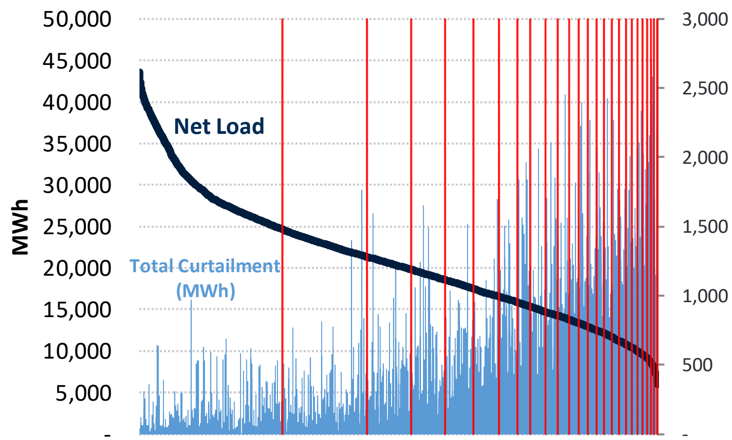
Study purpose

- Quantify the benefits of **the three GETs combined** for integrating renewable resources (largely wind) using SPP as a test bed.

Analysis approach

- Select 24 representative historical power flow snapshots of SPP operations (2019 – 2020) that together reasonably represent a full year.
- Modify the snapshots to reflect new transmission upgrades, renewable projects from the GI queue, announced retirements, load change, etc.
- Find the maximum renewables amount (GW and GWh) that can be integrated under a business as usual scenario (Base Case) and then with GETs (With GETs Case), sequentially in the order of DLR, Topology Optimization, and Advanced Power Flow Control, by simulating the entire SPP system using the 24 power flow cases.
- Assess benefits of GETs including economic values (production costs, jobs, local benefits etc.) and carbon emissions reduction.

Net Load and Wind Curtailment



Areas between red line indicates the bins from which snapshots were selected, blue bars indicate curtailment of renewables. Each bin contains equal amounts of curtailment.

Study Results - 1/4

GETs enable more than twice the amount of additional new renewables to be integrated.

- Potential Renewables Considered: 9,430 MW
  - Based on queue projects with IA executed.
- Integrated Renewables (without further transmission upgrades)
  - Base Case: 2,580 MW
  - With GETs Case: 5,250 MW
  - Delta (With GETs Case – Base Case): 2,670 MW

RENEWABLE POTENTIAL ASSUMED FOR KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

State	Wind	Solar	Total
Kansas	3,410	120	3,530
Oklahoma	5,760	140	5,900
Total	9,170	260	9,430

[Rounded to the nearest 10 MW]

~1.5 times the amount of wind SPP integrated in 2019 (1.8 GW).

ADDITIONAL RENEWABLES INTEGRATED

State	Base Case			With GETs Case			Delta (GETs - Base)		
	Wind	Solar	Total	Wind	Solar	Total	Wind	Solar	Total
Kansas	1,710	0	1,710	1,910	0	1,910	200	0	200
Oklahoma	770	100	870	3,200	140	3,340	2,430	40	2,470
Total	2,480	100	2,580	5,110	140	5,250	2,630	40	2,670

X2

[Rounded to the nearest 10 MW]

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Study Results - 2/4

GETs enable more than twice the amount of additional new renewables to be integrated.

- Additional renewables enabled by GETs: **2,670 MW / 8,776 GWh**.
  - 2,630 MW of **new wind** is assumed to produce over 8,640 GWh of energy per year.
  - 40 MW of **new solar** is assumed to produce about 60 GWh of energy per year.
  - GETs lower curtailment of **existing wind** by over 76,000 MWh per year.
- GETs installation cost is about $90 million.
  - Annual O&M costs is estimated to be around $10 million.
- GETs benefits (other than the value of additional renewables) include:

ANNUAL PRODUCTION COST SAVINGS
$175 million

ANNUAL REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS
3 million tons

Additional Renewables enabled by GETs
2,670 MW / 8,776 GWh

LOCAL JOBS
650 long-term jobs and
11,300 short-term jobs

OTHER LOCAL BENEFITS
$15 million land lease and
$32 million tax revenues per year

Study Results - 3/4

Potential Nation-Wide Benefits

Extrapolating these results to a nation-wide level* indicate GETs to provide **annual benefits** in the range of:

- Over **$5 billion** (~$5.3 billion) in production cost savings.
- **$90 million tons** of reduced carbon emission (more than enough to offset **ALL NEW** automobiles sold in the U.S. a year).
- About **$1.5 billion** in local benefits (local taxes and land lease revenues).
- More than 330,000 short-term (only for first year) and nearly 20,000 long-term jobs.
- Investment cost is $2.7 billion (only for first year). Ongoing costs would be around $300 million per year.

Local Interconnection Benefits

$90 million investment enables interconnecting nearly 2,700 MW of additional renewables.

- Would renewable developers agree to pay for (or share some cost of) this?
- $90 million to interconnect 2,700 MW = Less than $34/kW.
- The average capital cost for onshore wind today is around $1,500/kW.
- $34/kW is only **~2% of this estimated capital cost** ($1,500/kW).

* EIA shows 2019 generation in Kansas and Oklahoma combined (136 TWh) was about 1/30 of the nationwide generation from utility-scale resources (4,100 TWh). EIA data, available at: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/kansas/, https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/oklahoma/, and https://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_01_01.html

Study Results - 4/4

GETs utilized in this study include:

- **Hardware solutions**: DLR on 56 lines and Advanced Power Flow Control on 8 locations.
- **Software solutions**: 204 unique Topology Optimization reconfigurations, averaging 13 per snapshot.**

Hardware Solutions by Voltage Level	345	230	161	138	115	69	Total
DLR*	10	3	11	22	3	7	56
Advanced Power Flow Control	3	0	4	1	0	0	8

Software Solutions by Voltage Level	345	230	161	138	115	69	Total
Lines	20	10	31	75	4	30	170
Substations	4	0	1	1	0	0	6
Transformers (high voltage terminal)	10	1	4	13	0	0	28

- Estimated costs for implementing the above GETs: ~$90 million.
  - Initial investment costs is estimated to be around $90 million.***
  - Ongoing costs of around $10 million per year.***

* Every DLR installation requires 15 to 30 sensors.

** Average actions represent the average number of actions that remain per case, not actions per hour. Based on other studies the average number of actions per hour is expected to be smaller, typically less than the number of topology changes due to planned outages.

*** Costs can vary project by project, and also on how the GETs service is provided—for example, Topology Optimization can be provided as a software subscription service to reduce the initial cost. We also assume utilities can incorporate these technologies without large costs.

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