De-Carbonizing the Grid

Energy Week, February 16—19, 2016

Ross Baldick,
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Texas at Austin.
Panelists

- Jim Marston
- Beth Garza
- Khalil Shalabi
De-carbonizing the grid

- The “Clean Power Plan” will accelerate the retirement of coal that has already been occurring in North America due to the combined effects of:
  - increased renewables, and
  - lower natural gas costs.

- Reduced reliance on coal, increased renewables, and increased reliance on natural gas all act to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
De-carbonizing the grid

- While coal is likely here for the short- and perhaps medium-term, how about the long-term?
- Will sequestration play a role?
- What is the role of nuclear?
- Will gas also need to decline in long-term?
- Would we be better off with a carbon tax rather than the second- or third- best mechanism of the Clean Power Plan?
De-carbonizing the grid.

What are the implication for electricity industry participants?
- Regulated vertically integrated utilities,
- Municipal utilities and coops,
- Generation companies in restructured regions,
- Network owners.

What changes are necessary in electricity system operation?

What will be the mix of distributed resources (including renewables) versus grid-scale?
De-carbonizing the grid.

- What is the role of transportation electrification in de-carbonizing energy?
- How do we translate de-carbonization of EU and US to the rest of the world?
Jim Marston

- Regional Director, Texas Office of the Environmental Defense Fund.
- EDF Vice-President for Climate and Energy.
Beth Garza

- Vice President, Potomac Economics.
- Director of the ERCOT Independent Market Monitor.
- Previously in leadership roles in generation and transmission planning, system operations, regulatory affairs, and market design.
Net Load has reduced over time

Net Load [Customer Demand - Wind Generation] - GW

Reduced Net Load

2007 2014
Khalil Shalabi

- Over 20 years experience in R&D, resource planning and acquisition, and project evaluation.